Thriving rubber farm, maintenance of Bala Min Htin Bridge inspected

Lt-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence inspects production of rubber at rubber plantation of U Karai Lahsan in Naungnan Village of Myitkyina Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May—Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Brig-Gen Soe Win and officials, on 8 May inspected rubber plantation of U Karai Lahsan in Naungnan Village of Myitkyina Township.

He gave instructions on efforts to be made for boosting production of rubber and applying best cultivation methods. He also viewed production of rubber.

At Bala Min Htin Bridge, the Senior Engineer of Bridge Construction Special Group-15 of Public Works reported on construction of stand pipe.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye instructed officials to conduct the survey of river floor and changing of water course and prevent bank erosion.

MNA

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

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

Significant day temperature

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Noteworthy amounts of rainfall

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<td>Mawlamyine</td>
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Integrated farming has shown successful in Pathein

A yellowish paddy field in the integrated farm in Pathein. (See page 7)
Always adhere to integrity, moral uprightness and rules of conduct to keep the judicial pillar strong and upright.

National stability, community peace and tranquility and prevalence of law and order are the sine qua non for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation and the judges who are responsible for administration of justice play a major role in our drive for community peace and tranquility and prevalence of law and order.

The courts are to deal with losses and grievances of individuals and societies. They are also responsible for guarding against all kinds of dangers to national unity, development and public interests. Therefore, it is important that they pass appropriate sentences to those who jeopardize national unity and development.

As the judges are representatives of the State’s courts, the verdicts they deliver must be correctional, free from corruption and based on loving-kindness. Moreover, they ought to polish up the image of the courts by trying to find out the truth through exercise of patience, courtesy, amiability, integrity, self-control and reason.

The courts are eyes and mirrors of the nation and the judges are representatives of the courts. Therefore, it is necessary for the judges to view the life of the people from a right perspective and have empathy for them. In addition, they are required to solve the problems of the people by deciding their cases fairly and speedily and delivering appropriate verdicts.

There has been a strong and systematic judicial system in Myanmar from time immemorial. Today also, the Supreme Court appoints judges and judicial personnel at different levels and see to it that there is smooth and fair administration of justice in accordance with the law, rules and regulations and directives.

The onus in on the judges to keep the judicial pillar strong and upright. To be able to do so, they will have to hold onto such worldly values as truthfulness, fairness and sympathy and always adhere to integrity, moral uprightness and rules of conduct.
90 students and seven teachers,” Rahed told School this morning in Kohistan district has sickened Ministry Ahmad Farid Rahed said. Another 21 civilians were wounded in Wednesday’s attack by a suicide bomber in a car packed with explosives in Khost town. An official from the province of the same name said all the victims were later working at the NATO base on the outskirts of Khost town.

“US forces ... have encircled the area. The toll may rise,” provincial official Wazir Padshah told Reuters by telephone. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties among NATO-led troops. On Tuesday, a group of Taleban suicide bombers attacked government buildings in Khost town.

Nine Afghans, including members of the security forces, and 11 insurgents were killed in Tuesday’s attacks, during which gun battles lasting several hours were fought and a government building was seized by the militants.

An unidentified man looks through the wreckage of a vehicle used by a suicide attacker following attacks on government buildings in Khost Province east of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 12 May, 2009. Teams of suicide bombers and militants attacked government buildings in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday, sparking running gun battles in a major Afghan city, officials said. Armed militants took government workers hostage and ambushed an American quick-reaction force, wounding one US soldier. —INTERNET

Several hours were fought which gun battles lasting a day after a sergeant finisheup his third tour of Iraq allegedly shot and killed five comrades at a clinic on a US base.

Sgt John M Russell, 44, of Sherman, Texas, was taken into custody outside a mental health clinic at Camp Liberty following Monday’s shooting and charged with five counts of murder and one of aggravated assault, Maj. Gen. David Perkins said.

The case, the deadliest of the war involving solider-on-soldier violence, has cast a spotlight on combat stress and emotional problems resulting from frequent deployments to battle zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. Up to one-fifth of the more than 1.7 million who have served in the two conflicts are believed to have symptoms of anxiety, depression and other emotional problems. Some studies show that about half of those who need help do not seek it.

