Faculty members, teachers responsible for promoting teaching and learning standard, the essence of universities and schools

National Education Promotion Conference for 2009 kicks off

Secretary-I General
Thiha Thura Tin
Aung Myint Oo
delivers an address at
National Education
Promotion Conference for 2009.
MNA

The research papers to be submitted in connection with the basic education sector will cover the subjects on teaching of lessons for the uplift of English and Mathematics.

The plan covers 10 tasks and 31 projects.

If those tasks and projects are effectively implemented, grounds for advanced education system will emerge due to the equitable development of human resources in regions. (See page 6)

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

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—National Education Promotion Conference for 2009 of the Ministry of Education was held at University of Veterinary Science in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana this morning with an opening address by Secretary-I of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, senior military officers deputy ministers, members of Myanmar Development Committee, departmental heads, the directors-general of the departments under the Ministry of Education, rectors, pro-rectors, professors and principals from universities and degree colleges, principals of education colleges, state/division/district education officers and invited guests.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary-I said efforts are being made for promoting the national education standard, the State laid down the 30-year long-term education plan divided into six 5-year short-term plans from the 2001-2002 fiscal year to the 2030-2031 fiscal year.

Teachers are to discharge duties not only for teaching the students with school lessons but also for training them to have the good practice of thinking power with initiatives, innovation and assessment on challenges.

The research papers to be submitted in connection with the basic education sector will cover the subjects on teaching of lessons for the uplift of English and Mathematics.

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Extensively grow industrial crops to earn more foreign exchange

Myanmar is blessed with fertile lands and favourable weather for growing crops. Besides edible crops and marketable crops are grown in the nation.

Rubber, one of the industrial crops, which are a driving factor for national development, are grown most in Mon State and Taninthayi Division. The two regions have the most favourable climate to grow rubber.

Nowadays, rubber is being cultivated in Myeik, Dawei and Kawthoung Districts of Taninthayi Division, and Myeik grows the greatest acreage of rubber among them.

Aiming at turning itself into a rubber region Mon State was able to grow 407,879 acres of rubber in 2008-2009, exceeding the target.

The extensive use of rubber by industrialized countries has resulted in high demand for rubber globally.

At present, rubber is being grown in Kunlong District, Shan State (North) on commercial scale with the help of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. Altogether 3,763 acres of rubber were grown in Hopen, Kunlong District.

In the past, Kunlong District lagged behind in development as armed insurgency was rife there. At present, with the strenuous efforts of local people the region is making progress in the growing of industrial crops on commercial scale.

At a time when progress has been made in the growing of rubber in hilly regions like Shan State in addition to Lower Myanmar it is incumbent upon local people to grow rubber extensively, and only then, will the country earn more foreign exchange.

Boosting production of oil and natural gas discussed

NAV Pyi Taw, 24 April — The coordination meeting on boosting production of oil and natural gas was held at the hall of Ministry of Energy, here, this morning, with an address by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi.

In his address, the minister stressed the need to increase the oil and natural gas production for ensuring sufficiency of local consumption and supervise minimizing loss and wastage and eradication of malpractices. He pointed out that arrangements are to be made for boosting production of oil and natural gas in the respective oilfields by applying the modern techniques.

General Managers of the oilfields reported on current production of oil and arrangement for more production of oil and natural gas. Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay and officials gave supplementary reports.

In delivering a closing speech, the minister instructed them to pay attention to increased production of oil and natural gas in line with the plans, supervise spending of money in accord with the financial rules and regulations and strive for finding new oilfields and drilling new oil wells.

Later, he adopted the future tasks for boosting production of oil and natural gas.

UMFCCI President meets with ROK Ambassador

Yangon, 24 April — President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint, Vice President U Aung Lwin and Joint-Secretary U Myint Soe met with Ambassador Mr Park Key-chong of the Republic of Korea to the Union of Myanmar at UMFCCI office yesterday.

Their meeting focused on invitation of Myanmar entrepreneurs to attend “The ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit 2009” and “The ASEAN-Korea CEO Summit” to be held in the Republic of Korea from 31 May to 1 June.

They also discussed matters on meeting of entrepreneurs from both sides for boosting bilateral trade and investments, oppor-tunities for developing Myanmar agricultural sectors, and assistance for entrepreneurs who will attend the summit in the Republic of Korea.
US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,276

WASHINGTON, 24 April— As of Thursday, 23 April, 2009, at least 4,276 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003. The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,433 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers. The British military has reported 179 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.

Two militants killed in Afghan raid

KABUL, 24 April— International and Afghan troops killed two militants in an overnight raid in central Afghanistan, US forces said on Thursday. Forces with the Afghan army and the US-led international coalition were attempting to capture Taliban militants who intelligence sources said were camping in Tarin Kowt district of Uruzgan province, a US statement said.

Two armed men who threatened the troops were shot and killed, it said. No women or children were present and no Afghan or international forces were injured, it said.

Military solution won’t end Afghan war

WASHINGTON, 24 April— As fresh US troop reinforcements prepare to deploy to Afghanistan, veterans decried past mistakes and warned the conflict cannot be solved by military means alone. “By the time I left Afghanistan, I felt that the US being there was a big mistake,” retired US Marines corporal Rick Reyes told the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee. “I feel strongly that military intervention is not the answer.”

His comments echoed congressional testimony given by committee chairman John Kerry as a Vietnam War veteran in 1971, when he had famously asked: “How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?” Now as then, veterans voiced their reservations about the already costly and protracted conflict in Afghanistan, although they argued against a rapid withdrawal of troops.

Iraqi police: 60 dead in double bombing at shrine

BAGHDAD, 24 April — Back-to-back suicide bombings killed 60 people Friday outside the most important Shiite shrine in Baghdad, a day after the country was rocked by its most deadly violence in more than a year, police officials said. The latest bombings come amid an increase in high-profile attacks that have raised concerns about the abilities of Iraq’s security forces. Such concern led Iraq’s prime minister to order a military task force to investigate the attacks as well as security shortcomings that allowed the assailants to slip through.

Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the bombings, but these types of attacks are the trademark of Sunni insurgents backed by al-Qaida in Iraq.

