Prime Minister Inspects Health Care Services in Kengtung, Loimwe, Urges Teachers to Train Students to Become Good Citizens Equipped with Union Spirit

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April — Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Phyo, the ministers, deputy ministers and departmental officials, inspected the General Hospital in Kengtung yesterday.

They were welcomed there by Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr Aung Kyaw Myint, specialists, doctors and nurses.

During his inspection tour, the Prime Minister urged them to regard patients as their relatives when they gave treatment to them and to disseminate knowledge on health including preventive measures against diseases at villages.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister comforted the patients undergoing treatment at the hospital and presented food to them.

Next, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Phyo and the ministers presented food to the patients and the Prime Minister handed over medicines to Medical Superintendent Dr Aung Kyaw Myint.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to the Nursing Training School in Kengtung. The principal of the training school reported on the condition of the training school, courses and the number of trainees and instructors.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents school uniforms and exercise books to a student in Loimwe.—MNA

Shan State (East) a Strategic Area for Regional Relations and Security

Prime Minister Meets Departmental Officials, Social Organizations and Townselders in Kengtung

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April — Prime Minister General Thein Sein together with Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the director-general of the Government Office and heads of departments inspected the beauty of Naungton Lake in Kengtung Township today.

The Prime Minister paid respects to Presiding Nayaka Sayadaws from Pariyatti Sarthintaiks in the (See page 9)
Take an active part in preventive measures against the swine flu

Global Human Flu Preparedness and Response Work Committee held a coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the National Health Committee under the Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 April.

In 2003, an epidemic, widely known as SARS, broke out in the world and, at that time, Myanmar managed to prevent the spread of the disease into the nation and to protect the people against it.

Myanmar attended international ministerial meetings on prevention of global human flu six times and is taking international preventive measures.

Now again, a swine flu epidemic has broken out in Mexico, US, New Zeland and Canada, claiming the lives of over 100 people. It is found that the new epidemic spreads from infected pigs and it can transmit from human to human. It is also said that the swine flu virus is a new strain and four types of genes have mutated into this new virus.

The Ministry of Health is now taking preventive measures in cooperation with other related ministries and the WHO. Steps are also being taken to prevent the virus from spreading to Myanmar through airports, seaports and borders. Arrangements have also been made to keep watching suspected patients at hospitals and to provide medicines and medical equipment. Moreover, laboratories have been upgraded to detect the virus and warnings about the disease issued to the public.

At such a time like this, it is necessary for the entire people to take an active part in preventive measures against the swine flu as a national task hand in hand with the government.
Iraq doubts possibility of keeping US in cities

BAGHDAD, 28 April—The Iraqi government cast doubt Monday on the possibility that American troops will remain in urban trouble spots like Mosul after the 30 June deadline for US forces to withdraw from cities.

An uptick of violence in recent weeks has prompted concern about whether Iraqi forces are prepared to take over responsibility for security. US commanders have pointed to Mosul and areas in the volatile province of Diyala north of the capital as possible exceptions to the withdrawal plans.

The Defence Ministry spokesman, Maj Gen Mohammed al-Askari, however, said US troops must leave by the agreed deadline and could return only with permission from the Iraqi government.

“The general position of the Iraq Defence Ministry is to keep the timings in the withdrawal pact that American troops withdraw from Iraqi cities and not enter the cities unless they get Iraqi approval,” al-Askari said.

Afghan unrest kills five police, 12 militants

KABUL, 28 April—Afghan police clashed with Taleban fighters outside the capital Kabul, leaving a dozen militants and an officer dead, while four more policemen were killed in a bomb blast, the government said.

The militants were killed in a sweep to clear Taleban from Musayi district about 15 kilometres (nine miles) south of Kabul on Monday, interior ministry spokesman Zemarai Bashary told AFP.

“The head of the district criminal investigation department was wounded and later died in hospital. Twelve enemies were also killed,” Bashary said.

The fresh violence was linked to a deadly insurgency led by the extremist Taleban, who are battling to wrest back power after being ousted from government by the 2001 US-led invasion.

Also on Monday, a roadside bomb blew up a police vehicle in the eastern province of Pakhtia and killed four policemen, the ministry said.

The vehicle was struck while taking part in an operation with the army and US-led troops in Zurmat district, it said in a statement.

The Taleban-led insurgency has steadily gained strength in recent years, with 2008 the deadliest of the campaign.

There are about 70,000 US-led and NATO-led troops deployed in Afghanistan to help the fragile nation fight extremism, which the West brands a direct threat.

Northern Iraqi town gets hurt from suicide bombing

BAGHDAD, 28 April—In a largely quiet and peaceful Iraqi town of Dhuluiyah, some 90 km north of Baghdad, happy dwellers have been reconstructing their war-shattered neighbourhoods. Until recently, however, a suicide bombing that struck the heart of town scattered the delicate peace.

A suicide bomber burst into the biggest mosque in central Dhuluiyah and exploded himself among a crowded Sunni worshippers for Wednesday’s evening prayer, killing four and wounding a dozen others.

Ali Mossa, a local resident who works for foreign media, denounced such act as “a crime of the cruellest degree.” His cousin along with another cousin of Amer Hameed, also a journalist working for foreign media, was killed in the explosion. “Mosques are considered holy places for Muslims, and for peace,” Ali said with tears in his eyes after burying his cousin the next morning. Amer, despite a profound sadness, kept writing stories until he could return home before Ali went back for duty.

Being surrounded by the Tigris River from three sides, Dhuluiyah is a town with only Sunni residents, and guarded jointly by security forces and Sahwa, known as the “Sons of Iraq,” Sunni tribe militants who turned their guns toward al-Qaeda since the latter started to kill indiscriminately Iraqi civilians.