Russell’s father said his son, who joined the Army in 1994 after a divorce and minor scrapes with the law, felt poorly treated at the stress center. He said he hopes “we find he snapped because of the pressure. He wasn’t a mean person.” —INTERNET

An unidentified man looks through the wreckage of a vehicle used by a suicide attacker following attacks on government buildings in Khost Province east of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 12 May, 2009. Teams of suicide bombers and militants attacked government buildings in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday, sparking running gun battles in a major Afghan city, officials said. Armed militants took government workers hostage and ambushed an American quick-reaction force, wounding one US soldier. —INTERNET

97 students, teachers poisoned in Afghanistan KABUL, 13 May—Nearly 100 girl students and teachers of a school in Kapisa Province, 80 km north of the Afghan capital Kabul, mysteriously fell unconscious on Tuesday, spokesman of Public Health Ministry Ahmad Farid Rahed said.

“A possible poisonous gas attack in Qazak Girl School this morning in Kohistan district has sickened 90 students and seven teachers,” Rahed told Xinhua.

The affected students felt dozy and vomiting, he added.

Rahed also said that investigation is underway to identify the reason for the tragic incident.

This is the second attack on female students over the past two days and the third attack since early last month.

An Iraqi police truck burns after a suicide car bomb attack in Kirkuk, 290 kilometres (180 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 12 May, 2009. A suicide bomber rammed his car into an Iraqi police truck on Tuesday, killing five policemen and three civilians in the northern oil rich city of Kirkuk, said police. —INTERNET

An Afghan girl injured during an air strike in Garni village in western Farah province, recovers in hospital, on 9 May, 2009. —INTERNET

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,294 WASHINGTON, 13 May—As of Monday, 11 May, 2009, at least 4,294 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 3,440 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. —INTERNET

An Afghan girl injured during an air strike in Garni village in western Farah province, recovers in hospital, on 9 May, 2009. —INTERNET

Crash leaves nine Taleban militants dead in S Afghanistan KABUL, 13 May—Nine Taleban militants were killed as they came in contact with police in the restive Helmand Province south of Afghanistan, provincial police chief Assadullah Shirzad said on Tuesday.

“Taleban rebels stormed police checkpoints in Nad Ali district Monday and police returned fire killing nine rebels on the spot,” Shirzad told Xinhua.

One police was killed and another sustained injuries in the firefight lasted for a while, he further said.

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Iraq says Kurd’s oil deals still illegal

Baghdad, 13 May—Iraq’s Oil Minister Hussein al-Shahristani said that Kurd’s oil deals with foreign oil firms still considered “illegal” despite approving Kurdish plans to export crude oil through national pipelines.

“Iraq’s oil ministry considers the contracts signed by Kurdish regional government (KRG) with the international oil companies illegitimate and illegal,” Shahristani said on Tuesday in an interview with the state-run television of Iraq.

On Sunday, an official from the oil ministry told Xinhua that his ministry has approved that the KRG to export crude oil through the Iraqi pipeline to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan. Earlier, the KRG announced that exports of crude oil from fields in the Kurdish region will start officially on 1 June, 2009. A KRG statement said that around 60,000 barrels per day (bpd) would be exported from the Tawke Field in Duhok Province, and that some 40,000 bpd would be conveyed by tankers from Taq Taq oil field in Arbil Province to the northern national pipelines.

Somali fighting kills 113 civilians in past three days

Mogadishu, 13 May—Fierce fighting in Somalia’s capital has killed 113 civilians in the past three days and forced more than 27,000 to flee their homes, a human rights organization said on Tuesday.

Some 10,000 civilians fled their homes in Mogadishu on Tuesday alone, according to Ali Sheik Yasin Fadhaa of the independent Elman Human Rights Organization. About 345 civilians have been wounded in what has become Mogadishu’s worst violence in recent weeks, he said.

The organization gathered the figures from talking to hospitals, victims’ relatives and staff spread across the capital.

The renewed violence in the Horn of Africa nation is pitting pro-government fighters against those allied to al-Shabab, an militants group seeking to overthrow Somalia’s Western-backed government and establish an Islamic state.

Over the weekend, both sides pounded the capital with mortars and machine-gunfire.

National Security Minister Omar Hashi Aden said the government would crack down on the militants, and said some of them were foreigners.

“They are anarchists,” Aden told The Associated Press. “We will continue the fighting until we eliminate these elements.”

