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Wednesday, 5 January, 2011

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing host dinner to mark 63rd Anniversary Independence Day



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing greet diplomats during a reception and dinner to mark the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing hosted a dinner in commemoration of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day (2011) at City Hall here this evening.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing arrived at the City Hall of Nay Pyi Taw at 6.30 pm, and cordially greeted SPDC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye,

SPDC Member Thura U Shwe Mann, Prime Minister U Thein Sein, SPDC Secretary-1 Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, SPDC Member U Tin Aye, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, along with diplomats and their wives led by Dean of Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong.

The commemorative ceremony was attended by SPDC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, SPDC Member Thura U Shwe Mann and

wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, SPDC Secretary-1 Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, SPDC Member U Tin Aye and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn, Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, ministers and their wives, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training

(See page 7)

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 5 January, 2011

Stride towards new democratic nation

The Union of Myanmar has become an independent and sovereign nation again for 63 years.

From time immemorial, Myanmar had stood tall with own monarchs and sovereignty. It was very inhumane of colonialists that annexed Myanmar through three aggressive wars from 1824 to 1885. In consequence, Myanmar lost her independence and sovereignty. Brilliant, patriotic young men hand in hand with the people fought back British colonialists and Fascists at risk to life, thus enabling the motherland to regain independence and sovereignty.

In his message sent on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day (2011), Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe says, "It cost greatly for the nation to regain independence and sovereignty. The value of independence and sovereignty is most noticeable only when they are lost. Naturally, the people take independence and sovereignty for granted. It is not strange, certain covetous, aggressive countries are anxious to gain political control over a geographically strategic country like Myanmar. Accordingly, all national races are to remain cohesive forever in order for perpetuation of independence and sovereignty."

Myanmar has passed through many periods, good and bad. Now, multiparty democracy general elections have been held successfully. Soon, Hluttaws will be convened with representatives-elect. Then, the new government will have to take over duties for building a modern, developed nation.

In the process, the government has laid sound foundations. Over a couple of decades, it has improved all sectors. What is needed to shape the future of the nation is that the new government carries out nation-building tasks in cooperation with the people.

Now, Myanmar is transforming itself from old to new system. The entire national brethren have remained united in working for democratization. They have to continue to safeguard the Union for its perpetuation, while taking giant strides towards the new democratic nation.

Education seminar on 15-16 Jan

YANGON, 4 Jan—Education seminar, organized by Star Resources Hospitality Management Academy, will be held at Traders Hotel, Yangon on 15 January and Sedona Hotel in Mandalay on 16 January. Principal Mr Roderick Hardingham of London Hotel School College will give talks. Interested persons may register at Star Resources Hospitality Management Academy in advance (Ph: 523623, 523200, 4412256 and 09-5020302) and attend the seminar free of charge.

MNA

People's Voice

- * 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

Minister meets road/bridge construction companies



Minister U Khin Maung Myint meets entrepreneurs of road and bridge construction companies.—CONSTRUCTION

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan — Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint together with Deputy Ministers U Tint Swe and U Myint Thein met officials of public works responsible persons of 115 companies which are engaged in road and bridge construction works at the meeting hall of the ministry here yesterday.

The minister called for timely completion of the works meeting set standards.

Next, Deputy Minister U Tint Swe gave

accounts of rules and regulations and technological standards. Then Deputy Minister U Myint Thein called for drawing of work plans for timely completion of construction works.

Afterwards, the managing director and deputy managing directors of Public Works discussed matters related to construction works.

Then the minister heard reports on work progress presented by responsible persons of the companies and made concluding remarks.—MNA

CPT celebrates Independence Day with sports events, funfair

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan — Hailing 63rd Anniversary Independence Day, sports events and funfair were held at the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs here this morning.

CPT Minister U Thein Zaw and wife Daw Mu Mu Win formally opened the events and funfair which was also participated by Deputy Minister U Thein Tun and wife Daw Mya Mya Win, departmental heads and staff families.



Minister U Thein Zaw presents first prize to a winning team in men's futsal.

MNA

The minister and wife, the deputy minister and wife and departmental heads presented prizes to contestants.—MNA

Book "Contemporary Architecture" in circulation

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—Nay Myo Book House today published the book "Contemporary Architecture" by Nyunt Win Lay.

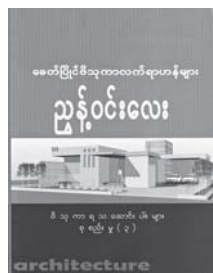
The book is about a wide variety of styles

and designs of buildings in the international community including Myanmar's architecture. It is also a collection of architectural articles featured in magazines.

The book No.3 is

distributed nationwide by Zaw Htut Publishing House at 37 (A), Thiri Mingala Street, Ward (8), Kamayut Township (Ph: 09-5090816).

MNA



Two US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 Jan—Two US soldiers were killed in central Iraq, the first military service members killed in 2011 due to militants attack in the country, the US military said on Monday.

The two soldiers were killed on Sunday night as the result of one attack, a military statement said without giving further details about the incident.

The latest deaths are the first for US soldiers to be killed in Iraq in 2011, bringing the number of US soldiers killed in the country to about 4,430, since the breakout of the US-led war on Iraq in 2003, according to media account based on Pentagon figures.

In 2010, up to 60 US soldiers were killed in the country.

In mid 2010, US troops in Iraq had been reduced to below 50,000 soldiers. Washington said that the remaining troops will remain in Iraq to conduct support and training missions.

US military forces are to pull out completely from Iraq by the end of 2011 according to the security pact signed late in 2008 between Baghdad and Washington.

Xinhua



A policeman inspects a damaged vehicle at the site of a bomb attack in Ramadi, 100 km (60 miles) west of Baghdad recently. Twin suicide bombings rocked a government compound in Iraq's western City Ramadi on Monday, with a police source saying more than 17 people had been killed.—INTERNET

Five children injured as school bus attacked in SW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 4 Jan—At least five children were injured as a school bus was attacked by a remote-controlled bomb in southwest Pakistan's Turbat city on Tuesday morning, local TV channels reported.

Xinhua



Afghan traffic officers check the engine which is all that remained of the vehicle used in a car bomb explosion, beside a damaged vehicle, after an explosion in Kandahar south of Kabul, Afghanistan recently. A car bomb exploded outside a police headquarters in Kandahar, wounding at least six people and blowing out the windows of buildings up to a mile (1.6km) away, officials said.—INTERNET

At least three killed in suicide car bombing in Iraq's Diyala

BAQUBA, 4 Jan—At least three people were killed and 20 others were wounded on Monday when a bomb and a suicide car bomb hit intelligence office in Baquba, the capital City of Iraq's eastern Province of Diyala, a provincial police source said.

The twin attack took place before noon when a roadside bomb detonated outside the provincial intelligence office, in central Baquba, and was immediately followed by a suicide car bombing, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. All the victims were civilians, the unnamed source said, citing latest police reports. Earlier, the source put the toll at three killed and 15 wounded by the two blasts.

Diyala Province, which stretches from the eastern edges of Baghdad to the Iranian border east of the country, has long been a stronghold for al-Qaida militants and other militant groups since the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 despite repeated US and Iraqi militants operations against them.—Xinhua

Afghanistan

Four people were shot dead in Afghanistan's Baghlan province when insurgent gunmen burst into a mosque and killed civilians who were praying there.



Map locating Baghlan Province in Afghanistan where four people were killed when insurgent gunmen burst into a mosque and opened fire on praying civilians recently.

INTERNET

Bomb blast in Afghan Capital kills one police

KABUL, 4 Jan— An explosive device went off in the Afghan Capital Kabul on Tuesday, killing one police officer and injuring three others including two civilians, an official of the Interior Ministry said.

"The explosive device was planted in a bag when the shopkeepers discovered it and informed police. Bomb disposal team came to the site and began defusing but suddenly it exploded killing one police officer

on the spot and injuring three others including one policeman and two passersby," the unnamed official told Xinhua, adding the outcome of investigation would be released.

The incident occurred at 08:00 am local time (GMT 0430) in Muradkhani area close to the Presidential Palace and the Defence Ministry.

In a previous suicide bomb attack in Kabul on 19 December for

which Taleban claimed responsibility, five Afghan army personnel were killed and 10 others sustained injuries.