The bombers Friday detonated explosives belts within minutes of each other near separate gates of the tomb of prominent Shiite saint Imam Mousa al-Kazim, located in the northern neighbourhood of Kazimiyah, said a police official. Another police official said the bombers struck shortly before the start of Friday prayers as worshippers streamed into the mosque — an important site for Shiite pilgrims. The US military could not provide further details, saying the area around the shrine was patrolled by Iraqi security forces. All the officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information. Witnesses at the shrine described a bloody, chaotic scene.

Secret tally has 87,215 Iraqis dead

BAGHDAD, 24 April— Iraq’s government has recorded 87,215 of its citizens killed since 2005 in violence ranging from catastrophic bombings to execution-style slayings, according to government statistics. Combined with tallies based on hospital sources and media reports since the beginning of the war and an in-depth review of available evidence, the figures show that more than 110,600 Iraqis have died in violence since the 2003 US-led invasion.

The number is a minimum count of violent deaths. The official, on condition of anonymity because of its sensitivity, estimated the actual number of deaths at 10 to 20 percent higher because of thousands who are still missing and civilians who were buried in the chaos of war without official records.

The Health Ministry has tallied death certificates since 2005, and late that year the United Nations began using them — along with hospital and morgue figures — to publicly release casualty counts. But by early 2007, when sectarian violence was putting political pressure on the US and Iraqi governments, the Iraqi numbers disappeared. The United Nations “repeatedly asked for that cooperation” to resume but never received a response, UN associate spokesman Farhan Haq said Thursday.

A man injured in a suicide bombing lies in the Kazimiyah hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, on Friday, 24 April, 2009. Back-to-back suicide bombings killed 60 people Friday outside the most important Shiite shrine in Baghdad, a day after the country was rocked by its most deadly violence in more than a year.
Chrysler’s fate rests with debtors as clock ticks

NEW YORK, 24 April—With a government deadline just seven days away, Chrysler LLC is running out of time to work out deals with debtholders, its unions and a foreign partner.

A life outside of bankruptcy appears to hinge on whether Chrysler and the US government can get the company’s lenders to forgive a large portion of the company’s debt in exchange for stock. But both sides are far apart.

“I’ve said this is the equivalent of a 70-year field goal,” Michael Robinet, vice president of global vehicles forecasts at CSM Worldwide, said of Chrysler’s goal,” Michael Robinet, vice president of global vehi-

The lender issue remains unresolved, according to the company’s chief financial officer.

Three small quakes rattle California’s Orange County

YORBA LINDA, 24 April—Three small earthquakes rattled California’s Orange County area over a period of less than four hours on Thursday. No damage was immedi-

The first quake, with a magnitude of 3.8, struck at 4:56 pm Thursday and was centered 2 miles northeast of the city of Yorba Linda, the US Geological Survey reported.

Then a magnitude-4.0 quake struck at 8:27 pm and a 3.0 tremor fol-

A general view of a real estate fair is seen in Moscow on 22 April, 2009. Real estate companies from nearly 20 countries attended the fair but few visitors were attracted here, probably because of the ongoing global financial crisis.—XINHUA

Indonesia’s biggest mortgage lender to issue $138.2 m bond

JAKARTA, 24 April—The Indonesia’s biggest mortgage lender, PT Bank Tabungan Negara (BTN), planned to issue bond worth 1.5 trillion rupiah or around 138.2 million US dollars, the bank’s execu-

The BTN’s President Director Iqbal Latanro said that the bond-obtained stable outlook from Pefindo, an Indonesian rating company.

Iqbal explained that the raised fund would be used for credit expansion. “I’m sure that investors would buy our bond due to its higher yield and our good credit quality, manage-

Microsoft’s sales show fallout of recession

SEATTLE, 24 April—The link between Microsoft Corp’s fortune and the health of the personal comput-

Microsoft’s chief financial officer.

Alaska Air Group narrows 1Q loss

ATLANTA, 24 April—Alaska Air Group Inc, parent of Alaska Airlines and Horizon Air, said Thursday it narrowed its first-quarter loss and will start charging for a first checked bag like most other airlines.

The company lost $19.2 million compared to a year-

Alaska Air Group’s adjusted first-quarter loss was 70 cents a share. Analysts polled by Thomson Reuters expected Alaska Air Group to post a first-quarter loss of 49 cents a share on revenue of $735 million. Analysis-

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China, Israel agree to boost bilateral ties

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman (R) and visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi hold a joint press conference after their meeting in Jerusalem, on 23 April, 2009. —Xinhua

Israel and China met for the first time in 2004. The Outposts director-general Lieberman, who is also Israel’s deputy prime minister, the two leaders agreed to strengthen the contacts in different fields and at different levels. The two sides vowed to enhance economic cooperation, promote non-governmental exchanges and push for sound development of bilateral friendship.

During the meeting, Yang and Lieberman also exchanged views on the Middle East issue. On Thursday, Yang met in Tel Aviv with Tzipi Livni, chairwoman of Kadima party, which is now the biggest opposition party. Earlier in the day, the Chinese foreign minister met in Jerusalem respectively with Israeli President Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Yang is currently on a five-leg visit, which has taken him to Egypt and the Palestinian territories. He will also visit Syria and Russia. —Xinhua

Online newspaper readership continues to grow in US as industry struggles

Los Angeles, 24 April—Newspaper websites in the United States continue to attract an ever-growing readership, with the average number of unique visitors up 10 percent in the first quarter this year, according to a study released on Thursday.

Websites operated by American newspapers attracted more than 73.3 million monthly unique users in the three months ended 31 March, compared with 66.4 million in the same period last year, said the study, conducted by market research firm Nielsen Online and commissioned by the Newspaper Association of America.

Online newspaper readers generated an average of more than 3.5 billion page views per month in the first quarter this year, an increase of 13 percent over the same period last year. The number is the highest since the NAA started keeping track of the data in 2004.

Toyota’s global sales down 11.7% in FY 2008

Tokyo, 24 April—Japan’s largest automaker Toyota announced Thursday that its global sales sank 11.7 percent year-on-year to 8.33 million units in fiscal 2008 due to shrinking demand worldwide amid the global economic recession.

It is the first yearly drop since fiscal 1999 when Daihatsu Motor Co and Hino Motors Ltd were incorporated into the Toyota group. With the deepening of the global financial crisis, speculation is mounting that the automaker will suffer a further downside in sales worldwide in the current fiscal 2009 beginning April. —Xinhua

Two freight ships collide near Singapore

Singapore, 24 April—Two freight ships collided early Thursday a few kilometres off Singapore’s coast, but no one was injured in the incident.