Aden said 15 government fighters have been killed in the violence, and that civilian casualties could be high, though the government did not have any figures.

Russia FM optimistic on arms control deal with US

Moscow, 13 May—Russia’s foreign minister has signaled Moscow’s readiness for compromise on a new nuclear arms control agreement with the United States and said he hopes for a deal by year’s end, news reports said on Tuesday.

Sergey Lavrov praised President Barack Obama’s administration for taking a constructive stance in talks with Russia, adding that diplomats from both nations are now working on detailed platforms on arms control, Russian news agencies reported.

Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev will discuss the issue when they meet in Moscow on 6-8 July and give directives on how to proceed, Lavrov said.

He said preliminary contacts have shown that “there is a good chance to bring our positions closer and reach agreements.” He added, “The US approach seems very constructive to me.”

Lavrov spoke to Russian reporters after returning from a visit to the United States where he held talks with Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Australia unveils record $44.1b budget deficit

Canberra, 13 May—Australia will post a record 57.6 billion Australian dollar (44.1 billion US) deficit in 2009-2010 as it battles the worst global recession since the Great Depression, Treasurer Wayne Swan said on Tuesday.

Swan said the centre-left Labour government needed to borrow money for stimulus measures to kick-start the ailing economy and offset a 210 billion dollar slump in revenues caused by the downturn.

African incomes to drop for first time in 15 years

Dakar, 13 May—Per capita income in Africa will fall in 2009 for the first time in 15 years, the head of the African Development Bank warned on Tuesday, in the latest grim assessment for the world’s poorest continent.

“Our economic outlook for Africa forecasts that in 2009, and for the first time since 1994, per capita growth for the continent will be negative as a whole,” Donald Kaberuka said in a round-table on the effects of the global financial crisis for the world’s poorest continent.
Sino-Arab civilization dialogue concludes with call for enhanced ties, communications

TUNIS, 13 May—The third seminar on China-Arab relations and civilizations within the framework of the Sino-Arab Cooperation Forum (SACF) concluded here on Tuesday with a final report calling for the expansion of Sino-Arab friendly ties and communications.

Representatives discussed three major topics at the seminar, namely, China in the Arabian culture and the Arab world in the Chinese culture; the humane values and nature in Arabian and Chinese cultures; and the Sino-Arab cooperation in the areas of science, technology and new media.

All the representatives agreed that the SACF has great significance on deepening Sino-Arab relations and promoting their practical cooperation, and the mechanism of seminars on relations and civilizations is an effective way to consolidate their friendly cooperation, said the report.

The representatives praised the progress made within the framework of the SACF, noting that the two sides have to strengthen their communications and dialogue on the basis of the achievements made at the two previous seminars, respectively held in 2005 in Beijing and 2007 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, according to the report.

They also called on the two sides to strengthen political support, and to jointly maintain peace and stability so as to promote the diversification of world relations.

Main US benefit programmes hit hard by recession

WASHINGTON, 13 May—The US government’s two biggest benefit programmes, Medicare and Social Security — have been hit hard by the ongoing recession, according to annual reports released on Tuesday by trustees of the programmes.

The reports showed that the trust fund for Social Security, the government’s pension system established during the Great Depression of the 1930s, will be exhausted in 2037, four years earlier than the trustees projected last year.

“This change is primarily due to the economic recession, recent data that prompted a small downward adjustment to the projected level of real GDP after the economy recovers and the fact that our citizens are on average projected to live longer lives,” Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said in a statement on the release of the reports.

Medicare, the main medical programme for the elderly and disabled, will even pay out more in benefits this year than the government collects in taxes for it.

Four nations lift temporary bans on pork import from Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 13 May—Ecuador, Kazakhstan, the United Arab Emirates and Honduras have lifted temporary restrictions on pork imports from Mexico, the Economy Ministry said on Tuesday.

The four countries responded positively to the minister’s request to lift their bans, imposed after the A/H1N1 flu broke out in Mexico late last month, the ministry said in a statement.

Mexico’s Economy Minister Gerardo Ruiz Mateos had sent letters to his counterparts in the four nations, demanding they clarify the nature and scope of the import bans and saying they broke international treaties by imposing such bans. The ministry said that it would use all means of persuasion at its disposal in an efforts remove the bans.