Afghan troops detain 13 suspected militants in east

KABUL, 28 April—Afghan troops during operations in Khost Province, east of Afghanistan, arrested over a dozen people on charge of having link with Taleban militants, a press release of the Defence Ministry said here Tuesday. “In the operation involved Afghan army, Afghan police and the US-led Coalition forces and launched in part of Sabari district on Monday, 13 suspected militants were detained,” the press release added.

It also added that troops during operation discovered a weapon cache containing six pieces of Kalashnikovs, anti-aircraft gun and thousands of bullets. Conflicts and violence have claimed the lives of over 5,000 in 2008 while Taleban militants whose regime toppled in late 2001 have vowed to intensify their activities against Afghan and international troops in the war-torn country in 2009.
WTO official cautions against trade protectionism

UNITED NATIONS, 28 April — A senior official of the World Trade Organization on Monday urged governments to resist the temptation of trade protectionism in the face of economic difficulties.

“While providing responses to the crisis and taking domestic measures to mitigate their effects and stimulate growth, countries need to abide by their multinational commitments to avoid protectionism and isolationism,” said Valentine Rugwabanza, deputy WTO director-general, at a special high level meeting at UN Headquarters.

“Adopting such policies or measures will only make things worse,” she noted.

The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was holding a one-day meeting along with the Bretton Woods Institutions, WTO and the UN Conference on Trade and Development to discuss the impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on development.

To date, there has been no indication of a slide into what we can call intensive protectionism, which means aggressive moves by governments to restrict trade discriminately and close all sectors, she said. — Internet

Crude prices decline on swine flu fears

NEW YORK, 28 April — Crude prices fell on Monday upon fears that a swine flu outbreak in Mexico could hurt the global economy.

Oil prices opened sharply lower in the morning as investors worried that swine flu would drag the global economy. Crude futures in the New York market dropped to as low as 48.01 US dollars a barrel in the intraday session.

In 2008, a flu pandemic cost 3 trillion US dollars and resulted in a nearly 5-percent drop in world gross domestic product, according to the World Bank data.

Airline shares in stock markets were hit by expectations that the flu outbreak could slow air travel. — Internet

GM to shed 21,000 US workers by 2010

CHICAGO, 28 April — General Motors presented on Monday an updated viability plan that will lay off more US workers. GM’s hourly workers will be shed by 7,000 more than outlined in the February plan, from 61,000 to 40,000 by 2010. Salaried employees are also expected to be cut further.

GM, surviving on 15.4 billion dollars in US loans and resulting in a nearly 5-percent drop in world gross domestic product, according to the World Bank data.

File photo shows one of Shell’s oil platforms off the Nigerian coast. 2009 is set to be a difficult year for the Anglo-Dutch firm in the west African nation, where not so long ago the oil giant was pumping one million barrels per day, the firm’s top official has warned. — Internet

Honda Motor reports 1.9 b dlr loss for Q4

TOKYO, 28 April — Honda Motor Co. Japan’s second-largest automaker, said Tuesday that it had sunk into loss in the fiscal fourth quarter due to weak sales and a stronger yen.

Honda posted a net loss of 186.1 billion yen (1.9 billion dollars) for the three months to March, against a year-earlier profit of 25.4 billion yen.

The group logged an operating loss of 283.0 billion yen for the quarter as revenue tumbled 41.6 percent from a year earlier. — Internet

India unhappy with US at being put under “Watch” on patents

NEW DELHI, 28 April — India has conveyed its “big disappointment” to the US for retaining New Delhi on the ‘Priority Watch List’, which binds Washington to exert pressure on America’s trade partners to improve their copyright and patent regimes.

“It is a big disappointment for us. Why should we be on the ‘Priority Watch List (PWL)’ even after the recognition we have got from the World Intellectual Property Organization,” NN Prasad, Joint Secretary in the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, told PTI Monday.

Prasad said India has sent its strong reaction to the US. “Let’s wait for the results,” he said. The US Trade Representative (USTR) issues an annual Special 301 report, which examines in detail the adequacy and effectiveness of intellectual property rights (IPRs) in America’s trading partners.— MNA/PTI

Patil returns after week-long trip to Spain, Poland

NEW DELHI, 28 April — President Pratibha Patil Monday returned home after a week-long visit to Spain and Poland during which India signed bilateral agreements with the two European countries to strengthen the economic ties.

Patil, who became the first Indian head of the state to visit Spain, held wide ranging talks with Spanish King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero and signed three agreements in the field of agriculture, tourism and renewable energy.

The two countries also agreed to work on a comprehensive strategy to tackle terrorism. India also signed two agreements with Poland in the fields of medicine and health and tourism. — MNA/PTI

Sri Lanka says military operations in north over

COLOMBO, 28 April — Sri Lankan Government Monday said the combat operations in the northern parts of the island have concluded and security forces have been instructed to end the use of heavy calibre guns, combat aircraft and aerial weapons.

“The Government of Sri Lanka has decided that combat operations have reached their conclusion. Our security forces have been instructed to end the use of heavy calibre guns, combat aircraft and aerial weapons which could cause civilian casualties.” — MNA/PTI

A thermal scanner is installed in the arrival terminal to check the temperature of arriving passengers at Ngurah Rai International Airport in Denpasar in Indonesia’s resort island of Bali on 27 April, 2009. — XINHUA
**MMCWA providing assistance for raising of living standard of mothers and children**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 28 April** — The 19th annual meeting of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held at the association here today. Present were President of MMCWA Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Vice-President Daw Aye Aye, CEC members, members of Central Council, chairpersons of state and division MCW, Supervisory Committees, secretaries and joint secretaries. The meeting was presided over by President of MMCWA Daw Khin Saw Hnin and Joint Secretary-2 Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay and Dr Hwe Yin Aye acted as master of ceremonies and co-master of ceremonies.