Xinhua

A French soldier and Afghan police officers stand near the site of an explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 4 Jan, 2011. The bomb exploded in central Kabul early Tuesday, killing one police officer and wounding three other people, a official said.—INTERNET



An Afghan fier fighter sprays water on a burning tanker carrying NATO's fuel.—INTERNET

Bomb blast destroys NATO tanker in Pakistan's tribal area

ISLAMABAD, 4 Jan— An oil tanker supplying fuel for Nato-led troops in Afghanistan was destroyed by a bomb blast Monday in the Khyber tribal region in

northwest Pakistan. According to local TV channel the DAWN News, no casualties had been reported.

Security authorities said that the oil tanker came under attack as it was heading towards Torkham, the main border crossing.

The Pakistan-Afghanistan border highway was subsequently blocked after a massive traffic pile-up which resulted in the suspension of supply.

Security forces started a search operation in the area.

Xinhua

Policeman, woman killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 4 Jan—A policeman and a Christian woman were killed in two attacks in Baghdad on Monday, an Interior Ministry source said.

Unidentified gunmen opened fire from their silenced weapons on a policeman driving a police car in al-Waziriya District in Baghdad, killing him before they fled the scene, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The attack is part of a series of attacks by militants groups targeting government officials and security members. Such attacks are seen by observers as attempts by militants to

reassert their control of the areas they've been limited in movement recently.

In a separate incident, armed men stormed a house of a Christian woman in the early hours of the day in Baghdad's central District of Karrada, killing the woman and stealing some of her possessions, the source said.

The latest attack is seen as part of string of attacks recently carried out against Christians in Iraq.

The Iraqi Christian minority has already suffered the murder of hundreds of its members due to chaos and insecurity that engulfed Iraq after the US-led invasion in 2003.—Xinhua



Science

NB astronomer, 10, youngest to discover supernova

TORONTO, 4 Jan—Kathryn Aurora Gray isn't interested in making a career out of astronomy when she grows up.

She might want to rethink that after becoming the youngest person to discover a supernova, or exploding star.

The 10-year-old Fredericton girl identified on the weekend a previously unseen burst of light in an expanse of stars 240 light-years away to better the previous record by four years.

"I was really excited. I had so much fun finding it," Gray said in an interview from her home Monday night. "I was so excited I didn't sleep that night waiting to find out."

The Royal Astronomical Society of

Canada confirmed the discovery Monday, saying the magnitude-17 supernova was found in galaxy UGC 3378 in the constellation of Camelopardalis.

The society also said Gray is the youngest person to ever make such a discovery.

Supernovas are stellar explosions that signal the violent deaths of stars several times more massive than our sun. They are rare events but are relatively easy to spot with modest telescopes because they outshine other stars.

The last supernova in our galaxy occurred several hundred years ago.—*Internet*

A bumblebee gathers pollen from a sunflower in Sumartin on Croatia's Adriatic Island of Brac on 18 July, 2009.

INTERNET



Researchers find "alarming" decline in bumblebees

WASHINGTON, 4 Jan—Four previously abundant species of bumblebee are close to disappearing in the United States, researchers reported Monday in a study confirming that the agriculturally important bees are being affected worldwide.

They documented a 96 percent decline in the numbers of the four species, and said their range had shrunk by as much as 87 percent. As with honeybees, a pathogen is partly involved, but the researchers also found evidence of inbreeding caused by habitat loss.

"We provide incontrovertible evidence that multiple *Bombus*

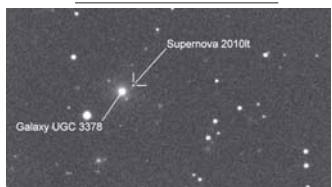
species have experienced sharp population declines at the national level," the researchers reported in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, calling the findings "alarming."

"These are one of the most important pollinators of native plants," Sydney Cameron of the University of Illinois, Urbana, who led the study, said in a telephone interview.

In recent years, experts have documented a disappearance of bees in what is widely called colony collapse disorder, blamed on many factors including parasites, fungi, stress, pesticides and viruses. But most studies have focused on honeybees.

Bumblebees are also important pollinators, Cameron said, but are far less studied. Bumblebees pollinate tomatoes, blueberries and cranberries, she noted.

Reuters



The magnitude 17 supernova in galaxy UGC 3378, in the constellation of Camelopardalis, is shown in a photo released by The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada on 3 Jan, 2011.—*INTERNET*

Indian Rocket launch failure caused by faulty cable

BANGALORE, 4 Jan—A team that analyzed data from the failed launch of India's Geostationary Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) has found the primary cause of the 25 Dec mishap was the "untimely and inadvertent snapping" of a group of 10 connectors located at the bottom of the rocket's Russian supplied upper stage.

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) said in a 31 Dec statement that the vehicle's performance was normal up to 47.5 seconds after liftoff. It then began to stray from its planned orientation angle, which resulted in higher structural loads than the vehicle was designed to handle.

The rocket, which was carrying a telecommunications satellite, began to break apart about 58 seconds into the flight and was destroyed by command at 64 seconds.

ISRO said some of the connectors that snapped carried control signals from the onboard computer near the top of the vehicle to the control systems for the four L40 strap-on boosters that augment the rocket's first stage.—*Internet*



Technology

LG announces "Flicker Free" LW6500 Cinema 3D TV

WASHINGTON, 4 Jan—In what may turn out to be a sneak peek of CES 2011 HDTV trends, LG announced the newest entry to their 2011 HDTV lineup—and it's a 3D TV that doesn't use the heavy, expensive active-shutter 3D glasses.

LG's new 65-inch LW6500 uses polarized lens-glasses, similar to the kinds of glasses used in 3D movie theaters, to achieve the 3D effect. Unlike active-shutter glasses, which use small LCD screens to alternately dim each lens, polarized 3D glasses don't require a battery and should be more forgiving of viewers seated at different angles. Best of all, LG claims they're "Flicker Free", with two certifications from Intertek and TÜV to bolster their claim, so you won't have that annoying flickering-light problem when you sit down to watch your 3D flicks.

Polarized 3D glasses are also significantly cheaper to manufacture and lighter (LG's glasses weigh 16 grams) so they won't be as tiring to wear. Note that there is no estimated retail price or ship date yet, though the LW6500 will roll out "in select markets" after CES.

Internet



Showgoers try out games at the PlayStation 3 exhibit in 2009.

INTERNET

Asus adapts kinect motion technology to PC

NEW YORK, 4 Jan—Asus is collaborating with the inventors of Kinect's motion-sensing depth technology to bring a similar PC-based 3D experience to your living room.

The WAVI Xtion multi-media system will debut at CES this week,

but won't be commercially available until Q2 2011, Asus said in a Press release.

According to Asus' statement, users will be able to browse multimedia content, access the Internet and social networks, and enjoy full body interaction "in a more user-friendly and natural living room experience."

Wavi Xtion uses technology from Tel Aviv-based PrimeSense, inventor of the Immersive Natural Interaction

technology used to create the Microsoft Kinect's controller-free interaction experience. In June, PrimeSense said that the technology may move to PCs.

"ASUS combines its wireless cross-room solution with PrimeSense's simple, intuitive, gesture-based control technology to allow users to enjoy and share PC content on TV with gestures," said Kent Chien, general manager of Asus, in a statement.

Internet

Military technology helps wheelchair use

TALLAHASSEE, 4 Jan—US researchers say new technology can enable electric-powered wheelchairs to detect hazardous terrain and adjust control settings to maneuver more safely.

Scientists at Florida State University say a device called a laser line stripper, first developed for military use, has been adapted to identify terrain conditions so the wheelchair control system can self-adjust, a university release said Monday.

Automatic terrain-sensing controls for military robotic vehicles, when adapted to wheelchairs, can implement safe driving strategies while avoiding wheel slip, sinkage

or vehicle tipping, Emmanuel Collins, FSU professor of mechanical engineering, says.

"I'm inspired by the idea of applying technology originally meant for the battlefield to improve the quality of everyday life for injured soldiers and others," Collins said.

Army Maj Kevin Fitzpatrick, director of Walter Reed Hospital's wheelchair clinic, said the technology "will provide electric-powered wheelchair users with an increased degree of independence that may significantly increase their ability to participate in recreational and functional activities."