Los Angeles’s gun buyback programme nets nearly 1,700 weapons

LOS ANGELES, 13 May—The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) collected nearly 1,700 weapons in a gun buyback programme, it was reported on Tuesday.

The programme which traded gift cars for fire arms netted 841 handguns, 539 rifles, 276 shotguns, 40 assault-style weapons and a grenade launcher, according to the Los Angeles Times.

“We were surprised at the quality of some of the weapons,” LAPD Deputy Chief Charlie Beck was quoted as saying. Stolen weapons will be returned to their legal owners, and the rest will be destroyed, said the paper.

Officials have handed out more than 1,300 gift cards worth $30,200 dollars for grocery stores and Visa credit in exchange for weapons, according to the paper.

Medicaid staff members attend a quake rescue drill in Yinchuan, capital of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, northwest China, on 12 May, 2009, China’s first da Vinci robotic assisted surgery was carried out in Shanghai on Monday.

China’s first da Vinci robotic assisted surgery succeed

BEIJING, 13 May—China’s first da Vinci robotic assisted surgery for lung cancer was carried out in Shanghai on Monday.

The da Vinci robotic surgery system is regarded as one of the most advanced minimally invasive robotic surgery systems.

The robotic arms, modeled after the human wrist, give the surgeon a “feel” of performing open surgery, while hardware and software filters tremors and miniaturizes the surgeon’s movements.

Surgeons used the robotic surgery system to remove cancerous lung tissue and perform a systematic lymphadenectomy on a 39-year-old woman.

They then inserted viewing equipment in areas that are normally difficult to reach.

Sacred oxen eat corns symbolizing a good harvest during the annual royal ploughing ceremony in Phnom Pehn, capital of Cambodia, on 12 May, 2009. The ceremony is an ancient royal rite of Cambodia to mark the traditional beginning of the rice-growing season and wish for a better harvest in the year.
China’s industrial output up 7.3% in April
Beijing, 13 May — Growth in China’s industrial output slowed to 7.3 percent year on year in April from 8.3 percent in March, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Wednesday.

The figure was at the high end of analysts’ expectations, which ranged from 7.1 percent to 7.3 percent.

The figure for January-April was up 5.5 percent year on year.

The slowdown in April was a natural correction from March, when enterprises were busy stockpiling after the Lunar New Year, said Lu Zhengwei, an analyst at the Industrial Bank.

This year, the long Lunar New Year holiday began in January and ended in February.

That was two weeks earlier than in 2008.

Japan’s current account surplus down 48.8 percent
Tokyo, 13 May — Japan’s current account surplus in March fell 48.8 percent from a year earlier as exports fell amid the global recession, official figures showed on Wednesday.

The surplus shrank to 1,485.6 billion yen (15.3 billion dollars), against a surplus of 2,902.4 billion yen a year earlier, the finance ministry said.

Japan’s surplus in trade in goods plunged 89.3 percent to 132.9 billion yen, with exports falling 46.5 percent against a decline of 37.8 percent in imports.

For the fiscal year ended in March, the current account surplus tumbled 50.2 percent from the previous year to 12,229.1 billion yen, the fastest pace in comparable data going back to 1985.

Historically, Japan has run a large surplus in its current account, the broadest measure of trade in goods and services, thanks to brisk exports of cars, electronics and other goods.

April foreclosures rise 32 percent
Miami, 13 May — The number of US households faced with losing their homes to foreclosures jumped 32 percent in April compared with the same month last year, with Nevada, Florida and California showing the highest rates, according to data released on Wednesday.

More than 342,000 households received at least one foreclosure-related notice in April, RealtyTrac Inc said.

That means one in every 374 US housing units received a foreclosure filing last month, the highest monthly rate since the Irvine, Calif-based foreclosure listing firm began its report in January 2005.

April was the second straight month with more than 300,000 households receiving a foreclosure filing, as the number of borrowers with mortgage troubles failed to abate.

The April number, however, was less than one percent above that posted in March, when more than 340,000 properties were affected. The March data was up 17 percent from February and 46 percent from a year earlier.

“We’ve never seen two consecutive months like this,” said Rick Sharga, RealtyTrac’s senior vice president for marketing.

“It’s the volume that’s surprising.”