**The 19th annual meeting of MMCWA opens**

**Nav Pyi Taw, 28 April** — A ceremony to open the 19th annual meeting of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held at the meeting hall of the association, here, this morning. First, Secretary of National Health Committee Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo made a speech on the occasion, saying that MMCWA has held its annual meeting for 19 times since its initial establishment up to now and the association is achieving success. In the implementation of one of the social care services and educative talks on health are being carried out by the departments concerned under the Ministry of Health in cooperation with rural health centres. Efforts of members of the association working closely with the public are mile stones important for the state and the people. It is already witnessed that members of the association actively participated in the relief and rehabilitation tasks in the prevention of bird flu and storm-devastated regions. Now the global human flu starts spreading in the world and it can become a pandemic with fatal cases. As this regard, Myanmar is taking global human flu prevention and response measures in time with the supervision of the National Health Committee. Clarifications and discussions are made at the respective departments. Courses on prevention and treatment are being conducted. Necessary medicines are being stockpiled. It is time to take human flu prevention and response measures as a national concern in cooperation with the departments and social organizations. There is no case of human flu in Myanmar but in case of the disease, it is necessary to keep the following points to be able to reduce losses. People are to keep themselves healthy, to avoid going to social occasions and not to come into contact with the persons with disease, to wear masks and to have the habit of washing hands.

The association was an effective force in the nation building endeavour as a national concern. In addition, the association could nurture human resources that would bring benefits to Myanma society. With the united efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw, the association will make all-out efforts to be effective in its aims and essence in cooperation with the people through national awareness objectives “Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation”, all are to exert earnest efforts for all-round development in the fields of health, education, economic and social welfare of mothers and children accounting for 60 percent of the country’s population. There has been a fall in the mortality rate of mother and children; people can live a healthy family life; and preventive measures can be taken against infectious diseases due to the active participation of the respective levels. Records on activities have been also made.

MMCWA is set up with over 11 million members. The MMCWA is a voluntary association carrying out the tasks for all-round development of mothers and children in the entire nation. It is known to all that the government is fulfilling the requirements of the association to acquire human resources which can contribute toward the building of a modern developed nation. Prevention, treatment and health become a pandemic with fatal cases. As this regard, Myanmar is taking global human flu prevention and response measures in time with the supervision of the National Health Committee. Clarifications and discussions are made at the respective departments. Courses on prevention and treatment are being conducted. Necessary medicines are being stockpiled. It is time to take human flu prevention and response measures as a national concern in cooperation with the departments and social organizations. There is no case of human flu in Myanmar but in case of the disease, it is necessary to keep the following points to be able to reduce losses. People are to keep themselves healthy, to avoid going to social occasions and not to come into contact with the persons with disease, to wear masks and to have the habit of washing hands. The association was an effective force in the drive for meeting the millennium goals due to the active participation of departments, related organizations and the people. The MMCWA was set up in 1991 and future plans were laid down every year since that time. The association participated in the nation building endeavour as a national concern. In addition, the association could nurture human resources that would bring benefits to Myanma society. With the united efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw, the association will make all-out efforts to be effective in its aims and essence in cooperation with the people through national awareness objectives “Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation”, all are to exert earnest efforts for all-round development in the fields of health, education, economic and social welfare of mothers and children accounting for 60 percent of the country’s population. There has been a fall in the mortality rate of mother and children; people can live a healthy family life; and preventive measures can be taken against infectious diseases due to the active participation of the respective levels. Records on activities have been also made.

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MMCWA is set up with over 11 million members. The MMCWA is a voluntary association carrying out the tasks for all-round development of mothers and children in the entire nation. It is known to all that the government is fulfilling the requirements of the association to acquire human resources which can contribute toward the building of a modern developed nation. Prevention, treatment and health
MMCWA providing assistance for raising of living…

(from page 5)

President of MMCWA Daw Khin Saw Hnin delivered a speech. She said the association was formed as a voluntary social organization with the noble aim of improving the standard of family life by providing mothers and children in the country with education, health, economic and social assistance.

She said during its 18 years of existence the association actively participated in the tasks for raising of living standard of mothers and children in rural and urban areas in states and divisions year after year.

She said the association has a membership of over 11 million in over 20,000 branch organizations nationwide due to the efforts of state and division supervisory committees and members of the associations at different levels and it now stands as a united national force.

She said MMCWA hand in hand with other social organizations is actively taking part in border area development project, 24-special region development project, rural development project and national level education and health project for human resource development.

She said at the present time there are requirements on education and health of the developing countries and development gaps among the nations. The world is facing environmental degradation, she said. The United Nations is implementing the eighth millennium development goals for elimination of these problems by 2015.

Myanmar, a member of the UN, is making efforts for realization of the goals like other nations of the world, she added.
Warning on global human flu

1. Swine flu in humans: Swine flu has been detected in the people in Mexico, the US, Canada and New Zealand from 17 to 25 April 2009. There were over 1,300 cases and over 80 were killed.

2. The flu is caused by a new virus. It is mixed with four genes and can spread quickly. Now there are cases of such flu in some countries. Regarding the disease, the World Health Organization announced that it is international public health State of emergency. The Ministry of Health is undertaking preventive measures against transmitting to humans through avian flu. In some countries there was an outbreak of swine flu among the people. The Ministry of Health is carrying out the tasks to fight against the disease.

3. The symptoms of swine flu are body heat, runny nose, coughing, aching, headache, lethargy, difficult breathing. They are like the symptoms of other diseases. If these symptoms appear, do not go to crowded public places such as worksites and schools. Take a rest at home. Make contact with the nearest health centers. Go to the hospital when one has high fever, long coughing, difficult breathing and lethargy. If the disease is serious, go to the hospital immediately. Wear surgical masks in order not to spread the disease.