Internet



People walk to Dvortsovaya Square (Palace Square) in central St. Petersburg to watch the New Year laser show to celebrate the New Year, in front of the State Hermitage Museum, on 3 January, 2011.

XINHUA

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—*The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

**From His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of the Kingdom of Thailand
Your Excellency**

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to Your Excellency my cordial felicitations 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 Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China
Your Excellency,**

Upon the auspicious occasion of the 63rd 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 traditional friendly neighbours. During the long-term friendly exchanges, the two peoples established profound Pauk-Phaw friendship. Through our joint efforts, China-Myanmar friendly relationship has been getting progress continuously, and all areas exchanges and cooperations had been deepening increasingly, which have brought tangible benefits to the two peoples. China is willing to work with Myanmar to promote traditional friendship, deepen mutual beneficial cooperation, push China-Myanmar good neighbourly and friendly cooperative relations to a new high.

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

personal well-being.

**From 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 wish to convey my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and through Your Excellency to the entire people of the Union of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I am very pleased to note that the friendly relations and close cooperation between our two countries and peoples have continued to be further enhanced and strengthened. In 2010, our two countries exchanged the visit of the high ranking delegations, particularly the State Visit of Your Excellency and madam to the Lao People's Democratic Republic in the last October, thus contributing to deepening the trust among us as the neighbouring countries.

May I wish Your Excellency good health and happiness in order to lead the people of the Union of Myanmar towards the progress and constant prosperity.

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

**From Asif Al Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Your Excellency,**

It gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency our warmest felicitations and best wishes on the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

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

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

**From Dr Bashar Al-Assad, President of Syrian Arab Republic
Your Excellency,**

On the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence of the Union of Myanmar, I have great pleasure in conveying, on behalf of the Syrian Arab people and on my own behalf, our sincere congratulations to Your Excellency and to your friendly people.

I also express my best wishes for your good health and happiness and for the progress and prosperity of your people. With my highest consideration.

**From Mr Saad Hariri, Chairman of Ministerial Council of Lebanon
Your Excellency,**

On the occasion of the Independence Day of Myanmar, allow me to express to you and to the people of Myanmar my sincere congratulations and my wishes for progress and stability.

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

**From Col Muammar Al-Qathafi, Leader of Al-Fateh Revolution of Libya
Your Excellency,**

On the occasion of the National Day of your friendly country, on my behalf, and on behalf of the people of the Great Socialist People Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, wish to extend our sincerest greetings and warmest felicitations.

I wish Your Excellency, a continued good health and happiness as well as the people of the Union of Myanmar progress and prosperity.

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

From Mr Anibal Cavaco Silva, President of Portuguese Republic

On the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to convey to Your Excellency my congratulations and sincere wishes for the progress and prosperity of the Myanmar People.

Foreign Vice-Presidents send felicitations to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—*The following are the messages sent by Foreign Vice-Presidents to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary 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 warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and the people of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I highly appreciate the traditional friendly relations and close cooperation between Laos and Myanmar which have been continuously enhanced and strengthened.

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

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

**From Dr. Boediono, M.Ec, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia,
Your Excellency,**

It is with special pleasure that I wish to convey to you my sincerest felicitations and best wishes on the significant occasion of the

Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

Indonesia and Myanmar share longstanding relationship and both countries have been contributing positively to the development of ASEAN Community. It is my firm belief that the future will bear witness to the further strengthening of the existing ties of friendship between our two countries.

I also welcome Myanmar's recent development and reiterate our commitment to support your government in implementing Roadmap to Democracy.

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

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

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—*The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of Government sent to U Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

From Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore
Dear Prime Minister

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Singapore, I congratulate Your Excellency and the Government of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of Myanmar's 63rd Independence Day.

Singapore wishes Myanmar every success in its political transition and its efforts to achieve national reconciliation, following the November 2010 General Elections. This will bring Myanmar long-term political stability and economic development. I am confident that our two countries can continue to cooperate closely, both bilaterally and within ASEAN, for the mutual benefit of our countries and the region as a whole.

From Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and on my own behalf, I wish to convey my warmest congratulations and best

wishes to Your Excellency and the Government of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

The existing close cooperation between our two countries over the last years has been further strengthened and I strongly believe that such friendly relations and close cooperation will continue to be further enhanced in the years to come for dynamism of the ASEAN family, the region and the world at large.

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

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

From D.M. Jayaratne, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Your Excellency,

I wish to convey to Your Excellency my felicitations and best wishes on this auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I wish all the success on Myanmar's multidimensional development goals based on political, economic and social reforms.

I look forward to further consolidating the friendly bilateral relations between our two coun-

tries in the years to come.

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

From Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Excellency,

On the joyous occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, it gives me great pleasure to convey to you and to the people of Myanmar, our heartiest felicitations and warmest greetings from the government and people of Bangladesh.

I sincerely believe that the existing close bond of friendship between our two countries is a matter of great satisfaction for us. It is my firm conviction that there exist tremendous potential to further expand and deepen our relations in the areas of mutual interest including trade, investment, infrastructure development, culture and tourism. We are committed to making all out efforts for forging stronger partnership for the mutual benefit of our citizens.

I take this opportunity to extend my very best wishes for Your Excellency's good health, happiness and long life as well as continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the Union of Myanmar.

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

MSF President's Cup Swimming Competition concludes

YANGON, 4 Jan—The final match of Myanmar Swimming Federation President's Cup Swimming Competition was held in conjunction with the presentation ceremony of the

competition at National Swimming Pool here this morning.

Director U Tin Win of Sports and Physical Education Department, Principal of Institute of Sports and Physical Edu-

cation (Yangon), Vice-President of MSF U Cho Maung and officials presented prizes to outstanding contestants and prize-winning teams. Championship Cup went to United Club.—MNA



Traditional dance (Thungetaw) presented during School Family Day for 2010-2011 academic year taking place at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Dagon Township on 3 January.

NLM

Mandalay Football Stadium to be built

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—Chairman of Mandalay Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Ye Aung and Minister for Sports Thura U Aye Myint on 2 January attended the ceremony to drive stakes to build Mandalay Football Stadium.

The president of the Myanmar Football Fed-

eration reported to the commander and the minister on the project.

The commander, the minister, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor U Phone Zaw Han and the MFF president drove stakes.

Next, they attended the awarding ceremony for Industry-1 Ministry Maung Myanmar Bicycle

Cycling Contest organized by Mandalay Region at City Hall of Mandalay City Development Committee in Chanayethazan Township.

The commander delivered a speech and presented first prize; the minister, second prize; the mayor, third prize; and officials, prizes and consolation prizes to the winners.—MNA

Mayor attends opening ceremonies of new roads in S Okkalapa Tsp

YANGON, 4 Jan—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor U Aung Thein Lin formally opened new concrete roads constructed by YCDC Engi-

neering Department (Road and Bridge) in South Okkalapa Township here at the opening ceremonies held in commemoration of 63rd Anniversary Independence

Day this morning.

The mayor enjoyed the Independence Day commemorative funfairs and presented prizes to winners in sports events.—MNA

Transport Ministry wins title of Women Football Tournament (Senior) 2010

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The final match of the 10th Women Football Tournament (Senior) 2010 was held at Aung San Stadium in Yangon

yesterday. The Ministry of Transport team won the title of the tournament after beating the Ministry of Home Affairs team 5-4.

Officials awarded

outstanding players and teams and presented cash award and the trophy to the first prize-winning Transport Ministry team.

MNA



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing greet diplomats during a reception and a dinner to mark the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day.
MNA

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing...

(from page 1)

Board, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee Nay Pyi Taw mayor, deputy ministers

and their wives, heads of department, diplomats led by Dean of Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong and their wives, resident representatives of UN agencies and their wives, members of the Central Committee for Observance of the 63rd Anniversary

Independence Day, chairmen of subcommittees, and distinguished guests.

Before and during the reception and dinner, vocalists presented entertainment programmes to the accompaniment of the music band of Myanmar Radio and Television.—MNA

Independence Day commemorative sports, games and funfairs held nationwide

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan — In commemoration of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day, sports and games and funfairs were held nationwide today.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Thura U Aye Myint watched the mini-marathon and marathon held in front of Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market, inter-ministry Sepak Takraw contests and other sports and games. At the prize-presentation ceremonies, the minister and Deputy

Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Thein Swe awarded the winners and winning teams.