According to Channel NewsAsia reports, the Iranian-registered cargo ship “Danoosh”, with a crew of 33, collided with the Indonesian-registered container vessel, “Lagun Mas”, near the St John’s Island, which is located some 6.5 kilometres south of the city state. The Iranian cargo ship was anchored in Singapore’s Eastern Working Anchorage for repairing its damaged hold while the smaller Indonesian vessel reported some damage to its railing and bow and has continued on its way. —Xinhua

UK budget under fire for massive debt

London, 24 April—The 2009 budget, announced on Wednesday by British Chancellor Alistair Darling, in parliament, has drawn a poor reception from political and business circles as well as the public.

The huge amount of public borrowing and the prediction of GDP growth in 2010 onwards have drawn strong criticism. The government has been urged to dump the “borrow and spend” approach and opt for a “save and invest” strategy to pull the British economy out of recession. For Britain, this recession has brought the worst debt in over 50 years, with unemployment rates expected to continue to rise to record levels.

According to figures laid out by Darling, Britain’s debt is set to rise to a massive 703 billion pounds (more than 1 trillion US dollars) over the next five years.

To show the disappointment with the Budget, some even described it as merely “rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic”. —Xinhua

At least 35 migrants drown after boat capsizes in Gulf of Aden

Geneva, 24 April—At least 35 people have drowned after their boat capsized when crossing the Gulf of Aden, the UN refugee agency said on Thursday.

“By midday Thursday, 35 bodies had been recovered by UNHCR’s partner agency, the Society of Human Solidarity,” said the UNHCR in a statement.

The boat was carrying about 117 migrants when the tragedy occurred. —Xinhua

An employee works at the exhibition hall of the headquarters of General Motors Corp (GM) in Detroit, the United States, on 14 April, 2009. GM announced Monday that it would cut 1,600 white-collar workers this week as a step to cut costs that could help the automaker qualify for more government aid. —Xinhua
Faculty members, teachers responsible to promote…

(From page 1)

The achievement of the plans can result in realizing the aims of the State. In the 2005-2006 academic year, the last year of the first five-year short-term plan, the enrolment rate increased from 97.58 per cent in the 2005-2006 academic year to 98.13 per cent in the 2008-2009 academic year and it shows the improvement of the today’s education system.

The Secretary-1 also stressed the need for taking necessary measures to reduce the dropout rate and to promote the completion rate as part of efforts for maintaining the development of the education standard.

Meanwhile, responsible personnel are to receive skills for management and teaching techniques in an attempt to implement the plans region wise to promote the national education standard.

He also quoted the guidance of the Head of State to improve the skills of teachers, to upgrade the curriculums meeting the international standard, to receive skills for management and teaching techniques, maintenance of the development of the education standard, and to promote the completion rate as part of efforts for improvement of the today’s education system.

In the 2008-2009 academic year and it shows the cent in the 2005-2006 academic year to 98.13 per cent in the fifth year of the long-term plan.

MNA

The Secretary-1 continued to say that being educated persons equipped with Union Spirit and patriotic spirit, all the teachers are to teach their students to forge Union Spirit and patriotic spirit.

He noted that the teachers are to discharge duties not only for teaching the students with school lessons but also for training them to have the good practice of reasoning power with initiatives, innovation and assessment on challenges. Moreover, he stressed the need to teach the students to be able to review the future of the State based on the pragmatic truth with goodwill.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 urged the teachers to implement the guidance of the Head of State on enhancement of the education standard in line with the procedures of the long-term plan; to uplift their efficiency in the conference to become the intellectuals and intelligentia who would have abilities to improve the 21st Century Myanmar education history; and to take pride in their dignity by nurturing the student youths equipped with Union Spirit and patriotic spirit for overcoming the challenges in the future.

After the opening ceremony, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted those present and teachers. He visited the booth on education development and viewed the use of 576 LED bulbs with bio-battery through the multiplex method produced by Electronic Lab of Physics Department of Mandalay University and the lighting of table lamp and turning on the radio with the use of bio-battery made of waste matter.

The basic education sector of the National Education Promotion Conference for 2009 was held from 22 April to date. The higher education sector of the conference will be held up to 26 April. — MNA
Thai delegation arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April—A Thai delegation led by Minister Mr Issara Somchai of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Social Development of Thailand arrived here by air this morning to sign MoU on Prevention against Trafficking in Persons.

The Thai delegation was welcomed at the airport by members of the Central Committee for Prevention against Trafficking in Persons Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein, Director-General U Myat Ko of General Administration Department, Director-General U Aung Saw Win of the Bureau of Special Investigation, Deputy Chief of Myanamar Police Force Brig-Gen Zaw Win and officials.

In the afternoon, Chairman of the Central Committee for Prevention against Trafficking in Persons Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo hosted a luncheon to the Thai delegation at Shwe Nandaw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo received Minister Mr Issara Somchai and party at the same venue. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein, Chief of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi and officials.

The Thai delegation visited the Uppatasanti Pagoda and made cash donation to the pagoda.

Later, the Thai delegation left for Yangon by air in the evening. The delegation was seen off by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein and officials.

Myanmar and Thailand sign MoU on...

(from page 16)

Minister Mr Issara Somchai of Thailand said that arrangements are being made to implement the plan of action by drafting under the MoU and combat human trafficking problem in cooperation with government departments, NGOs and UN agencies.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Minister Mr Issara Somchai of Thailand signed and exchanged documents of the MoU.

Afterwards, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister Mr Issara Somchai and guests had the documentary photo taken.

The MoU comprised areas of cooperation to combat all aspects of human trafficking and different areas such as prevention, protection, rehabilitation, law enforcement, justice and developing and implanting joint actions between the two countries.—MNA

A-G office meets

NAY PYI TAW, 24 April — A work coordination meeting of state/division directors of the Auditor-General’s Office took place at the AGO here with an address by Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung. Present at the meeting were the director-general and the deputy director-general and officials of the Auditor-General Office.