4. It is found that the disease spread from people to people. Like SARS, it can become a pandemic. Therefore, the people are requested to keep in mind the following points.
   (a) Using handkerchief when coughing
   (b) Wash the hands with soap properly
   (c) Carrying out personal hygiene measures
   (d) Sleeping well
   (e) Eating nutritious food
   (f) Taking exercises
   (g) Breathing fresh air
5. In order to prevent flu infection, those who take care of the people infected with flu, wear surgical masks.

6. The Ministry of Health has made arrangements for prevention of the spread of such flu from other countries. News and information will be announced in time and the people are requested to follow the notice of the ministry.

The Government of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department

Warning on Swine Flu

1. Swine flu in humans: Swine flu has been detected in the people in Mexico, the US, Canada and New Zealand from 17 to 25 April 2009. There were over 1,300 cases and over 80 were killed.

2. Symptoms in swine: The symptoms of the swine flu are sudden illness, mopping, coughing, runny nose, sneezing, difficult breathing, red eyes, inflammation, loss of appetite. These symptoms can also be found in normal coughing and other sickness due to the weather changes.

3. Points to be followed in prevention against swine flu
   (a) If found symptoms of sickness in pigs, they are to be kept in quarantine, and inform the LBVD.
   (b) Take care of bio security in the farm where a large number of pigs are raised
   (c) Wash hands and legs clean after cleaning the pigsty
   (d) Use face masks and gloves when handling the unhealthy pigs
   (e) Wash hands and legs clean after cleaning the pigsty
   (f) Ban the sale of unhealthy pigs in the markets
   (g) Do not raise the pigs of unknown origin, especially those smuggled from other country
   (h) If pork is cooked at 70°C and above, there will be no infection.

4. Prevention of swine flu: There is no case of swine flu in Myanmar. It is necessary for pig breeders and those who keep pigs on commercial scale and sell to participate in the preventive measures against the disease in cooperation with Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation, Development Committees and local authorities.
The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements. The training school was established in 1994. So far, a total of 520 trainees passed the nursing course and 87 passed the mid-wifery course.

The Prime Minister and party also went to Loimwe in Kengtung Township by car and inspected Loimwe Station Hospital where local people are receiving free medical treatment provided by the mobile health team. The mobile health team comprises Dr Sai Naw Ngin of Shan State (East) Health Department, orthopaedist Dr Myint Oo, physician Dr Myo Nyunt, paediatrician Dr Daw Swe Swe Myint, surgeon Dr Kyaw Swe and ear, nose and throat specialist Dr Thida Shwe.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister comforted the patients receiving treatment for eyes complaint and presented a pair of spectacles to a patient.

Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Phyo and Minister Dr Kyaw Myint presented spectacles to the patients.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party went to the TV retransmission station (Loimwe) and fulfilled the requirements of the station.

The Prime Minister also went to the Lomwe Monastery and donated offerings to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kosala. During the visit to the border areas and national races development training school in Loimwe, U Sein Min of the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department and Acting Principal of the training school U Zaw Phyo briefed on condition of the school.

The Prime Minister met with the teachers and students and urged the teachers to train the students to become a good citizen equipped with the Union Spirit.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and the commander presented school uniforms and exercise books to the students.

The Prime Minister paid homage to Satu Rattha Thumangala Pagoda in Loimwe, donated cash to the fund of the pagoda and signed in the visitors’ book.

The Prime Minister and party arrived back Kengtung in the afternoon.—MNA

Health staff to regard patients as their relatives when they give treatment to them and to disseminate knowledge on health including preventive measures against all forms of diseases to villages.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein puts spectacles on an eye patient in Loimwe.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents medicines to Medical Superintendent of Kengtung General Hospital.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein comforts patients receiving treatment at Kengtung General Hospital.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets trainees of Training School of Nursing in Kengtung.—MNA
Shan State (East) a strategic area...

(from page 1)

Shan State (East) is a strategic area... (continued)

township and presented offeraries to them.

Also present were departmental officials, members of social and religious associations and local people.

The Prime Minister and the guests took the Five Precepts from Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Kyangyin monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma-jotikadha.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents uniforms to officials at town hall of Kengtung, Shan State (East).—MNA

Bhaddanta Khemasara.

The Prime Minister presented offeraries to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Khemasara and Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Sasana Waiponla Pariyatti Sarthintaik Maha Gandavasaka Pandita Bhaddanta Vijaya.

Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers, the deputy ministers presented provisions to the Sayadaws.

Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Sasana Waiponla Pariyatti Sarthintaik delivered a sermon, followed by

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects Kengtung General Hospital. MNA

sharing of merits. The Prime Minister met departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people at the town hall in Kengtung.

First, Secretary of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council U Mya Aung reported on measures taken for education, health, agriculture and transport sectors and implement-

past, only F-27 aircraft can land and take off at the airport. Now big planes such as Y8 can land at the airport, he said.

Shan State (East) is a strategic area for relations in the region and security as its with borders China, Laos and Thailand lies in the far east of the country, he said.

There once aroused suspicion among the national races due to the

supervised the border areas development tasks.

In addition, the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was formed and border areas development projects could be expedited.

Then, the special development project and the rural development projects to be laid down, and today the people in border areas are in a position to enjoy development far more than that previously in the security, transport, education, health, social and economic sectors.

The government is working hard from sunrise to sunset for the development of the nation. In the meantime, it is implementing the seven-step Road Map for democratic transition, braving a wide range of difficulties and hindrances. Now, the State constitution has been approved by the vast majority of the people as the fourth step.

The people are to work together as a national duty for holding the election in 2010 in line with the State constitution.

Success can be achieved in pursuing the ultimate goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation only if the government and the people play respective roles in concert in the process.

Shan State is a part of the Union, so local people have to cultivate a sense of Union Spirit wherever they live without keeping racism, localism and dogmatism. With the conviction that Union Spirit is exactly the genuine patriotic spirit all national people have to equip themselves with, all are to do their bit harmoniously in the process of developing the Union of Myanmar, and ensuring the sovereignty.