In the evening, the minister watched the final match of Myanmar Weightlifting Federation President's trophy interclub and prize presentation ceremony.

Similarly, Independence Day commemorative sports and games and funfairs including *Anyeints* were held in Yangon Region with the participation of the people. Funfairs and sports and games of the



Sports Minister Thura U Aye Myint formally opens a marathon in commemoration of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day.—MNA

families of Yangon City Development Committee were held this morning in the sports ground of YCDC

in Insein Township. As today was a public holiday, Kandawgyi, Zoological Gardens,

Aquarium and Kandaw Mingalar Park were crowded.

Likewise, sports,

games and funfairs were held in other States and Regions nationwide.

MNA



School children run on tracks in sports activities in commemoration of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day held at schools in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA



The 63rd Anniversary Independence Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony in progress.—MNA

After the Secretary-1 had taken the salute of the Guard of Honour, and the Guard of Honour and the people left the place where the ceremony was held, the ceremony came to a close.

On the eve of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day, it could be seen that the ministries, Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, roundabouts, Myanmar Gems Museum, Jade Garden, markets, staff housings and government buildings were all illuminated with colourful lights.

MNA

Images of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day celebrations in Nay Pyi Taw



Those present at 63rd Anniversary Independence Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony.—MNA



Those present at 63rd Anniversary Independence Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

63rd Anniversary Independence Day...

(from page 16)

The Guard of Honour of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) took its position at the designated place.

Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day Secretary-1 of SPDC Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo took his position on the dais. After taking the salute of the Guard of Honour, the Secretary-1 together with the people saluted the State Flag. Meanwhile, the Band of the Guard of Honour played the national anthem.

The Guard of Honour paid tribute to the fallen soldiers and took the four oaths. Then, the Secretary-1 read out the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day.



Those present at 63rd Anniversary Independence Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony.—MNA



**Images of the 63rd
Anniversary
Independence Day
in
Nay Pyi Taw**

Dignitaries at State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony held at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall square.—MNA



Attendees at State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony held at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall square.—MNA



Colourful lights shining bright at ministries; Nay Pyi Taw City Hall; Thabyegon, Kyapan, Yaza Thingaha, Ingyinpan and Gantgawpan roundabouts; Myanma Gems Museum; Jade Garden; Nay Pyi Taw Myoma and Thabyegon markets; Shopeik Dam; housings and staff quarters in Nay Pyi Taw as the city hails 63rd Anniversary Independence Day.

MNA





Year of the Rabbit : A South Korean diver, dressed as a rabbit, performs as a school of fish swim by during an event to mark the upcoming Year of the Rabbit at the COEX Aquarium in Seoul.—INTERNET

Over 8,000 displaced by floods in southern Philippines

COTABATO CITY, 4 Jan—Over 8,000 people have been displaced by flash floods and landslides brought by heavy rain in southern Philippines, officials said Tuesday.

Two low lying towns, Talayan and Datu Anggal Midtimbang, in Maguindanao Province were submerged by floodwaters Monday, prompting residents to evacuate, said Zorahayda Taha, regional director of Department of Social Welfare and Development, adding evacuees were provided with relief assistance.

More than 2,000 people have fled their homes as rivers overflowed, inundating farmland and houses in Agusan and Surigao Provinces.

The death toll from flooding rose to four, officials said.—Xinhua



An Aymara woman pushes tyres in the market of El Alto on the outskirts of La Paz on 2 Jan, 2011.—INTERNET

Freezing rain puts chill on traffic

BEIJING, 4 Jan— Thousands of vehicles and people stranded in and around Southwest China's Guizhou Province by freezing rains since Saturday finally got their wheels moving on Monday as traffic slowly resumed on almost all highways in the province.

However, passenger transport service in Guizhou and neighbouring Hunan Province along with Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region still face challenges as the National Meteorological Centre on Monday issued its first freezing warning this year, predicting the icy weather would continue in the region for another three days.

Almost all expressways in Guizhou had been closed from Saturday to Monday morning after rain quickly turned into ice on the ground, leaving about 7,000 people stranded, according to the Guizhou Provincial department of transport.

Starting Monday morning, traffic began to slowly return to normal in Guizhou with most highways reopened, said He Fei, an officer with the provincial department of transport.

“Road conditions today have become less problematic. Only in certain sections is the traffic still

40 Australian and Int'l scientists to reveal Antarctic secrets

CANBERRA, 4 Jan—Nearly 40 Australian and international scientists set sail to Antarctica on Tuesday to study a 2,500-square-kilometre iceberg.

The team led by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization's (CSIRO) Steve Rintoul departed Hobart for Antarctica's Mertz Glacier, which was hit by a 97-kilometre-long glacier last year, breaking off a 78-kilometre piece.

Dr Rintoul said the collision, known as a “calving”, gave scientists a rare insight to study changes in the Southern Ocean's temperature and salinity.

“The calving of the iceberg has exposed parts of the seabed which haven't been available for study in our lifetimes,” he told ABC News.

“It's a biological hotspot supporting everything from microscopic photo plankton, right up to seals and whales.

“It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get in there.”

Dr Rintoul said the waters surrounding the Mertz Glacier are also one of the key links in the network of ocean currents that influence the world's climate.

Meanwhile, Australian Antarctic Division's Dr Martin Riddle said the voyage could uncover new species of wildlife previously hidden under the ice, as they have been buried under 400 meters of ice for the last 80 years.

The team was equipped with cameras which worked 3,000 meters under the sea, as well as specially designed brackets to protect the equipment in deep sea canyons. They will also take measurements of carbon dioxide stored in the ocean.

The voyage will return to Hobart in February. Xinhua

Annual death tolls of traffic accidents keep declining in Norway

OSLO, 4 Jan—The annual death toll of traffic accidents in Norway has been on a steady decline in the past 15 years, local media reported on Sunday.

The Norwegian Council for Road Safety recorded 210 deaths in traffic accidents last year, two less than that of 2009, director of the council Kari Sandberg told the Norwegian broadcast and TV company NRK.

“It is the lowest figure since the 1950s,” she said. “It looks good in the sense that we have had a steady decline over the past 15 years.”

New and safer cars might be one of the reasons why the death toll on Norwegian roads has been continuously falling in recent years, she said.

Meanwhile, Sanberg said more traffic accidents could be avoided with greater caution while driving. She also called on drivers to keep the speed limits and passengers to use safety belts.

Speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol and not using safety belts are the three usual fatal factors in road accidents, according to the director. Xinhua



Displaced residents rest in a makeshift tent in Yingjiang County, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 3 Jan, 2011. Several minor and moderate earthquakes jolted Yunnan Province last weekend, among which the biggest measured 4.8 on the Richter scale. More than 23,600 houses were damaged, although no casualties were registered. Quake relief efforts went under way with 2,000 tents and 2,000 quilts handed out to the homeless.—XINHUA

Search begins for missing small aircraft in western Japan

OSAKA, 4 Jan—Japanese police, firefighters and Self-Defence Forces helicopters on Tuesday morning began searching for a small aircraft that went missing Monday with two people aboard in Kumamoto Prefecture in western Japan, *Kyodo* News reported Tuesday.

The aircraft, piloted by Hiroshi Koda, a 53-year-old doctor from Shunan, Yamaguchi Prefecture, with his wife on board, lost radar contact about two minutes after leaving Kumamoto Airport at 5:12 pm Monday for Kitakyushu Airport, according to the report.

Some 100 people taking part in the search began climbing the 942-metre-high Mt. Yago in the town of Ozu about 15 kilometres northeast of Kumamoto Airport, the area where the plane went missing, with three Air Self-Defence Force choppers covering the search site from the air, the report said..

Koda had landed the aircraft at Kumamoto Airport at around 5 pm after taking a family trip to an island with his wife and their two children. The two children got off at the airport before the plane took off for Kitakyushu, the report said, quoting the police. Xinhua

extremely slow,” he said.

Thanks to the restoration of road service in Guizhou, 1,500 vehicles and 8,000 people waiting since Saturday to enter the province from Nandan county of Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region had all rolled forward by Monday evening, reported China Central Television.