While total foreclosure activity was up, the number of repossessions by banks was down on a monthly and annual basis to their lowest level since March of last year, RealtyTrac said — Internet

US dollar drops to 4-month low, oil hangs near $60
Hong Kong, 13 May — The US dollar fell to a four-month low on Wednesday as optimism about a global economic recovery and concerns about US fiscal health reduced its safe haven appeal, while oil held near $60 a barrel on hopes for more energy demand as inventories tighten.

Stocks markets in Japan, pan and South Korea gained but they slipped in Australia and Hong Kong as investors bought back some defensive sectors after a solid rally in the last few months left them wondering whether it would last.

Adding to souring sentiment on the US dollar, a commentary in the Financial Times about the risk of the US government losing its top credit rating touched a nerve among traders.

The latest bout of dollar weakness has coincided with surging global equity markets as investors large and small begin to put money back to work that had been locked safely away in dollar-denominated assets — Internet

Nice going, mom! Right whales break birth record
Right whales have plenty to celebrate this Mother’s Day — the sea moms gave birth to a record 39 calves this spring.

The New England Aquarium said on Friday that the birth surge breaks the old record of 31 and shows much improvement from 2000, when only one calf was born.

Each birthing season is important because right whales number fewer than 400 and are among the most endangered whales in the world.

Having a calf is no easy task for the 50-foot-long whales, who give birth off the Florida and Georgia coasts.
When we arrived at Pathein, my watch showed one o’clock in the afternoon. We noticed the sign of development of the township with fine houses and wide and clean internal roads.

Then, we headed for the successful integrated farm of Pathein. Just as we got off the car in front of the compound of the Fisheries Department (Ayeyawady Division Branch) on Yangon-Ngwehsaung-Chaungtha Road, northeast of Pathein, we were greeted by the signboard saying “Integrated Farm, Pathein.”

From the car, we had seen fish ponds and workers in the crop plantations. When we got into the compound of the integrated farm, we were surprised by tidy and neat fish ponds and vegetable patches on the embankments of the fish ponds.

U Ohn Than, a responsible person of the integrated farm, told the Myanma Alin, “In our township, there are three integrated farms. Here, we run five fish ponds and a four-acre paddy field, and we grow corn, roselle, watercress, eggplant, chili, gourd and mushroom on the embankments of the fish ponds.”

The water in the fish ponds was so clear that we could see tilapia fishes swimming in the water. “We breed tilapia at the rate of 1000 heads a pond, and none of them has died so far. Each pond is 260 feet long, 74 feet wide and four feet deep,” he added.

It was heartening and thriving. And the tops of the paddy plants were bent down close to the ground due to their successful ears.

“Every day, we pump water from the Ngarauk Creek next to the compound to the agricultural farms,” he said.

According to our experiences, the integrated farm in Pathein proves successful. So, all the townships across the nation should run similar farms on a large scale.

We raise tilapia at the rate of 1000 heads a pond, and we harvest the fish ponds once every six months. (U Ohn Than)

Ngarauk Creek next to the compound to the agricultural farms” he said.

According to our experiences, the integrated farm in Pathein proves successful. So, all the townships across the nation should run similar farms on a large scale.

**Ambassador presents credentials to UN SG**

**NAY PYI TAW, 14 May — U Than Swe, Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, New York, presented his credentials to Secretary-General of the United Nations His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon at New York on 8 April, 2009. — MNA**

**Dr Aung Hay Lin of Silver View (Ngwe Saung) presents gifts to writer Chit San Win.**

**MHA organizes talks**

**Yangon, 13 May—Organized by Myanmar Hoteliers Association and with the assistance of Silver View Resort (Ngwe Saung) and Tharabar Gate Hotel, talks of technicians were given at Yuzana Hotel in Bahan township on 7 May. Writer Chit San Win gave talks on 21st Century and Progressive Learning. Writer Chit San Win replied to the queries raised by executive members and interested persons. Dr Aung Hay Lin of Silver View (Ngwe Saung) and Daw Ni Ni Khine of Tharabar Gate Hotel presented gifts to writer Chit San Win.**

**Integrated farming has shown successful in Pathein**

**Article: Maung Maung Myint Swe; Photos: Kyaw Myint Than (Lanmadaw)**

A thriving tilapia pond with watercress patches on its embankments.

This compound has an area of 10 acres. We pump water from the Ngarauk Creek next to the compound to the agricultural farms,” he said.