In his speech, the auditor-general stressed the need for auditors to perform their duties with sincerity without any irregularities and corruption and to expose and take action against those who break formalities and rules and regulations. State/Division directors reported their respective tasks and the auditor-general gave a concluding remark after giving necessary instructions.—MNA

Antioxidant prevents UV skin damage

SEOUL, 24 April — Using a topical application of the antioxidant ellagic acid, researchers at Hallym University in the Republic of Korea markedly prevented collagen destruction and inflammatory response — major causes of wrinkles — in both human skin cells and the sensitive skin of hairless mice following continuing exposure to UV-B, the sun’s skin-damaging ultraviolet radioactive rays.

Ji-Young Bae, a graduate student in the laboratory of Dr. Young-Hee Kang, presented results of the two-part study on Tuesday, April 21, at the Experimental Biology 2009 meeting in New Orleans. The presentation was part of the scientific program of the American Society for Nutrition.

Ellagic acid is an antioxidant found in numerous fruits, vegetables and nuts, especially raspberries, strawberries, cranberries and pomegranates. Earlier studies have suggested it has a photoprotective effect.—Internet

Guam rhinoceros beetles got rhythm

HAGATNA, 24 April — In May 2008 the island of Guam became a living laboratory for scientists as they attached acoustic equipment to coconut trees in order to listen for rhinoceros beetles. A grant from USDA IPM allowed Richard Mankin, a recognized world-class expert on acoustic detection of insects, to travel to Guam to collaborate with island scientists on the Guam Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Eradication Project.

The coconut rhinoceros beetle, Oryctes rhinoceros, is a serious pest of coconut palms and was discovered on Guam September 11, 2007, University of Guam entomologist, Aubrey Moore worked with Mankin to analyze the spectral and temporal patterns of stridulations produced by the rhin beetle. Recordings were made of beetles and larvae that were reared at the university. Field recordings were also made of beetles and larvae in coconut trees and logs.

Internet

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Guam rhinoceros beetle.
Nay Pyi Taw International Airport to emerge soon

**Article, photos: Tin Htwe (MNA)**

Nay Pyi Taw International Airport will add to the image of Nay Pyi Taw. I happened to visualize the transport facility.

Every sovereign country has to protect and exploit their airspaces, waters and lands in their interests. Myanmar is working hard to explore oil and gas in the offshore blocks in its waters and use every inch of the airspace to improve its economic growth. In that regard, it is to make arrangements for aircraft of international airlines to pass through the airspace and land at airports in the nation. So, it is required to construct more international level airports, provide fuel, food and spare parts, and maintain the machines of the foreign aircraft that touch the grounds of the airports. These are some requirements of an international level airport.

A fine network of transport facilities is necessary for generating economic development of a nation. Today, the role of the transport sector has showed more and more important throughout successive periods. So, the transport sector will still deserve greater attention in future. The State Peace and Development Council has completed networks of railroads and roads to ensure that Nay Pyi Taw is easily accessible from states and divisions and to expedite the administrative machinery.

With greater improvement in the economic, social and diplomatic relations with other countries, the Union of Myanmar has boosted

*(See page 9)*
The present airport, Asia World Co Ltd started the groundwork on 23 May 2002, and it handed over the project to the Department of Civil Aviation on 2 April 2004. Then, the department entrusted the project to the Directorate of Military Engineering under the Ministry of Defence on 22 April the same year.

Now, heads of State/Government of foreign countries pay goodwill visits to Nay Pyi Taw, and on their tours, they use present Nay Pyi Taw Airport. To build the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport, the company commenced the pre-engineering work in July 2008, and construction work in January 2009.

The design of Nay Pyi Taw International Airport was drawn by CPG Consultants Pte., Ltd. of Singapore. The company drew the design of the annex to Yangon International Airport, and the designs of Changi Airport of Singapore and several airports of Vietnam and Laos.

Nay Pyi Taw International Airport is planned to go according to the three phases.
Nay Pyi Taw International Airport to...  
(from page 9)  
After the first phase is completed, the airport will be able to cope with 3.5 million passengers, and after the third phase is completed, it will be able to cope with 10.5 million passengers annually.

The first phase comprises an airport building that can cope with 3.5 million passengers, an apron, a boarding bridge, an annex to the airport, and a control tower. Now, Asia World Co has launched the construction of the main building of the airport and the approach road with over 200 engineers and management workers as part of the first phase. The Department of Civil Aviation under the Ministry of Transport will supervise all the tasks for control of the quality of the whole project.

When asked about the runway and the signal systems of the present airport, U Sein Win, in-charge as well as Deputy General Manager of the present airport, said, "The runway of the present airport is 12,000 feet long and 200 feet wide, and the taxiway is 500 feet long and 400 feet wide and, the apron is 600 feet long and 400 feet wide. The runway is of concrete type and it is 26 inches thick. It can withstand 873,000 pounds of loads. The signal equipment comprises VHF Omni Directional Radio Range that shows the locations of VOR and a flying airplane, Non-Directional Radio Beacon that shows the location of the airport, Distance Measuring Equipment and the apparatuses on Instrument Landing System such as Runway Center Line, Precision Approach Path Indicator, Glide Path and ILS DME. The present airport can cope with any types of aircraft."

In an interview, U Nay Lin, Project Director of Asia World Co Ltd undertaking the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport project, said, "CPG Co that drew the blueprint of Nay Pyi Taw International Airport Project estimates according to its experience that it will take 30 months to complete the first phase of the project. However, we will try our best to complete it as soon as possible. Building an international airport is not as the same as constructing other facilities such as roads, bridges, schools and houses. An international airport requires airport specialist systems that are not included in other kinds of facilities such as air conditioning mechanical ventilation (ACMV) system, flight information display system (FIDS), baggage handling system (BHS) and departure control system and security screening system. Such systems need to be fixed to the whole airport building. Moreover, the walls and roofs of the building have to be built need to be soundproof, to resist the vibrations occurring due to the sounds of airplane engines and to regulate temperature."

The design of Nay Pyi Taw International Airport is modern and passengers can enter the airport easily and comfortably. The airport will be built equipped with all necessary modern decorations and machines an international airport should have. Not only will the airport be physically modern but it will also be useful to air passengers.

As latest models of machinery will be used, Nay Pyi Taw Airport will be more modern and sophisticated than Yangon and Mandalay International Airports."

"Asia World Co has had experience in constructing Yangon International Airport building. The current project is the second one. We have to make some Myanmar versions of the design produced by CPG so that our carpenters, masons and steel fixers can understand it. But, with the inherent facility of Myanmar, they can build the airport according to the design. In terms of modernity, the airport building alone is not modern. We will make arrangement for the greening of surrounding areas and land preparation.