But traffic authorities in Hunan province told China Daily that the traffic flow into Guizhou remained closed on Monday and thousands of people were still stranded despite government efforts to divert them.

Police officer Nie Zhi of the Hunan traffic police headquarters said hundreds of vehicles, mostly trucks, were lining up at the Hunan highway entrance heading to Guizhou.—Xinhua



Traffic moves slowly on a highway in Guizhou, southwest China, on 3 Jan, 2011.—XINHUA

New research reveals unexpected biological pathway in glaucoma

WASHINGTON, 4 Jan— A team of researchers from the Kennedy Krieger Institute and four collaborating institutions, identified a new and unexpected biological pathway that appears to contribute to the development of glaucoma and its resulting vision loss, according to a study published Monday in the online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Prior research has suggested that the optic nerve head, the point where the cables that carry information from the eye to the brain first exit the eye, plays a role in glaucoma. In

this study, researchers report a series of findings that offer novel insights into cellular and molecular mechanisms operating at the optic nerve head in two mouse models of glaucoma. Most notably, they discovered that at a specific location within the optic nerve head, there is a unique class of cells called astrocytes that demonstrate properties that appear to make them a critical factor in the visual blinding that occurs in glaucoma.

Further, at this same site, researchers found abnormal forms of a protein called gamma synuclein that is similar to abnormal

forms of alpha synuclein, a related protein known for its key role in cell loss in Parkinson's disease. The findings suggest that a biological process similar to Parkinson's disease unfolds in glaucoma at the specific anatomical location pinpointed in this study for the first time.

Finally, researchers discovered that at this anatomical location, there is a surprising process whereby astrocytes remove the debris of neurons, the cells that die in neurodegenerative disorders such as glaucoma. It is likely that this newly discovered process involving removal

of the debris of one cell by a neighbouring cell is important not only in glaucoma and Parkinson's disease, but also for many neurodegenerative diseases.

"These findings are very exciting because they give us several novel targets for future interventions," said Nicholas Marsh Armstrong, senior study author and a research scientist at Maryland-based Kennedy Krieger Institute. "I believe these findings put us on the cusp of discovering a treatment for glaucoma that may also have relevance for a number of other neurodegenerative diseases."—Xinhua



A couple pose for wedding photo with snow scenery in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 2 Jan, 2011. —XINHUA



A man is seen in a swimming pool filled with spring water in Jinan, east China's Shandong Province, on 2 Jan, 2011. A spring water swimming pool opened to the public free of charge during the New Year's holidays. XINHUA

NW China's remote villages get access to safe water supply

BEIJING, 4 Jan— Remote villages across Yongning County of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region have been connected to a safe water supply thanks to a newly-completed water project.

The project, launched in August 2010 and concluded on 27 Nov, has ensured that 100,000 people in 44 villages of Yongning will have access to safe water for drinking.

People in the county had long suffered from a severe shortage of safe water because the area's surface water contained excessive amounts of fluorine and iron.

The project was initiated after local authorities increased their efforts to provide safe drinking water after Chinese President Hu Jintao visited the region. XINHUA



A train is seen on a test run on the to-be-opened high-speed railway connecting Hainan's Capital Haikou and the famous tourist destination Sanya in south China's Hainan Province, on 29 Dec, 2010. The 308-kilometre high-speed railway that opened on Thursday allowed a maximum train speed of 250 kilometers per hour, or less than one and a half hours to travel from Haikou to Sanya. —XINHUA

Chinese shares open higher on year's first trading day

BEIJING, 4 Jan— The yuan strengthened to a record high against the US dollar on the first trading day of the year, to reach 6.6215 per dollar.

The central parity rate of the currency, also known as the renminbi (RMB), was set 12 basis points lower than Friday's 6.6227, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trading system Tuesday.

China's central bank announced on 19 June, 2010, it would further reform the yuan exchange rate formation mechanism to improve its flexibility.

On China's foreign exchange spot market, the yuan can rise or fall 0.5 percent from the central parity rate each trading day.—Xinhua



Red taillights of slow and stopped traffic glow on northbound Interstate 5 near Castaic, Calif, after heavy snow closed the major north-south several miles north of this point on 2 Jan, 2011.

INTERNET

Snow causes traffic nightmare in Southern California

LOS ANGELES, 4 Jan — Heavy snow and strong winds hit Southern California overnight, blocking numerous roads across the region, authorities said on Monday.

The snow closed many mountain roads and some highways, including Interstate 5, the state's vital north-south corridor, according to California Highway Patrol (CHP). Hundreds, if not thousands, of motorists were stranded for hours along Interstate 5 and mountain and pass roads, the CHP said.

People trying to get back into the

region from holiday weekends to the north reported delays that lasted 12 hours or more, said the CHP.

"The snow will continue to have a serious impact on all travel into or through the mountains overnight and Monday," according to a National Weather Service (NWS) statement.

People traveling into the mountains, Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita Valley should closely monitor the latest weather forecasts and be prepared for dangerous winter weather conditions, the NWS advised.—Xinhua

Lufthansa to create 4,000 jobs in Germany in 2011

BERLIN, 4 Jan—German national air carrier Lufthansa will create 4,000 jobs in the country in 2011, its new boss Christoph Franz told the newspaper *Bild* in an interview to be published Monday.

"Lufthansa is growing. We are hiring 4,000 new employees just at our locations in Germany," he said, according to a statement released by the newspaper ahead of publication.

The company is looking to hire 2,200 flight attendants in Frankfurt and Munich, *Bild* reported, as well as 900 ground personnel, 270 student pilots, 300 apprentices and other technical staff.

"With the increase of our capacity in terms of seats and with bigger aircraft carrying out regional and intercontinental flights with the Airbus A380, our need for personnel is increasing, both in the cockpit and the cabin. With an increasing number of passengers, we also need more ground crew," Franz said.—Internet



German national air carrier Lufthansa will create 4,000 jobs in the country in 2011, its new boss Christoph Franz said.

INTERNET

Kiss your 100-watt light bulb goodbye

SAN FRANCISCO, 4 Jan — Californians can start saying goodbye to traditional 100-watt incandescent light bulbs now that the state has become the first in the country to require a new standard for the screw-base bulbs. Experts say the new rules, which took effect New Year's Day, will save residents money and energy. California is already the nation's leader in energy-efficiency standards.

As of Saturday, what used to be a 100-watt light bulb manufactured and sold in California will have to use 72 watts or less. The 72-watt replacement bulb, also called an energy-saving halogen light, will provide the same amount of light, called lumens, for lower energy cost. Similar new standards for traditional 75-watt, 60-watt and 40-watt incandescent bulbs will go into effect in California over the next few years, with wattages reduced to 53, 43 and 29 respectively. The new rule does not ban incandescent light bulbs; it just requires those bulbs to be 25 to 30 percent more efficient.

And it only affects incandescent light bulbs manufactured in 2011 or

later, not those already in use or on store shelves. The new lights are comparably priced to the regular incandescent lights. A two-bulb package of 100-watt incandescent bulbs is about \$4.32 at Lowe's, while a four-bulb package of new 72-watt halogen bulbs is \$8.66, or \$4.33 for two. By contrast, a two-bulb package of energy-saving compact

Internet



China Airlines' float 'Collaboration Builds Friendships and Winners' moves along Orange Grove Boulevard during the Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif, on 1 Jan, 2011. The float won the International Trophy.— INTERNET

Motorist in stuck car had no pants

OCALA, 4 Jan — Police in Florida said a 42-year-old man whose car became stuck while he was driving along some railroad tracks was wearing

nothing but an inside-out shirt. Ocala police said the man, whose name was not released because he was not arrested, was driving his 2005 Mitsubishi Gallant

along some railroad tracks when the vehicle became stuck in gravel and bushes about 1:30 am on Thursday. *The (Ocala) Star-Banner* reported on Friday.

Investigators said the man tried to call for help by honking his horn but the noise was not heard and police were not called until about 7:49 am. Police said they arrived to find the man was wearing nothing but an inside-out knit shirt.