According to our experiences, the integrated farm in Pathein proves successful. So, all the townships across the nation should run similar farms on a large scale.

**Foodcress thrives in the integrated farm.**

**We raise tilapia at the rate of 1000 heads a pond, and we harvest the fish ponds once every six months. (U Ohn Than)**

**Ngarauk Creek next to the compound to the agricultural farms” he said.**

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**Translation: MS Myanma Alin: 7-5-2009**
Lt-Gen Khin Zaw tours rubber factory in Mudon

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May—Lt-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence and Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win visited the Hsuiteunggyae Pagoda in Kyaka Maraw on 11 May morning.

They held a meeting with township level departmental officials, members of social organizations, town-selders and local people at the office of Thamblyuzayat Township PDC. In meeting with township level service personnel, members of social organizations, town-selders and local people at the office of Mudon Township PDC, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw called for cooperation of responsible persons and local people for emergence of a healthy and highly educated society.

They also visited the Research and Regeneration Farm of the Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. The general manager and officers reported on rubber farming, and functions of the Research and Regeneration Farm and the rubber factory.

Preventive measures against global human flu taken

YANGON, 13 May—With the supervision of seaport health specialist Dr Win Myint of Seaport Health Department under the Ministry of Health, a medical team led by seaport health officer Dr Zaw Moe Ou in cooperation with WHO took preventive measures against global human flu aboard the ocean liners entering into Myanmar starting from 1 April.—MNA

No case of influenza A/H1N1 in Myanmar up to now

Ministry of Health taking preventive measures against outbreak of influenza A/H1N1

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May—Influenza A/H1N1 has broken out since 17 April. The World Health Organization today approved the numbers of casualty in the outbreak of flu that had so far infected 5728 people and killed 61.

The virus A/H1N1 may be transformed into the global human pandemic disease. Therefore, the Ministry of Health has carried out the necessary preventive task as from 25 April.

Not to break out the influenza A/H1N1 in the territory of Myanmar, the Ministry of Health is carrying out preventive measures such as daily virus observation, preparations for medical treatment, providing of medicines and medical equipment and laboratory apparatuses to the hospitals and making ready for use of the special patient wards.

With regard to situations of outbreak of the influenza, the preventive measures are taken and health knowledge is being disseminated to the people through TV, radio and dailies in time.

Since 29 April, the visitors have been under medical checks at international airports, international seaports and exits of borders.

Up to now, the Ministry of Health released information that there is no case of influenza A/H1N1 in Myanmar.—MNA

L & F Ministry : No outbreak of A/H1N1 in Pigs in Myanmar, promotes bio-security at pig firms

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May — A/H1N1 flu has infected 5728 persons in 33 countries as from 17 April to date and 61 died due to the flu. In Asia Pacific region, 20 got the flu in Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and Thailand.

A workshop was held at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 11 May on prevention of A/H1N1, programs for prevention against outbreak of flu in pig farming, prevention against the outbreak of avian influenza and controlling the avian influenza and future plans, research on veterinary technology and upgrading laboratories.

At the workshop, experts from respective departments and organizations discussed matters related to prevention of the diseases.

The workshop was participated by officials from Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, University of Veterinary Science, Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Enterprise, Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation, Ministry of Health, Yangon City Development Committee and experts from WHO, USAID, JICA, FAO and World Bank.

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (Head Office) and heads of the livestock breeding and veterinary departments from states and divisions held a meeting at LBVD (Head Office) in Insein on 12 May and drew plans for prevention against outbreaks of H5N1 and A/H1N1 and surveillance of influenza A/H1N1 at pig farms and for promoting the bio-security at the farms.

Still, there is no outbreak of A/H1N1 flu in pigs in Myanmar, said the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.—MNA
After visiting the urban area of Hpa-an, I went to Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an). The bridge across Thanlwin River is of steel frame concrete type. While strolling along the bridge, I was gazing the scenic beauty on both sides of the bridge. I was attracted by a signboard not far from the bridge. A local said that Tayokhla Model Village has a river water pumping station. Therefore, I headed for the village.

I saw houses in a row along both sides of the village main road. The dispensary and the Basic Education High School were both in good shape. When I turned to Thanlwin River from the central area of the village, I saw a river water pumping station.