Construction tasks of the project as the first phase will not include the runway. The existing runway will continue to be used. The second and third phases of the project only will include new runways.

The first phase project includes a taxiway with 3700 meters in length and 30.5 meters in width, a 403 meters long and 336 meters wide apron with a total area of 135,408 square meters where 10 aircrafts can land simultaneously, a passenger terminal, a car parking, a control tower and other facilities.

The second phase project includes an apron measuring 1200 feet x 1200 feet in front of the already-constructed airport building, an apron where VIP aircraft lands and building four more boarding bridges at the airport building for passengers, a flight catering building, a government complex and an airport maintenance base.

The third phase includes 17 more boarding bridges, a dual parallel taxiway measuring 1200 feet x 100 feet, a runway measuring 12000 ft x 100 ft in front of the airport building, a set of dual parallel taxiway measuring 12,000 feet x 100 feet, four taxiways measuring 650 ft x 100 feet, four taxiways measuring 550 ft x 100 ft and an apron for cargo planes.

Annually, 2 million international passengers, 1.5 million local passengers totaling 3.5 million can use the main airport building which is made up of the main hall with an area of 17,174 square meters, the east hall and west hall with an area of 3272 square meters each and the north hall with an area of 5912 square meters. The total area of the ground floor, the attic and the first floor of the whole building is 63,000 square meters.

The airport building is a two-storey building with reinforced concrete cores. The ground floor is for passenger arrivals and the first floor for passenger departures. The west hall is for local passengers, the east hall, and the north hall for international passengers.

Modern machinery will be installed in passengers' counters, the passport control counter, customs counters for arrivals and departures and baggage claim counter.

The approach road to the airport will be 2.6 miles / 4 lanes is 1500 meters long. The car parking measures 200 meters by 107 meters and its total area is 21,400 square meters. The 62-meter-high control tower can control all the construction tasks of the first, second and third phases of the project.

Likewise, the place for octane distribution will be built, and arrangements will be made for sanitary system and sewage system and greening and beautifying of airport environs.

In interviewing project engineer U Thein Tun about ground-work, he said: "We are now removing the upper layer of the earth for the main airport building, the apron, approach road and other facilitating roads. And it has been almost completed. We will continue the groundwork to complete the set level but not the design level. Borrow soil work has completed by 65 percent. We are working to complete the earth work before the rainy season. Besides, we are paving concrete on the taxiway and apron and boree piling of the main building."

When Nay Pyi Taw International Airport is completed, local and international air passengers can travel around Myanmar as well as around the world by using the airport. Like other international airports, Nay Pyi Taw International Airport will provide special services for the convenience of passengers. Local and international air passengers will marvelously witness the cutting-edge airport in the green of Nay Pyi Taw with rich natural resources.

As Nay Pyi Taw International Airport is under construction in accord with the characteristics of an international airport, it will emerge as a facility that brings honour and dignity not only to Nay Pyi Taw but also to the State. I conclude this article by shouting that Myanmars known for ancient cultural heritage, known for its ancient, historical pagodas and known for the smile and hospitality of Myanmar people has the capability to display its modernity as high as the Translation: MS+ST
Food prices remain high in developing countries

ROME, 24 April — Food prices are still at high level in developing countries despite an improved global cereal supply situation and a sharp decline in international food prices, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said in its latest Crop Prospects and Food Situation report published here on Thursday.

This is creating further hardship for millions of poor people already suffering from hunger and undernourishment, the Rome-based organization said.

This year’s world cereal production is forecast to decline by 3 percent from the 2008 record, but it would still be the second largest crop ever, according to FAO’s first 2009 forecast.

Most of the decrease is expected to be in wheat, mainly due to a significant reduction in plantings in developed countries in response to lower international prices.

In developing countries, cereal output could remain close to last year’s good level.

Food emergencies persist in 32 countries, despite good 2008 cereal crops in many of the countries normally most at risk of food insecurity, the report said.— Internet

Scientists make super-strong metallic spider silk

Spider silk is already tougher and lighter than steel, and now scientists have made it three times stronger by adding small amounts of metal.

The technique may be useful for manufacturing super-tough textiles and high-tech medical materials, including artificial bones and tendons.

“It could make very strong thread for surgical operations,” researcher Seung-Mo Lee of the Max Planck Institute for Microstructure Physics in Halle, Germany, said in a telephone interview.

Lee and colleagues, who published their findings in the journal Science, found that adding zinc, titanium or aluminum to a length of spider silk made it more resistant to breaking or deforming.

They used a process called atomic layer deposition, which not only coated spider dragline silks with metal but also caused some metal ions to penetrate the fibers and react with their protein structure.

Dubai denies pirate money laundered in its banks

DUBAI, 24 April—Dubai’s deputy police chief denied a report that pirates have laundered ransom money through banks in the Gulf city-state, according to a local newspaper.

Maj Gen Khamis Mattar al-Mazeina was responding to Tuesday’s report in British newspaper The Independent that quoted investigators hired by the shipping industry as saying organized piracy syndicates operating in Dubai and other Gulf states have laundered large amounts of pirate ransom money.

Somali pirates in the past told The Associated Press that they receive help from people in Dubai, a Mideast banking hub that has a history of moving money used to finance terrorism and other illicit activities.

Five-year-old rides NYC subway alone for 34 stops

Authorities say a 5-year-old boy slipped onto a New York City subway alone and rode for 34 stops from the Bronx to the southern tip of Manhattan before anyone intercepted him.

Samuel Sosa has been reunited with his mother, unharmed, after his hourlong transit odyssey.

Griselda Sosa says her son got away from her around 7:40 am while she got coffee near an elevated station on the No 1 line in the Bronx. The boy apparently sprinted up the station’s stairs, squeezed under a turnstile and boarded a southbound train before she could stop him.

Police quickly put out an alert, but Sammy made it to the end of the line in Manhattan before transit workers spotted him around 8:40 am. His mother called authorities’ response “good and fast.”

Torture tale in Britain with seven missing paragraphs

LONDON, 24 April — It is a page-turner of a tale — but one with seven missing paragraphs.

Lawyers for several media groups appealed on Wednesday to a British High Court to disclose redacted information they say could show that the British government knew more than it has admitted about the alleged torture of former Guantanamo detainee and UK resident Binyamin Mohammed.