The man said he has driven by the railroad tracks before without incident. When asked why he was nude from the waist down, he said: "No reason." —Internet



Alexander Schey and Toby Schulz, of the British eco-adventure Racing Green Endurance (RGE) team, gesture from the SRZero electric sports car upon arrival to Ushuaia, Argentina, on 16 Nov, 2010. The SRZero became the first electric car to travel from Alaska's Prudhoe Bay to the world's southernmost city of Ushuaia.— INTERNET

Japan population shrinks by record in 2010

TOKYO, 4 Jan — Japan's population fell by a record amount last year as the number of deaths climbed to an all-time high in the quickly ageing country, the government said on Saturday. Japan faces a looming demographic squeeze. Baby boomers are moving towards retirement, with fewer workers and taxpayers to re-

place them. The Japanese boast among the highest life expectancies in the world but have extremely low birth rates.

Japan logged 1.19 million deaths in 2010 — the biggest number since 1947, when the health ministry's annual records began. The number of births was nearly flat at 1.07 million. As a result, Japan contracted by 123,000 people, which was the most ever and represents the fourth consecutive year of population decline. The top causes of death were cancer, heart disease and stroke, the ministry said.

Japanese aged 65 and older make up about a quarter of Japan's current population. The government projects that by 2050 that figure will climb to 40 per cent. Like in other advanced countries, young people are waiting to get married and choosing to have fewer children because of careers and lifestyle issues. Today's report showed that 706,000 marriages were registered last year — the fewest since 1954 and a sign that birth rates are unlikely to jump dramatically anytime soon. Japan's total population stood at 125.77 million as of October, according to the ministry. — Internet



In this photo released by Disney, comedian Howie Mandel, host of NBC's game show 'Deal or No Deal' and a judge on the NBC series 'America's Got Talent,' fist-bumps Goofy, on 1 Jan, 2011, at Disney's Hollywood Studios in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.— INTERNET

Tumour cell cancer test called promising

BOSTON, 4 Jan — Johnson & Johnson and Massachusetts General Hospital say they are developing and marketing a blood test that could find a single cancer cell in blood.

Dr Mehmet Toner, director of the BioMicroElectroMechanical Systems Resource Centre in Massachusetts General's Centre for Engineering in Medicine, says it could be five years before the test is on the market but its implications for patients are significant, CNN reported Monday.

"It is very big," Toner says in a statement. "It has the potential to turn cancer into a chronic disease, because we can monitor patients individually and respond with treatment to the genetic makeup of their cancer."

Toner says the test would be an easy-to-administer, non-invasive blood test that would analyze the genetic makeup of the cancer cells.

Internet

Mexican cartel announces one-month truce

MORELIA, 4 Jan — A letter purportedly signed by La Familia drug cartel announcing a one-month

truce circulated on Sunday in the western state of Michoacan.

In the one-page message, distributed by e-mail and in some cities door by door, the gang claims it will halt all crime activity during January to demonstrate that the cartel "is not responsible for the criminal acts federal authorities are reporting to the media."

Prosecutors have not verified the letter's authenticity, according to an employee of the Michoacan bureau of the federal Attorney General's Office who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The government says La Familia has been weakened by a recent string of arrests and deaths of top leaders. In another letter that circulated in November, La Familia purportedly offered to disband.

Internet



This photo taken 13 Dec, 2010 shows a graffiti-covered shell of a home in a nearly-abandoned working class neighbourhood in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.—INTERNET



Photo taken on 31 Dec, 2010 shows a rimed tree in Jilin, northeast China's Jilin Province. XINHUA

China will run nearly 600 more trains for Spring Festival this year

BEIJING, 4 Jan — China's Ministry of Railways (MOR) announced Tuesday it will put into operation 586 more trains each day for this year's Spring Festival 40-day travel peak compared to the corresponding period last year.

Daily train departures during the travel rush, which starts on Jan. 19, will be 4,531, a year-on-year increase of 15 percent.

The MOR estimates that 6.2 million passengers will be transported by train each day, up 11 percent year on year.

Xinhua



A man tries to salvage what he can from his rental home on Childre Drive in Pearl, Miss, on 1 Jan, 2011, after a tornado uprooted a large tree and toppled it onto the home on Friday night.— INTERNET

Ice bath for 120 minutes



Chinese "Iceman" Jin Songhao stands in a plastic box during a cold endurance competition in Zhangjiajie, central China's Hunan Province, on 3 Jan, 2010. Jin Songhao and the other challenger Chen Kecai took part in an ice endurance competition held here Monday, in which the two stayed in ice wearing nothing but a swimsuit. Jin Songhao dwarfed Wim Hof's world record for the longest ice bath by immersing himself in ice for 120 minutes while Chen last for 118 minutes. The previous world record was 115 minutes, which was made by Dutch "Iceman" Wim Hof.

Beehive hairdo is 50; its creator honoured

A 92-year-old Illinois woman credited with creating the beehive hairdo is being honoured on the 50th anniversary of the style. Margaret Vinci Heldt of Elmhurst is being honoured by SmithBucklin Services, manager of trade association Cosmetologists Chicago, for her 1961 creation, which she said was inspired by a hat she owned at the time, the *Chicago Tribune* reported Monday. Paul Dykstra, vice president of SmithBucklin Services, said the beehive "revolutionized styling and created a decade-long fashion trend." Dykstra said the trade association has created a scholarship in Heldt's name to commemorate her contribution to the world of hairstyles.



An eight-year-old sea lion "Leo" writes the word "Rabbit" in Chinese characters as part of a New Year's attraction at the Hakkeijima Sea Paradise aquarium in Yokohama in Kanagawa prefecture, suburban Tokyo on 3 January, 2011. February 2011 will mark the start of the Year of the Rabbit according to the lunar calendar a 12-year cycle followed by China and other parts of Asia.

Man says he was beaten with frozen meat

A Canadian woman faces charges of allegedly beating up a man with a package of frozen ground beef in Newfoundland, police said. Officers were called to a domestic dispute in Paradise, east of the provincial capital of St John's, Saturday night, *The Telegram* reported. Inside the house, an unidentified man alleged Chantille Rodway had beaten him with a package of frozen meat during a quarrel. The extent of his injuries wasn't reported. Rodway was arrested and held overnight before appearing in court Sunday to face charges of assault and assault with a weapon, the report said. She was released and is scheduled to return to court 27 Jan. It wasn't clear what penalty she would face if convicted.

Prisoners train dogs for new homes

Officials at a Michigan women's prison said 20 prisoners spent 10 weeks training dogs from the local Humane Society. The Huron Valley Correctional Facility in Ypsilanti and the Humane Society of Huron Valley said the dogs are the first to graduate from the Michigan Inmates Providing Assistance Work & Service programme, the *Detroit Free Press* reported Monday. Helen DePinto, director of behavior programmes for the Humane Society, said the dogs emerged from

the programme as certified Canine Good Citizens. "These were dogs that were kenneling well, but needed some help to get them ready to go into homes," DePinto said. James Ward, a Catholic deacon and prison chaplain, said the programme also benefits the prisoners who train the dogs. "It seems that a lot of the trainers are lifers and they don't have a lot to look forward to," he said. "This gives them something positive to do. It's really throwing them a lifeline."



Men perform during a camel beauty contest in a desert in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), on 30 Dec, 2010.

News Album

Actor David Arquette in rehab

LOS ANGELES, 4 Jan—Actor David Arquette, the estranged husband of former "Friends" star Courteney Cox, has checked into rehab to deal with alcohol and depression issues, according to news reports on Sunday.

Arquette, 39, and Cox, 46, announced in October

that they were undergoing a trial separation after 11 years and one daughter together, but still loved each other "deeply."

Since then, both have been linked to other people, while Arquette has been unusually open about his marital woes and his subsequent sexual and drinking activities.

People magazine said Cox was supportive of her husband's decision to get help. "I really admire David and his choice to take charge and better his life," it quoted Cox as saying. "I love and support him."

The couple met on the set of the 1996 horror film "Scream," and married three years later.

But while Cox enjoyed a red-hot decade-long run on "Friends" as the fussy domestic diva Monica, Arquette failed to capitalize on the commercial success of the "Scream" series and on the critical acclaim for his 2001 Holocaust drama "The Grey Zone."