The Prime Minister presented track suits to the officials.

Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and the ministers presented sports equipment to the officials.

Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin presented the

use of bio-battery and the method to generate bio-battery.

The Prime Minister instructed the officials to disseminate the method of generating bio-battery to rural folks and organize them in order that every household in rural areas use bio-battery.

The Prime Minister arrived back here by air in the evening.

Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, who accompanied the Prime Minister, on 25 April inspected Namsang-Kengtung Railroad Project and Tarkaw-Mongpyin-Kengtung section project and attended to the needs.

On 26 April, they inspected the upgrading of the road between Mongpyin and Kengtung.

Next, they inspected the tasks for construction of Tarkaw-Mongpyin-Kengtung section of Meiktila-Taunggyi-Tachilek Union Highway in Pannaunglon. MNA

Director-General of Government Office Col Thant Shin explains how to make bio battery and use lighting at town hall of Kengtung.—MNA
Free treatment to be given to those with cataract

**YANGON, 28 April**—Under the arrangements of the Ministry of Health, Myanmar eye specialists and Japanese ophthalmologists led by Dr Yoshifumi Fujita from Japan will give free treatment to the people with eye complaints at Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital on 23 Street, between 80th and 81st streets in Mandalay from 4 to 6 May. Those wishing to receive treatment may get enrolled at the hospital starting on 3 May. — MNA

**NAY PYI TAW, 28 April** — The opening of Natural Disaster Preparedness Management Course No.(4/2009), organized by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, was held at the meeting hall of Thandwe District Peace and Development Council yesterday with an address by Director-General U Thun Oo of Relief and Resettlement Department. Present also were district and township level departmental officials, members of social organizations, teachers, course instructors, trainees and guests. Natural disaster preparedness-related subjects will be lectured at the course. A total of 50 trainees from three townships in the district are taking the five-day course. — MNA

**NAY PYI TAW, 28 April**—Member of Township Peace and Development Council head of Township Police Force Major Tin Tun and deputy factory manager Dr May Yu Khaing of Sagaing of Yangon West District on 27 April. Hall of Wetlet, Sagaing Township.

**YANGON, 28 April**—Member of Township Peace and Development Council head of Township Police Force Major Tin Tun and deputy factory manager Dr May Yu Khaing of Sagaing of Yangon West District on 27 April. Hall of Wetlet, Sagaing Township.

**PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY**

Pharmaceutical Industries opened the special sale festival of the Ministry of Industry-1 held at Winletshwey hall of Wetlet, Sagaing Division on 27 April. Likewise, Chairman of Yangon West District PDC U Aung Myint and factory manager U Sein Hlaing of Leather factory opened the special sale festival held at the staff quarter of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Bahan Township.

**Thailand**

**YANGON, 28 April** — Myanmar secured 6 points with two wins in two matches. Myanmar will play against Cambodia in the last match of the group-A on 30 April. — MNA

**Man City discuss Eto’o with Barca**

**MANCHESTER, 28 April**—Manchester City and Barcelona officials met on Monday and discussed the possible transfer of Samuel Eto’o to Eastlands. Although it was billed as a contact-building exercise, the chance of a deal for £40m-rated Cameroon striker Eto’o formed part of their discussions.

The 28-year-old was transfer-listed by Barcelona last season but has found his best form under new boss Pep Guardiola. Eto’o has given no indication he would be willing to leave the Catalan giants.

But the club will not figure in next season’s Champions League and are by no means guaranteed a place in the new Europa League. Officials are also likely to tread carefully in any fresh transfer bids for big-name players following the acrimony over their failed move for AC Milan’s Kaka.

**The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.**

The second best time is now.
**Premier Wen calls for strengthened swine flu prevention**

**BEIJING, 28 April—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Tuesday called for enhanced swine flu prevention and control in a State Council, or Cabinet, meeting in the wake of an outbreak of swine flu in countries including Mexico.**

However, the Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection said on Monday that a Hong Kong woman who developed symptoms of respiratory infection and fever while traveling in the United States was being tested for swine flu. “The Communist Party of China Central Committee and the government has paid great attention to the epidemic situation in countries such as Mexico, and the government has taken emergent measures to strengthen monitoring and prevention work,” the release said.

The meeting did not exclude the possibility that the epidemic could spread to China as “the situation in some countries is developing, more suspected cases have been found and the epidemic-stricken area is expanding.”—Xinhua

**Egypt discovers new tunnel at Gaza border**

**CAIRO, 28 April—Egyptian security forces discovered on Monday a new tunnel used for smuggling foodstuffs at the border with the Palestinian territory of the Gaza Strip. The Egyptian authorities discovered the tunnel in Rafah town between Egypt and the Gaza Strip from the Egyptian side and confiscated different shipments of goods found at the entrance of the tunnel. Witnesses told Xinhua that the security forces did not arrest suspects, adding that some officers are guarding the site until destroying it. The Palestinians have been using the tunnels to smuggle food and other necessities into the Gaza Strip, which has been under Israeli blockade since June 2007.**—Xinhua

**Subsidized loans pump over $14 b into Vietnamese economy**

**HANOI, 28 April—Vietnam’s banks have made about 254.9 trillion Vietnamese dong (14.4 billion US dollars) worth of loans to date as part of the government subsidized loan programme, according to a report of the State Bank of Vietnam on Tuesday. The state-owned banks and central credit unions have made the lion’s share of subsidized loans, disbursements 187.66 trillion Vietnamese dong (10.6 billion US dollars). Private commercial banks had made 55.24 trillion Vietnamese dong (3.12 billion US dollars) worth of loans under the programme, while foreign-invested banks and joint venture banks have loaned another 11.04 trillion Vietnamese dong (623.84 million US dollars).**—Xinhua