The missing paragraphs — from official British documents that relate to discussions with the United States — could answer questions about whether UK agents helped US interrogators by providing questions to ask Mohammed. It could also show that Britain, despite repeated denials, knew that the CIA had sent Mohamed to Morocco where severe interrogation techniques were used to extract information.

Dubai’s 66-year-old woman rides NYC subway alone for 34 stops

A thief in Maine stole a 66-year-old bicycle that belonged to an 83-year-old woman.

Ruth Slovenski got the blue Huffy bicycle as a gift when she was a teenager in 1943. The bike was stolen after she left it unlocked Saturday during a visit to a nursing home in Lewiston, a southern Maine city of about 35,000 residents where Slovenski lives.

Police said Slovenski had left the bike near a mailbox. When she went back to it two hours later, the bike was gone.

The bicycle has wide fenders and a large metal basket. A nursing home security video shows a man wearing a hat and dark clothing riding off on a bike that fit that description.

Police said Slovenski told them the bike had great sentimental value.
Men set record with 217,000 text messages

Marietta, 24 April — A pair of Pennsylvania men said they broke a world record by exchanging more than 217,000 text messages in a month. Nick Andes, 29, of Marietta, Pa., and Doug Klinger, 30, of Berks County, said they texted each other nonstop from 7 March to 6 April to break the record of 182,000 text messages sent and received by India’s Deepak Sharma in 2005, The (Lancaster, Pa.) Intelligencer-Journal reported Wednesday. “Right now, I’m pretty much done with texting,” Andes said Tuesday. He said the record-setting feat nearly saddled him with a $26,000 bill from T-Mobile, despite his unlimited texting plan. He said the bill was waived but a spokeswoman for the company asked him to refrain from record attempts in the future. “She told me it was a violation of their misuse and abuse policy,” Andes said. “She wanted to know my intentions and to assure her this was a one-time thing ... They weren’t as enthusiastic about this as everybody else seems to be.”

1.9-million-PC botnet uncovered

San Francisco, 24 April — US computer security experts say they have discovered a “botnet” of 1.9 million secretly infected “zombie” PCs controlled by a Ukrainian gang. The San Jose, Calif., computer security firm Finjan said the six-member cybergang since February has infected the computers to copy files, record keystrokes, send spam and take screenshots in one the largest-ever botnets controlled by a single gang ever found, Finjan said reported Wednesday. Finjan marketing director Ophir Shalitin, speaking to the computer news Web site before the RSA security conference in San Francisco, said the gang had compromised computers in 77 government-owned Web address domains in the United States and other countries, with nearly 80 percent of them running the Internet Explorer browser on Windows XP operating systems. — Internet

Ape escapes in Dutch zoo, no visitors hurt

The Hauge, 24 April — Separated from his mother and confronted by a group of angry pregnant females, a bonobo ape didn’t hesitate Thursday at a Dutch zoo. Ape escapes in Dutch zoo, no visitors hurt —

Grooming, personality may affect grades

Miami, 24 April — A University of Miami study reveals physical attractiveness, personality and grooming can impact grades in high school. Michael T French, one of the authors of the study, said several previous studies found that physical attractiveness is significantly related to labor market earnings for men and women. However, the study found that physical attractiveness was not the most important non-cognitive predictor of grades, French said. “Instead grooming and personality were stronger predictors of academic success in high school for boys and girls, respectively,” French said in a statement. The study also found that physical attractiveness has a positive effect on grade-point average for both genders, but only when considered alone. When physical attractiveness is considered along with grooming and personality, the positive effect of physical attractiveness at high school GPA turns negative for both genders. — For male students, grooming delivers the biggest overall effect on GPA. — For female students, personality is positively related to GPA.— Internet

TENDER INVITATION

Myanma Ceramic Industries, Ministry of Industry, (1), is intended to establish a Cement Manufacturing Plant in Lashio Township, Northern Shan State, adopting the wet process Cement Manufacturing and capacity of 500 ton per day, using kiln firing system with Coal firing system. Seal Tenders are invited from Cement Machinery Manufacturing Companies of People’s Republic of China with machinery and Full-Turnkey Basis including technical services, machinery supply, erection commissioning and supervisory services. The details can be obtained from the following contact office.

Myanma Ceramic Industries: Building No (41) Nay Pyi Taw Union of Myanmar Tel 067-40836, 408296 Fax 067-408064 Tender Closing Date: 30.6.2009

TV TRADE MARK CAUTION Villa Frattina S.P.A was assignee and Villa S.P.A was assignee of Vas Xs, 345 Calzalbertesi, Italy, in the On and Sole Sale of the following Trade Mark:

FRATINA

Reg No:16762/2004
Reg No:22564/2008

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Apenheul zoo and straight to Bonobos — often resolve their matriarchal society in which female leaders manage it.” It did not elaborate.
Vegetable juice may help to lose weight

HOUSTON, 24 April — Drinking at least one glass of low-sodium vegetable juice daily may help overweight people with metabolic syndrome lose weight. US researchers say. Metabolic syndrome is defined by a cluster of risk factors, including excess body fat in the midsection, high blood pressure, high blood sugar and abnormal blood lipids. If left uncontrolled it can increase risk for chronic diseases.

Study author John Foreyt of the Baylor College of Medicine said the 81 participants in the study were primarily African-American and Hispanic adults — populations that typically have a higher incidence of metabolic syndrome. Each group followed a Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension diet that emphasized eating lean meat, lower fat dairy, whole grains, vegetables and fruit daily, and keeping saturated fat, total fat, cholesterol and sodium in check.

Two of the groups were given Low Sodium V8 100 percent vegetable juice and instructed to drink one or two cups every day for 12 weeks, while the third group was not given any vegetable juice.—Internet

China develops world’s first oral vaccine for cancer-inducing stomach bacterium

BEIJING, 24 April — China has developed the world’s first oral vaccine for a bacterium closely linked to gastric cancer. Denggao of the Third Military Medical University headed by professor Zou Quanming announced here Thursday.

The vaccine was developed by a research team from Chongqing-based Third Military Medical University headed by professor Zou Quanming after 15 years of efforts, the university president Wang Denggao said at the press conference. During the research process, the vaccine secured eight national patents and it now has full independent intellectual property rights, said Wang.—Internet

Flavonoid-rich foods may help cut ovarian cancer

BEIJING, 24 April — Flavonoid-rich foods and drinks may lower a woman’s risk of developing ovarian cancer, according to a new study.