Reuters



A model presents a creation during a wedding dress decoration show in southeast China's Taipei, on 3 Jan, 2011. The theme of the show was on low carbon and eco-friendly decorations for wedding dresses.—XINHUA

Zsa Zsa Gabor back in LA hospital for leg surgery



Zsa Zsa Gabor. INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 4 Jan—A representative for Zsa Zsa Gabor says she is back in a Los Angeles hospital

to have part of her leg amputated.

Publicist John Blanchette says doctors examined a growing lesion on Gabor's leg Sunday and decided she needed to return to Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Centre for surgery.

The 93-year-old Hungarian-born actress broke her hip in July and has been hospitalized several times since. She asked for a priest to read her last rites in August.—Internet



South Korean actress Kim Tae Hee and actor Song Seung Hun take parts in a preview event of the new TV series "My Princess" in Seoul, South Korea, on 3 Jan, 2011.

XINHUA



Members of a philharmonic of classical music from Austria perform during a new year's concert in Guiyang, capital of southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 2 Jan, 2011.—XINHUA

Disney, Israeli cinema chain to develop amusement park, movie complex

JERUSALEM, 4 Jan—The Walt Disney Company and a leading Israeli cinema chain have announced plans to build a 600 million shekels (168 million US dollars) amusement park and a 25-screen multiplex movie centre in Israel's largest port City Haifa.

"The project, which is still in its development stages, reflects our goal of providing quality entertainment for the people of Israel," Avi Edery, Deputy CEO of New Lineo Cinema said on Monday.

The centre will focus on the movie complex, and is not a Disney theme park, Edery added. However, he could not say when the plans were expected to come to fruition. New Lineo Cinema officials said the 30,000 square metres amusement park and 50,000 square metres of theaters and shops would be built on land owned by a local family, according to the *Globes* business newspaper. "This plan expresses our confidence in turning Haifa Bay into a thriving business area," Haifa Mayor Yona Yahav said.—Xinhua

Beckham waiting for Galaxy to OK offseason loan

LONDON, 4 Jan — David Beckham is still waiting for the Los Angeles Galaxy to approve a loan to a European club, with Tottenham among the clubs eager to sign the former England captain.

Beckham announced two weeks ago that he needed to keep playing during the winter to stay in contention for an England recall. But the Major League Soccer club said Beckham wouldn't be allowed to go to Europe during the offseason and it expected him and the rest of the team back at the end of January for the season-opener on 15 March.

The Galaxy's reluctance came after Beckham injured an Achilles' tendon last March while playing in the offseason for AC Milan. He missed the first six months of the Galaxy season.

Tottenham wants Beckham even if he would only play two months for



In this 27 Nov, 2010 file photo, LA Galaxy's David Beckham is seen during a match against the Newcastle Jets at EnergyAustralia Stadium in Newcastle, Australia.—INTERNET

the Premier League club.

"At the moment we are waiting on the decision of LA Galaxy with regards to a loan move," Beckham's management company said in a statement. "The loan would be a short one until the start of the MLS season. David would then return and play a full season with the Galaxy.— Internet

US keeper Guzan celebrates first win of Hull loan

LONDON, 4 Jan — American goalkeeper Brad Guzan celebrated the first victory of his loan stint at Hull in a 3-2 victory over Portsmouth on Monday in England's second-tier League Championship.

The 26-year-old was beaten from the penalty spot when Liam Lawrence tied it for Portsmouth in the 57th minute. Hull was ahead 3-1 on goals by Jimmy Bullard, Matt Fryatt and Nick Barnby when Greg Halford sent a header past Guzan in the 76th. Hull is 15th in the League Championship, six points off the playoff places for promotion to the Premier League.—Internet

This is a Thursday, on 19 Aug, 2010 file photo of Aston Villa's goalkeeper Brad Guzan as he grabs the ball from Rapid Vienna's Hamdi Salihi, during their Europa League play off round first leg soccer match in Vienna, Austria.—INTERNET



AC Milan finalise Cassano transfer

ROME, 4 Jan — Controversial Italian forward Antonio Cassano's transfer from Sampdoria to AC Milan was officialised on Monday. The 28-year-old had already joined his new team-mates at their winter training camp in Dubai on 27 December.

His move came following a falling out with Samp president Riccardo Garrone in October after Cassano allegedly gravely insulted the club chief.

He was frozen out of the first team picture as Samp moved to have his contract terminated but an arbitration body ruled against the club in December while deeming that the player's salary should be halved.



The transfer of controversial Italian forward Antonio Cassano.

INTERNET

Milan were quick to move in and although there was an initial stumbling block relating to a five million euro payment still owed by Samp to Cassano's previous club Real Madrid, the two Italian clubs and the forward soon found a resolution to the problem, each contributing to the financial settlement.

Internet

Frank De Boer signs Ajax deal through to 2014

THE HAGUE, 4 Jan — Former Holland international Frank De Boer has signed a deal with Ajax keeping him as the former European champions' coach through to June 2014, the club said on its website on Monday.

De Boer, 40 and in his first management post, had been in temporary charge since Martin Jol stepped down on 6 December.

He had previously coached the Ajax youth team before being Bert van Marwijk's assistant to the Dutch national side for the past two seasons.—Internet



Former Holland international Frank De Boer

England - League Championship

Barnsley	2 - 1	Coventry C.
Crystal Palace	1 - 0	Preston North End
Derby County	0 - 0	Millwall
Ipswich T.	0 - 1	Nottingham F.
Leicester C.	2 - 1	Swansea C.
Middlesbrough	1 - 1	Norwich C.
Portsmouth	2 - 3	Hull C.
Queens Park R.		2 - 2 Bristol C.
Reading	2 - 1	Burnley
Scunthorpe U.	1 - 2	Watford
Sheffield U.	2 - 2	Doncaster R.

Spain - Primera Division

Atletico Madrid	0 - 0	Racing Santander
Mallorca	3 - 0	Hercules
Villarreal	2 - 0	Almeria
Zaragoza	2 - 1	Real Sociedad
Getafe	2 - 3	Real Madrid

Villarreal continue home run with Almeria triumph

MADRID, 4 Jan — Villarreal made it eight league wins from nine at home defeating lowly Almeria 2-0 at El Madrigal on Monday to move five points clear of fourth-placed Valencia.

Centre-back Jose Catala finished off a Borja Valero set-piece on 22 minutes and Valero curled in a 58th free-kick to get himself

on the scoresheet to seal a win that keeps them nestled in third, five points behind second-placed Real Madrid.

Almeria, who have scored just five goals on the road, fall to second from bottom, two points from safety.—Internet

Bulgarian football's 'mafia links' exposed in cables

SOFIA, 4 Jan — Some of Bulgaria's most popular football clubs have ties with mafia bosses, who use them to launder money, according to a US diplomatic document revealed by whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks.

"Bulgarian soccer

clubs are widely believed to be directly or indirectly controlled by organised crime figures who use their teams as a way to legitimise themselves, launder money, or make a fast buck," a January 2010 cable from the US embassy in Sofia to Washington noted.

Internet



Some of Bulgaria's most popular football clubs have ties with mafia bosses, who use them to launder money, according to a US diplomatic document revealed by whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks.—INTERNET

S P O R T S

Caulker corker frustrates QPR

LONDON, 4 Jan — Steven Caulker's late equaliser denied Championship leaders QPR a win in a 2-2 draw with Bristol City at Loftus Road on Monday but the Londoners extended their lead at the top to five points.

Swansea, beaten 2-1 by Leicester, were leap-



Queen Park Rangers manager Neil Warnock

frogged into the second automatic promotion place on goal difference by Norwich, who drew 1-1 with Middlesbrough.