**Japan to tighten visa control for Mexicans, tries to block swine flu**

**Tokyo, 28 April—Japan said it would temporarily tighten visa control for citizens of Mexico, the centre of the swine flu outbreak. Under the tightened rules, Mexicans could no longer obtain a visa on arrival, according to a Japanese foreign ministry official. Japan has visa-waiver agreements with more than 60 countries and territories, including Mexico, allowing its nationals to obtain visas on arrival without application in advance. Japan also plans to issue an advisory asking its nationals to postpone trips to Mexico following the swine flu, Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone said.**

**Two tested positive for swine flu in Britain**

**LONDON, 28 April—Scottish Health Minister Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed that two people coming back from Mexico have tested positive for swine flu in Britain, Sky news reported on Monday.**

Sturgeon said: “I can confirm that tests have demonstrated conclusively that the two Scottish cases of swine flu are positive.” She added that the two patients are “recovering well” at Monklands Hospital. —Xinhua
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Notice
1. The Centre for Human Resource Development (Yangon University of Foreign Languages) in collaboration with TOPA 21st Century Language School, Tokyo, Japan will open the Japanese Language Special Basic Course No.41.
(a) Course instructors: Teachers from TOPA 21st Century Language School, Tokyo, Japan
(b) Duration of full-time Course : 10 weeks, 200 hours
(c) Commencement of Course : 18 May, 2009
(d) Education qualification: Matriculation passed
2. For further information, please contact the Centre for Human Resource Development (Yangon University of Foreign Languages) during office hours.
Ph: 514371 (Ext-202)

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MV SINAR BANTEN VOY NO (048 )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANTEN VOY NO (048 ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.4.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will be discharged.
 prepare to discharge and return cargo to vessel. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 12 noon to the premises. Claims Day Notice is hereby advised the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be after the closing date.

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2009, a tough year for Shell in Nigeria
LAGOS, 28 April—2009 is going to be a difficult year for the Anglo-Dutch firm Shell in Nigeria, where not so long ago the oil giant was pumping one million barrels per day, the group’s top official has warned.

"We have a difficult year ahead of us," Shell vice president for Africa, Ann Pickard said in an internal company publication.

"With the drop in oil prices, our survival depends on controlling our costs," she added. Pickard said the Shell Petroleum Development Company’s (SPDC) budget for 2009 was just over one third of what it was three years ago.

"Unfortunately the organization we had three years ago was designed for a 6.6-billion-barrel SPDC budget. (But) in 2009 the SPDC budget is about 2.4 billion dollars," she said.

Among the unknowns for the year are reforms that Nigerian authorities plan to introduce in the partnerships between international oil companies and the state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), she noted.—Internet

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Donate Blood
SE Asia will be hit hard by climate change

BANGKOK, 28 April — Southeast Asia will be hit particularly hard by climate change, causing the region’s agriculture-dependent economies to contract by as much as 6.7 percent annually by the end of the century, according to a study released on 27 April, 2009.—INTERNET

FDA allows uncleared uses of flu drugs, tests

WASHINGTON, 28 April — The US Food and Drug Administration authorized emergency uses of the flu drugs Tamiflu and Relenza on Monday and a diagnostic test to help get a grip on a new strain of swine flu, the agency said on Monday. The US government’s declaration on Sunday that the swine flu is a public health emergency freed the FDA to take such action, the agency said in a statement. The FDA will now have the authority to allow public health and medical personnel to prescribe Relenza, GlaxoSmithKline’s inhaled flu drug also known as zanamivir, and Roche AG’s Tamiflu, a pill also known as oseltamivir, for unapproved uses. Tamiflu, approved for treating and preventing the flu in people over a year old, can now be used in children under 1 year.

Flu drug Tamiflu is seen at a pharmacy in Zurich on 7 October, 2005.—INTERNET

Doctors can also change the recommended dosage for children older than 1 year under the emergency use authorization. The FDA also gave more healthcare workers authority to distribute Tamiflu and Relenza, including some public health officials and volunteers.—INTERNET

World animal health body says swine flu wrong name

PARIS, 28 April—The virus spreading around the world should not be called “swine flu” as it also contains avian and human components and no pig was found ill with the disease so far, the World Animal Health body said on Monday. A more logical name for it would be “North American influenza”, a name based on its geographic origin just like the Spanish influenza, another human flu pandemic with animal origin that killed more than 50 million people in 1918-1919. “The virus has not been isolated in animals to date. Therefore it is not justified to name this disease swine influenza,” the Paris-based organization said in a statement.

Fears of a global flu pandemic are growing around the world after 103 people were killed in Mexico and new infections were found in the United States and Canada and possible cases as far afield as Europe, Israel and New Zealand. MNA/Xinhua

Death toll in southwest China landslide rises to 12

KUNMING, 28 April — Five more bodies had been retrieved from a landslide site in southwest China’s Yunnan Province by 1 p.m. Tuesday, bringing the death toll to 12, according to a local government official. The landslide took place at 12:40 pm Sunday at Xiaoba Village, Zhaixi Township, after almost four days of torrential rain. The landslide destroyed two buildings of the Huajia Coal Mine at the site. Two people were injured and were in stable condition in a hospital. Rescuers were still at work, but there was little hope of finding the missing alive, said Tang. He said the county would pay 250,000 yuan (36,603 US dollars) in compensation to the family of each victim. Tang said the victims and the missing people were coal mine managers and miners from Zhaotong City, which administers Weixin County, and from Sichuan Province’s Ya’an and Chongqing Municipalities. Another landslide, the result of unsafe quarry production, occurred an hour earlier in Linfeng Township, Weixin County, killing four passes-by. Internet