Dr Margaret A Gates, of Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, in Boston, Massachusetts says: “flavonoids found in vegetables, fruits, beans and tea may be significantly beneficial.”

Flavonoids are a large family of antioxidant compounds known as phytochemicals. They are part of a plant’s natural defense system that helps the plant fight off disease and infection.

The study suggests flavonoids could help prevent a variety of diseases in humans — including cancer — by protecting cells from DNA damage. Scientists believe some flavonoids may also deter cancer development by helping to regulate cell growth and fight inflammation or by changing hormone levels. In a study that compared flavonoid intake among women with and without ovarian cancer, women reporting the highest flavonoid intake had a “borderline significant decrease” in ovarian cancer risk over women reporting the lowest flavonoid intake, Gates and her associates report in the International Journal of Cancer.—Internet

To survive cirrhosis: Stop drinking

SOUTHAMPTON, 24 April — Abstinence is the key to surviving alcohol-related liver disease, a British researcher says.

Dr Nick Sheron of the University of Southampton found drinking status was the most important factor determining long-term survival in alcohol-related cirrhosis of the liver.

The 7-year survival rate was 72 percent for the abstinent patients against 44 percent for the patients continuing to drink. Abstinence from alcohol one month after diagnosis of cirrhosis was an even more important factor determining survival than the degree of cirrhosis as determined by biopsy.

The study, published in the journal Addiction, rated liver biopsies from 100 patients from 1995-2000 using the Laennec score for severity of cirrhosis. Mortality data was taken from the National Health Service Strategic Tracing Service. “These findings illustrate the critical significance of stopping alcohol intake, in alcohol-related cirrhosis but unfortunately the services needed to help these patients stay alcohol free simply do not exist in Britain,” Sheron said in a statement.—Internet

Breast cancer patients exercise less

COLUMBUS, 24 April — Although exercise has been shown to help breast cancer patients, many women’s exercise activity wanes, US researchers said.

Lead author Charles Emery of Ohio State University in Columbus said that in the five-year study, the women as a group increased their physical activity during the first 18 months after diagnosis and treatment, but then their physical activity gradually declined over the remaining three-and-a-half years.

Depressive symptoms can include low mood, low energy, sleep difficulty and a lack of interest, in or withdrawal from, normal activities. The study also found that poor physical health was associated with less physical activity over all five years. On the other hand, family support appeared to slow the decline in physical activity over the last 42 months of the study.

Mac users note new computer virus

CUPERTINO, 24 April — Computer hackers have breached the previously pristine territory of Macintosh computers, a US technology security director said. Kevin Haley, director of security response at Symantec, said the first computer virus known to strike Macintosh computers had been detected in a few thousand Apple computers. CNN reported Wednesday.The primary defense Macintosh computers have against computer viruses is their “relative obscurity,” making them less desirable targets for pernicious programs, Haley said. “The bad guys generally go toward the biggest target, what will get them the biggest bang for their buck,” he said.

First detected in January, the Macintosh virus called the “iBotnet” became a popular blog topic after Symantec, makers of Norton anti-virus programs, made note of the development in a “Virus Bulletin.” CNN said. “We all knew it was going to happen,” Haley said.

Trucks are seen crowding the holding area at Manila port, in February, waiting to haul their imported cargo. Philippine imports plunged 32 percent from a year earlier to 3.06 billion dollars in February as shipments of key electronics components continued to fall, according to the government.—INTERNET

Internet
De Villiers queries Lions’ selection policy

LONDON, 24 April — South Africa coach Peter de Villiers has questioned whether the British and Irish Lions were right to pick a squad designed to match the world champions’ renowned forward strength.

The Lions travel to South Africa next month for a 10-match tour which features three Tests against the Springboks and on Tuesday coach Ian McGeechan named a 37-man squad which was, according to scrum guru Graham Rowntree, full of “beasts”. But de Villiers, speaking to BBC Radio Five Live here on Thursday, queried whether that was the right approach.

“If McGeechan wants to sit down and try to match the Springboks then I think that is the wrong thing,” said de Villiers, who succeeded 2007 World Cup winning boss Jake White as South Africa coach. “If he wants to say ‘this is our strength, this is how we want to play’ then I can justify any selection he has made.” — Internet

Racing dent Atletico’s Champions League hopes

MADRID, 24 April — Atletico Madrid’s hopes of a second successive season in the Champions League are fading fast after a thumping 5-1 defeat at Racing Santander on Thursday left them six-points adrift of the top four. Atletico’s defensive frailties were once again in evidence as Racing scored three times in the first half to condemn the Madrid side to their 11th defeat of the season. — Internet

Ochoa lead Corona Championship

MORELLA, 24 April — Lorena Ochoa shot a bogey-free 8-under 65 on Thursday to take a one-stroke lead over Michelle Wie and Na Yeon Choi after the first round of the LPGA Tour’s Corona Championship.

“It was a good day. There is really not much more to add if you look at the score, I’m very happy because I’m in control,” said Ochoa, the top-ranked Mexican star who also won the 2006 tournament at Tres Marias. “It’s very exciting to be in a position that I like. Hopefully, we can stay there the next three days, because my goal is to win it.”

Wie, who started on No 10, eagled the par-5 fifth — hitting a 5-wood to 4 feet — and birdied three of her final four holes. She made a 15-

Southampton to appeal against drop penalty

LONDON, 24 April — Southampton are set to appeal against the 10-point penalty imposed on them imposed here Thursday which threatens to condemn them to life next season in the third tier of English football. The penalty was imposed by the English Football League in reaction to the club’s parent company going into administration.

Southampton are currently second from bottom in the Championship division with two matches left to play this season. If they can manage to scramble out of the drop zone, they will inevitably be relegated once the points penalty is applied, but that option would be preferable to starting next season with a ten points deficit. — Internet

Tennis ace Nadal gets 23rd straight win on clay

BARCELONA, 24 April — Rafael Nadal eased past Belgium’s Christophe Rochus 6-2, 6-0 at the Barcelona Open on Thursday to claim his 23rd consecutive claycourt win before being handed a free pass into the semi-finals. The Spanish world number one was due to take on David Nalbandian in Friday’s quarter-finals, but the muscular Argentine was forced to withdraw with a right hip injury.