The four big pipes of the station were supplying water to the farmlands around the village. The river water pumping station has 6,700 feet long main canal and 14,050 feet long feeder drains. Tayokhla River Water Pumping Station is being undertaken by Department of Water Resources Utilization.

The pipes of the station pumped water into the main canal from the river with the use of four 37-kilowatt motors, and the pumps can pump water up to 26 feet high.

Thanks to the water pumping station, the local farmers do not need to worry about the shortage of water for agricultural purpose. I witnessed thriving crops plantations and the local farmers at paddy and maize plantations.

The implementation of Tayokhla River Water Pumping Project commenced on 1 October 2001 and it completed on 31 March 2002 and started functioning near peaceful Hpa-an and Zwegabin Hill.

Water being pumped from Thanlwin River through four large pipes.

Water flows into the main canal of Tayokhla River Water Pumping Station.

Water being pumped from Thanlwin River through four large pipes.
NAY PYI TAW, 13 May—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan held a meeting with over 2100 local people including authorities, and members of social organizations from four wards and six villages at Northern Ward, Myinmu, Sagaing District, Sagaing Division, yesterday morning.

Local people reported on progress of regional development tasks.

The minister discussed matters to fulfill their requirements, saying that today peace and stability have been restored throughout the nation, and almost all the infrastructural buildings for national development have been constructed. That means the country is on the verge of development. So, the government and the people are under a duty to maintain the peace, stability and development momentum. In the process, the people are required to focus on generation of proper conditions that can guarantee sustainability of peace, stability and national development, learning lessons from the painful experiences they faced from 1948 to 1988 and viewing the objective conditions from 1988 onwards.

An official demonstrated the process of making a bio-battery to use electric lights.

The minister presented K 800,000 each for construction of buildings for Peku Village and Mu Mandalay Village basic education middle schools, and 300 dozens of exercise books to students; U Soe Naing of Aye Aye Khaing Gems Co K 2 million for sinking a tube-well in Nyaungyin Village; and the chairman of Myinmu Township Peace and Development Council, bio-batteries to the villages.—MNA

Course on public awareness about bird flu opens

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May—A ceremony to open course on raising public awareness about bird flu, jointly conducted by Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and Care Myanmar, was held at Nay Pyi Taw District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department on 11 May. It was attended by assistant director Dr Khin Zaw of Nay Pyi Taw District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Junior Programme Officer Daw Thin Thin of Care Myanmar, departments and trainees.

Assistant director Dr Khin Zaw made an opening speech on the occasion and staff officer Dr Win Soe explained the purpose of opening the course. Altogether 20-trainees from villages and wards are attending three-day course. Similar courses will be opened in the townships of Nay Pyi Taw District. —MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers speech in meeting with local people including authorities, and members of social organizations from four wards and six villages at Northern Ward in Myinmu.—MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets with local people including authorities, and members of social organizations from four wards and six villages at Northern Ward in Myinmu.—MNA

Brief biography of US citizen John William Yettaw who secretly entered the house of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

1. Name : John William Yettaw
2. Other name : Nil
3. Age/ Date of birth : 54 years, 6-9-1955
4. Nationality : American
5. Height : 5 feet and 10 inches
7. Place of birth : Detroit Michigan
9. Education : Ph.D (Psychology) (Attending)
10. Occupation : Student, Clinical Psychology, Forest Institute
11. Full address : 31158, Deta Road, Falcon, Missouri (65470)
12. Names of parent/ Occupations/address : (Father) Jerome William Yettaw (Engineer, deceased in 1983) (Mother) Elizabeth Bouchop Fogo (deceased in 1978)
13. Name of wife/ Occupation/address : Betty Yettaw (dependent) residing together
14. Organizations he had discharged duty as military serviceman for joined two years
WHO says most H1N1 patients do not need drugs to recover

GENEVA, 13 May—Most H1N1 flu patients do not require antiviral therapy to recover, but it remains important to develop a pandemic vaccine as there is a risk of future drug resistance, a World Health Organization expert said on Tuesday.

Nikki Shindo, a medical officer with the WHO’s global flu programme, said the UN agency would soon publish new guidance about how to treat patients with the virus that has caused mainly mild symptoms outside of Mexico. Given most patients can recover with rest and hydration, Shindo said there did not appear to be a need to treat all people infected with the strain with Tamiflu, Relenza, and similar antiviral drugs.