In west London, Brett Pitman gave Bristol City a 50th-minute lead before Alejandro Faurin and Adel Taarabt's penalty looked to have secured all three points for QPR. But Neil Warnock's men were denied victory in injury time when Caulker turned in Jamal Campbell-Ryce's cross to the despair of home supporters.—Internet



Villarreal's Ecuadorian midfielder Jefferson Monter (L) vies with Almeria's forward Juanma Ortiz during their Spanish league football match in Villarreal. Villarreal won 2-0.—INTERNET

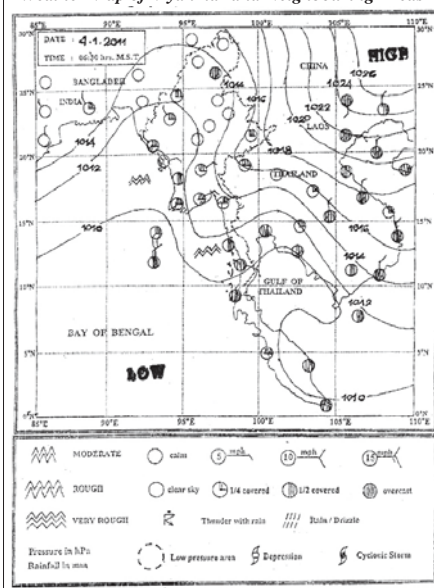
Americans too good for France

PERTH, 4 Jan — The United States cruised to victory over France in their Group B tie at the mixed teams Hopman Cup on Monday, as Great Britain suffered an unexpected early exit at the hands of Italy.

The unseeded US pairing of Bethanie Mattek-Sands and John Isner won both singles matches to secure the tie, before completing a clean sweep by claiming the mixed doubles against French duo Kristina Mladenovic and Nicolas Mahut.

The talking point of the clash was the singles rematch between Wimbledon marathon men Isner and Mahut. In their first on-court meeting since that famous 11-hour, three-day epic that ended with the American winning 70-68 in the third set in the longest match in tennis history, the pair played for a paltry 90 minutes as Isner sealed the tie for the US.—Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 4th January, 2011

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, Upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions. Night temperatures were (3°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, (5°C) below January average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Eastern Shan and Rakhine States, Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions and about January average temperatures in the remaining States and Regions. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (0°C), Pinlaung (2°C), Namhsan, Heho and Lashio (4°C) each.

Nay Pyi Taw

Maximum temperature on 3-1-2011 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 4-1-2011 was 58°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 4-1-2011 was (73%). Rainfall on 4-1-2011 was (Nil).

Yangon (Kaba-Aye)

Maximum temperature on 3-1-2011 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 4-1-2011 was 64°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 4-1-2011 was (67%).

Total sunshine hours on 3-1-2011 was (9.6) hours.

Rainfall on 4-1-2011 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2011 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (16:30) hours MST on 3-1-2011.

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

Forecast valid until evening of the 5th January 2011: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 5-1-2011: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-1-2011: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-1-2011: Generally fair weather.



Tourists visit the Huacheng Square decorated with flowers, in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, on 1 Jan, 2011. The Huacheng Square, dubbed as the "city reception hall" in downtown Guangzhou, attracted large amount of tourists in the new year holiday. —XINHUA

2nd earthquake rattles northern England

LONDON, 4 Jan—Northern England, a region where earthquakes are rare, was rattled by a minor one Monday, the second in two weeks.

The British Geological Survey said the 3.6-magnitude quake was centered around Ripon in the Yorkshire Dales, *Sky News* reported. On 21 Dec, a 3.5-magnitude quake centered in Coniston in the Lake District puzzled and unnerved residents for miles.

Dr Brian Baptie, the head of the geological survey said Monday's earthquake was probably felt as much as 60 miles from the center. But he said the shaking was unlikely to have caused any damage.

Worldwide there are an average of more than 100 earthquakes between 3.0 and 3.9 every day. But England gets an earthquake of that size about once a year.

Internet

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL Programme Schedule (5-1-2011) (Wednesday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	(09:00am-11:00am MST)
Oversea Transmission	(5-1-11 09:30 am ~ 6-1-11 09:30 am MST)

Local Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * The Beauty of Zwegabin and Livelihood of Kayin National
- * Bagan Archaeological Museum
- * More Income Through Value Added Wood Products
- * News
- * Daw Sein Poe D and Her Journey of Arts
- * News
- * Mazali Salad & Vermicelli Soup
- * News
- * From The Union Highway Forever Friendship

Oversea Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * The Beauty of Zwegabin and Livelihood of Kayin National
- * Bagan Archaeological Museum
- * More Income Through Value Added Wood Products
- * News
- * Daw Sein Poe D and Her Journey of Arts
- * News
- * Mazali Salad & Vermicelli Soup
- * News
- * From The Union Highway Forever Friendship
- * News
- * Youth and Music
- * News
- * Lacquerware in Bagan
- * One Day Trip to Sanka Village
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater
- * Pleasurable Myanmar Marionette Show
- * News
- * A wonderful trip to Chaung Tha Beach
- * A Souvenir of Pathein
- * Myanmar Movie "Pure Love"



Wednesday, 5 January View on today

- 7:00 am**
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 7:25 am**
- 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:30 am**
- 3. Morning News
- 7:40 am**
- 4. Dhamma Puja Song
- 7:50 am**
- 5. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:05 am**
- 6. Cultural Dances
- 8:15 am**
- 7. Performance With Song
- 8:20 am**
- 8. Teleplay (Health)
- 8:30 am**
- 9. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition
- 8:40 am**
- 10. International News
- 8:45 am**
- 11. Musical Programme
- 4:00 pm**
- 1. Martial Song
- 4:10 pm**
- 2. Musical Programme
- 4:25 pm**
- 3. Performance by State Orchestra

- 4:35 pm**
- 4. Song Of National Races
- 4:45 pm**
- 5. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Myanmar)
- 5:00 pm**
- 6. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:10 pm**
- 7. Classical Songs
- 5:20 pm**
- 8. Teleplay (Health)
- 5:40 pm**
- 9. "ASEAN" Programmes
- 5:50 pm**
- 10. International Science News
- 6:00 pm**
- 11. Evening News
- 6:15 pm**
- 12. Weather Report
- 6:20 pm**
- 13. Traditional Boxing
- 6:35 pm**
- 14. Shwe Yin Chone Than
- 7:00 pm**
- 15. Ratha Pawlwin Thayokesaung Lwin Pyin (Character Contest)
- 7:30 pm**
- 16. Alinka Wut Yi Music Troupe
- 8:00 pm**
- 17. News
- 18. International News
- 19. Weather Report
- 20. Korea NG Award
- 21. TV Drama Series
- 22. Myanmar Drama

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

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

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

- ★ VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
- ★ RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
- ★ Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

63rd Anniversary Independence Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony takes place



NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan — In accordance with the five national objectives of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day, the State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony was held at the square of the City Hall here this morning. More than 3000 people attended the ceremony.

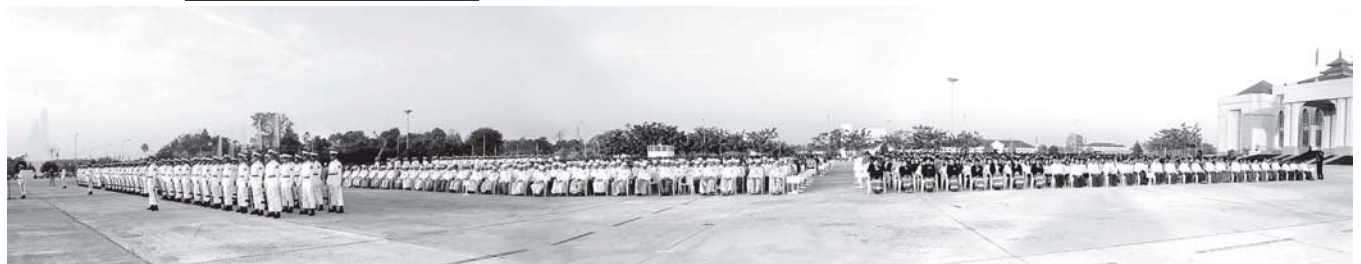
First, the staff of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General's Office, the Auditor-General's Office, Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the ministries, Red Cross Society and fire brigade members and local national people took their positions at designated places.

At the same time, Chairman of the Subcommittee for organizing the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day State

Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Maung Maung Aye, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, deputy ministers, senior military officers, departmental heads from various ministries, members of subcommittee and work committee, members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, rectors, principals, local authorities, representatives from social organizations and national race representatives took their positions at designated places.

The ceremony commenced at 4.20 am and the State Flag hoisting group hoisted the State Flag. As the State Flag saluting ceremony started at 7 am.

(See page 8)



Secretary-I Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo reads message sent by Chairman of the SPDC Senior General Than Shwe.—MNA