“I’ve never played Nalbandian on clay, this would have been a good challenge,” said the top seed. “It’s a pity that this

Inter suffer Italian Cup KO

ROME, 24 April — Serie A leaders Inter Milan were knocked out of the Italian Cup on Thursday when a 1-0 semi-final second leg win over Sampdoria fell short of overturning a 3-0 deficit from the teams’ first meeting in the 13 May final in Rome. Sampdoria will face Lazio, who completed a 4-2 aggregate win over Juventus on Wednesday.

It will be Sampdoria’s first final appearance since 1994 where they defeated Ancona while, for Inter, defeat meant their run of four successive final spots came to an end. Inter were champions in 2005 and 2006 and runners-up in 2007 and 2008. With three goals to make up, Inter coach Jose Mourinho played three strikers with Mario Balotelli, Julio Cruz and Zlatan Ibrahimovic all starting.

It was Ibrahimovic who was to score the only goal of the second leg with a superb 27-minute volley although the Swedish international was unfortunate not have celebrated a second when he saw a 37th-minute lob come back off the post. Sampdoria had their chances with Antonio Cassano and Giampaolo Pazzini both denied by good saves from Julio Cesar. Inter can now turn their attentions to clinching the league title. They have a 10-point lead with just six games left to play. — Internet

Title battle far from over, says United’s Fletcher

MANCHESTER, 24 April — Darren Fletcher has warned his Manchester United team-mates that they cannot afford to get complacent after extending their advantage over Premier League title rivals Liverpool.

United moved three points clear at the top of the table in midweek after a 2-0 win over Portsmouth and Saturday’s visit of Tottenham gives Sir Alex Ferguson’s side the opportunity to take another significant step towards a third successive English title. — Internet

58 stadiums interested in hosting World Cup

NEW YORK, 24 April — The operators of 58 stadiums have expressed interest in hosting games in the 2018 or 2022 World Cup if the United States wins the bidding for either event.

The venues represent 49 metropolitan areas and include 30 of the 31 NFL stadiums — only Candlestick Park in San Francisco is not on the list. Two of those also currently are home to Major League Soccer teams: Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass., and Qwest Field in Seattle. A minimum of 12 stadiums capable of seating 40,000 or more must be submitted to FIFA in each nation’s bid. Venues with a minimum capacity of 80,000 are required for the opening and final matches. FIFA will award both tournaments in December 2010.

We are very pleased by the impressive response, and are certainly gratified by the enthusiasm and thorough understanding everyone has shown for this unique opportunity,” said David Downs, executive director for the USA Bid Committee. “The benefits to host nation, and particularly to the venue cities where the matches could be played, are numerous and lasting. Tourism, economic impact, meaningful global exposure and a legacy of being at the center of a FIFA World Cup competition await venues and cities if we are fortunate enough to stage the tournament here in 2018 or 2022.” — Internet
Seven people in US hit by strange new swine flu

WASHINGTON, 24 April—Seven people have been diagnosed with a strange and unusual new kind of swine flu in California and Texas, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported on Thursday.

All seven people have recovered but the virus itself is a never-before-seen mixture of viruses typical among pigs, birds and humans, the CDC said. “We are likely to find more cases,” the CDC’s Dr. Anne Schuchat told a telephone briefing. “We don’t think this is time for major concern around the country.”

The CDC reported the new strain of swine flu on Tuesday in two boys from California’s two southernmost counties. Now, five more cases have been seen—all found via normal surveillance for seasonal influenza. None of the patients, whose symptoms closely resembled seasonal flu, had any direct contact with pigs.—MNA/Reuters

An X-ray shows multiple nails embedded of the skull of a gun in this police handout image made available on 24 April, 2009. Police believe Chen, whose decomposing body was discovered in Sydney’s Georges River in November 2008, was killed by being shot repeatedly in the head with a high-powered nail gun. —INTERNET

WEATHER

Friday, 24 April, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Mon State and Tanintharyi Division, isolated in Kachin and Shan States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and weather and has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) above April average temperatures in Shan State.(3°C) to (4°C) below April average temperatures in upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions and about April average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Myingyan (42°C), Monywa, NyangU, Chauk and Minbu (41°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kawthoung (1.02) inches, Dawei (0.75) inch and Machaun (0.71) inch.

Maximum temperature on 24-4-2009 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 24-4-2009 was 74°F. Relative humidity at (9:30) hours MST on 24-4-2009 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 23-4-2009 was (9.3) hrs approx. Rainfall on 23-4-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-4-2009 was (1.06) inches at Mingaladon, (1.58) inches at Kaba-Aye and (2.83) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from North at (15:30) hours MST on 23-4-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 25th April 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Mon State and Tanintharyi Division, isolated in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 25-4-2009: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-4-2009: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for last weekend of April 2009: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.
Nay Pyi Taw, 24 April—A ceremony to sign Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation to combat trafficking in persons between Myanmar and Thailand was held at Golden Palace Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw this afternoon. Chairman of the Central Committee for Prevention of Trafficking in Person Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo delivered a speech on the occasion.

Also present were members of the Central Committee for Prevention of Trafficking in Person Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Deputy Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi and departmental heads, Vice-Chief of MPF Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win, senior police officers and delegation members led by Minister of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand Mr Issara Somchai.

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo said that the two countries need to cooperate because human trafficking is complex. He also commended the achievements of Myanmar and Thailand—along with GMS countries—under the Myanmar and Thailand sign MoU on cooperation to combat human trafficking. Commit MoU, as well as other regional mechanisms which address the human trafficking problem, they vowed to combat cross-border trafficking with a relationship that will enable pragmatic and genuine cooperation, he added.

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and Minister of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand Mr Issara Somchai signing MoU on cooperation to combat human trafficking. —MNA

Nay Pyi Taw International Airport to emerge soon

It was at dawn in the Myanmar month of Tagu, so the whole scene was slightly vaguer amidst the fog. As soon as the sun rose, the outline of the scene at the airport became distinct, and it captivated the large crowd including the media team. The bore pile driving machines stood magnificently as though they were awaiting the launch of the ceremony to drive bore piles.

Soon after that, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo pressed the button to drive bore piles nine times each. At that time, a breeze blew, which was expected to be a good omen of the good reputation of Nay Pyi Taw International Airport to the international community. There will soon be

The design on layout plan of the whole Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. —MNA

(See page 7)