US swine flu cases rise to 40, drug stockpile released

WASHINGTON, 28 April—US health officials said Monday that there are now up to 40 cases of swine flu in five US States and they had released 25 percent of a federal drugs stockpile to states fighting swine flu. Briefing reporters at a new conference in Atlanta on Monday, Richard Besser, acting director of the CDC, said 20 new cases were confirmed due entirely to further testing in New York at a school in Queens, bringing the New York total to 28. Besser said other cases have been reported in Ohio, Kansas, Texas and California. He said that, of the 40 cases, only one person has been hospitalized and all have recovered. The best way to keep the disease from spreading, he said, is by taking everyday precautions such as frequent handwashing, covering up coughs and sneezes and staying away from work or school if not feeling well. MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

Rescuers work at the landslide site at Xiaoba Village of Weixin County, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 27 April, 2009. At least seven people were killed and 15 others are missing in a landslide at the village on 26 April.—XINHUA

Circumcision can reduce AIDS risk, study shows

WASHINGTON, 28 April — Circumcision does not decrease a man’s sexual pleasure or function, but it does help reduce his risk of contracting HIV, they concluded.—INTERNET

African researchers analyzing biopsies from 20 circumcised and uncircumcised men found that the inner foreskin of the penis contains a higher concentration of Langerhans cells — a prime target of the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV — than any other part of the male foreskin. Because this would make the inner foreskin more susceptible to HIV, removing it through circumcision would help lower a man’s risk of contracting HIV, they concluded.—INTERNET

File photo shows acacia logs are seen collected before being transported as the natural forest is seen at right in Pangkalan Kerinci, Riau Province, on Sumatra island, Indonesia. Southeast Asia will be hit particularly hard by climate change, causing the region’s agriculture-dependent economies to contract by as much as 6.7 percent annually by the end of the century, according to a study released on 27 April, 2009.—INTERNET

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MNA/Reuters

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Circumcision can reduce AIDS risk, study shows

WASHINGTON, 28 April — Circumcision does not decrease a man’s sexual pleasure or function, but it does help reduce his risk of contracting the AIDS virus and suffering a penile injury, according to two new studies. Australian researchers analyzing biopsies from 20 circumcised and uncircumcised men found that the inner foreskin of the penis contains a higher concentration of Langerhans cells — a prime target of the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV — than any other part of the male foreskin. Because this would make the inner foreskin more susceptible to HIV, removing it through circumcision would help lower a man’s risk of contracting HIV, they concluded.—INTERNET

If nothing is done to combat global warming, the report said that by 2100 the four Asian countries would see temperatures rise an average of 8.6 Fahrenheit (4.8 Celsius) from the 1990 level. They would also likely suffer drops in rainfall leading to worsening droughts and more forest fires, more destructive tropical storms and flooding from rising seas that could displace millions of people and lead to the destruction of 965 square miles (2,500 square kilometers) of mangroves.

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Former WBA champ Page dies at 50
WASHINGTON, 28 April—Former heavyweight boxing champion Greg Page died of brain injury complications at 50 on Monday, it was reported.

His wife Patricia Page said a severe brain injury eight years ago led to complications of which Page died at his Kentucky home, according to AFP.

Page was in a coma for a week following the March 2001 World Boxing Association title fight when he was floored by 24-year-old Dale Crowe after 10 rounds and did not get up.

He suffered a stroke during post-fight surgery and was paralyzed on his left side and received intensive physical therapy.

Page won a 1.2 million dollar suit two years ago over the lack of medical help at the match.

Page knocked out South African Gerrie Coetzee in 1984 to win the world championship title. He lost the belt five months later to Tony Tubbs.

Birthday girl Safina targets Grand Slam title
STUTTGART, 28 April—World number one and birthday girl Dinara Safina said on Monday she is determined to underpin her place at the top of the rankings with a Grand Slam title soon.

Safina, who turned 23 on Monday, is contesting the WTA event here this week on clay as she begins her preparation to try and win the French Open which starts at Roland Garros on May 23.

“It’s going to be another step,” said the determined Russian.

“With the steps to take in your life. The first step for me was either to win a Grand Slam or become number one, so I already have one.

“For the next step, I have my whole career and I’m going to continue working hard to win a Grand Slam.” —Internet

Teenage Russian breaks European record of women’s 100m breaststroke
MOSCOW, 28 April—Russian swimmer Yuliya Efimova created a new European record of woman’s 100m breaststroke with a 1 minute and 58.80 seconds here on Monday.

On the third day of the Russian swimming championships, the 17-year-old Efimova shortened the original record by 1.2 seconds, which was held by Austrian Mirna Jukic, the bronze medalist of women’s 100m breaststroke at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. Born in Grozny, the capital city of Chechnya, Efimova last year grabbed a gold medal in women’s 200m breaststroke with 2.24.09 at the European swimming championships.

She came fourth in the women’s 100m breaststroke at the Beijing Olympics, only 0.69 seconds behind Australian champion Leisel Jones. —Internet

Time running out for Newcastle after Pompey draw
NEWCASTLE, 28 April—Newcastle’s chances of clinging on to their place in the Premier League suffered a serious setback as Alan Shearer’s side were frustrated by a resilient Portsmouth on Monday.

A goalless draw left the Magpies three points adrift of fourth-from-bottom Hull with just four matches left to stave off relegation and a daunting trip to face title-chasing Liverpool at Anfield on Sunday.

The point edges Portsmouth closer to securing their own top flight status with Paul Hart’s side now seven points clear of the drop zone.

The stakes involved in a match that Shearer had described as both a must-win encounter and the most important of his players’ careers, were reflected in the presence of all three of the club’s leading strikers — Michael Owen, Mark Viduka and Obafemi Martins — in the starting line-up.—Internet

Allardyce backs Grella to become Blackburn star
BLACKBURN, 28 April—Sam Allardyce has revealed that he rates Vince Grella as one of the most gifted players on the Blackburn books and backed the Australian to become a star at Ewood Park.

Grella’s first season in English football has seen him plagued by injuries, causing some to question why Blackburn invested four million pounds in bringing him to the Premier League from Italian club Torino.

But he is finally fully fit and was outstanding in the 2-0 win over Wigan on Sunday which has left Blackburn one win away from securing their top flight status for another season.

Allardyce believes Sunday’s display was reward for the Blackburn star’s decision to be patient with Grella.

“We said we wouldn’t throw Vince back in as quickly as we have in the past, and we’ve been good enough to resist the temptation to make sure he feels 100 percent fit,” the former Bolton and Newcastle boss said.

Japanese talent starts well in table tennis worlds
YOKOHAMA, 28 April—Fourteen-year-old Japanese Koki Niwa beat Khurshed Sulibayev of Kazakhstan in an impressive fashion at the world table tennis championships here on Tuesday.

“Koki, Koki, Koki” was chanted in unison by Japanese supporters as they gathered around table three to pay homage to his rising star.

Niwa did not disappoint. In four straight sets (11-5, 11-2, 11-2, 11-5) he delivered the goods in the men’s singles.

It was a most comprehensive display by the young man making his world championship debut, having earlier in the year impressed on his opening venture on the ITTF Pro Tour at the Qatar Open in Doha.

Internet

Reading keep promotion dream alive
NORWICH, 28 April— Reading kept their hopes of automatic promotion to the Premier League alive and pushed Norwich to the brink of relegation with a 2-0 win here on Monday.

Two-second-half headers from Shane Long ensured that Steve Coppell’s side will go into Sunday’s final round of matches with a chance of snatching second place in the Championship from Birmingham, the visitors to the Madejski stadium on the final day of the season.

For that to happen, Reading must beat Birmingham and hope that Sheffield United fail to win at Crystal Palace. For Norwich, the defeat left them three points adrift of fourth-from-bottom Barnsley with a trip to already relegated Charlton to come on Sunday.

Barnsely will survive if they can take a point from their home fixture against Bristol City and condemn Norwich to relegation to the third tier of English football for the first time in 49 years.

The defeat for Norwich ensured Plymouth and Nottingham Forest are both guaranteed another season in the Championship.—Internet

Italian März worry over talent drain
ROME, 28 April—Teenage striker Federico Macheda’s staggering impact at Manchester United has sparked a raging debate in Italy on how to stem the exodus of the country’s brightest talents.

Machêda’s startling goal-scoring start to life as a United senior player has fans here wondering what’s so wrong with their own football that their best young players move away.

Once the predator, Italy is now feeling what it’s like to be the prey and the economic muscle of the English Premier League is largely responsible for this.

It was for financial reasons that Machêda left Lazio to sign for United while just 16, but now...
India emerges as one of destinations for diamond business

NEW DELHI, 28 April—India is slowly emerging to be one of the hottest destinations for diamond business, as the US market has been badly hit by the on-going economic crisis, a report by tabloid Mail Today said here Monday.

The report quoted Varda Shine, managing director of the Diamond Trading Company, as saying that while the US continues to command the largest market share in diamond consumption, there has been a 9-percent fall in its total share of the market. “India and China have started to occupy a market share of 7 to 9 percent each which is bound to increase in the coming years,” the report quoted Shine as saying.

Around 92 percent of the world’s rough diamonds are cut and polished in India, which also accounted for some 10 billion US dollars of business last year, 60 percent of which are sold in the US, according to the report. While the market for local consumption is doing well with a steady growth of 20 to 25 percent, the report. While the market for local consumption is doing well with a steady growth of 20 to 25 percent, the market for local consumption is doing well with a steady growth of 20 to 25 percent.

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Shweli Bridge (Namkham) put into service in Shan State (North)

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint strolls over Shweli Bridge (Namkham) after the inauguration of the bridge.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 April
—The opening of Shweli Bridge (Namkham) across Shweli River, built by Special Bridge Construction Unit (16) of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction, was held at the pavilion near the bridge at mile post No. (306/6) on Mandalay-Lashio-Namkham-Bahmo Road in Namkham Township, Shan State (North) yesterday morning with an address by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint. In his speech, the minister said that the newly-opened Shweli Bridge (Namkham) is the 222nd bridge among the 180-foot and above long bridges built since 1988. Shan State (North) has witnessed six 180-foot and above long bridges including the newly-opened one.

In accordance with the guidance given by the Head of State, the new bridge was built because the old one built in 1945 can no longer withstand heavy loads.

The bridge was built with the use of skills and experiences of Myanmar engineers and technicians.

Thanks to the completion of the bridge, transport on Mandalay-Lashio-Namkham-Bahmo road network has become smoother, thereby contributing to swift flow of commodities. It can also facilitate development of economic, social, health and education sectors.

Next, Deputy Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Hla Myint spoke words of thanks. Then a local expressed gratitude for opening of new bridge and pledged to make efforts on work for the durability of the bridge.

Afterwards, the deputy commander and chief engineer (bridge) of the ministry opened the Shweli Bridge (Namkham).

The minister, the deputy commander and officials posed for a documentary photo together with local people.

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint unveiled the stone plaque of the bridge and the deputy commander and officials sprinkled scented water on it.

The 600-foot long Shweli Bridge is Bailey type suspension bridge which has 24-foot wide motorway and can withstand 36-ton loads.

The bridge is the 222nd bridge across the nation and 15th bridge in Shan State (North).

At the time when Shweli Bridge (Namkham) was opened, Wutkhok Bridge in Magway Division and Yaypon Bridge in Taninthayi Division was also inaugurated the same day.

Therefore, the Ministry of Construction built five bridges within two months because Ngawun Bridge (Myotkwin) and Bago Bridge (Kawa) across Bago River were opened last March as a gesture of hailing the Armed Forces Day.

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Photo shows Shweli Bridge (Namkham).—CONSTRUCTION