Saving such stockpiles for pregnant women and patients with underlying health conditions such as cardiovascular disease or diabetes may prove most prudent, she told a news conference.

“We will recommend to consider the use of antivirals for high risk groups,” Shindo said, while allowing that because little is known about the new strain, it was possible antiviral drug use could be reducing its impact in Europe and elsewhere.

US soldier killed in southern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 May—A US soldier has been killed in a bomb attack in the oil-hub city of Basra, the US military said on Tuesday. A Multi-National Division—South soldier was killed on Sunday when a roadside bomb struck his vehicle in Basra at about 2.00 p.m. (1100 GMT), a military statement said.

In a separate incident, five more US soldiers were shot dead on Monday when a fellow soldier opened fire on them at the US military base of Camp Liberty near Baghdad International Airport, another military statement said.

The military gave no further details about the incident but said it “is under investigation and more information will be released when it becomes available”.

The latest deaths bring the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq to about 4,293 since the Iraq war broke out in March 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.

Italy arrests al-Qaeda suspects

ROME, 13 May—Italian prosecutors have issued new arrest warrants for two French men suspected of being the leaders of an al-Qaeda network in Europe, police said on Tuesday.

The suspects were already being held in prison as part of an investigation into illegal immigration, said police in the southern city of Bari.

Subsequent checks allowed officers to identify “two leading men for the communication of al-Qaeda in Europe,” a police statement said.

ANSA news agency said the two had planned attacks in France and Britain, including an attack on Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport.

Gunmen kill 3 Sudanese police in Darfur

KHARTOUM, 13 May—Gunmen riding camels shot dead three Sudanese police officers in Darfur in an attack aimed at stealing their weapons, a senior police source said on Tuesday, the second attack in the same area in under a week.

“An unknown armed group attacked four policemen yesterday ... east of Nyala and killed three of them,” the source told Reuters by telephone from Darfur. The fourth officer was wounded in the attack, 35 kilometres (20 miles) from Nyala in south Darfur.

Law and order have collapsed in Darfur, where UN officials say up to 300,000 people have died and more than 2.7 million have been driven from their homes in almost six years of ethnic and politically driven violence. Khartoum says 10,000 have died. The attack comes just almost six years of ethnic and politically driven violence.

An undermanned joint United Nations and African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur, UNAMID, has found itself caught in the middle of an increasingly chaotic conflict involving bandits, rival tribes, government militias and rebels.

Two teenagers hit by lighting in Austria, one killed

VIENNA, 13 May—Two teenagers, 11 and 12 years old respectively, were hit by lighting on Tuesday afternoon in Bad Hofgastein in Austria and one of them was killed on the spot, the Austrian Red Cross said.

About four p.m. local time, there was a heavy storm in Bad Hofgastein. Some young people were playing on the square at that time and looked for trees for shelters. The two boys slipped under a tree on which the lighting struck. One boy died on the scene, while the other was seriously injured and sent to hospital by rescue helicopter. He is now in sound conditions and under the mental health care of the Red Cross.

Soldier Killed by landmine blast in southeastern Turkey

ANKARA, 13 May—One soldier of the Turkish security forces was killed and two others wounded in a landmine explosion in southeastern Turkey on Tuesday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

The blast occurred during a patrol mission of the security forces in Cukurca Town of Hakkari Province, according to the report.

The wounded were taken to a military hospital for treatment, it added. Turkish security forces conduct frequent operations against militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) in southeastern Turkey.

The PKK took up arms in 1984 to create an ethnic homeland in southeastern Turkey. Some 40,000 people have been killed in the over-two-decade conflict. The Turkish forces have taken tougher actions against the PKK after the country’s legislature extended the government’s mandate to launch cross-border operations against the rebels in northern Iraq.
CNOOC, K’s BG group sign agreement for Australian LNG project

BEIJING, 13 May—China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC) said on Wednesday it had signed an agreement with United Kingdom-based BG Group involving a liquefied natural gas (LNG) development project in Queensland, Australia. Under the agreement, CNOOC would buy 3.6 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of LNG for 20 years from the start-up of the Queensland Curtis LNG Project in Australia, which is being developed by the BG Group.

The project would come on line in 2014 with two liquefaction trains providing a 7.4 mtpa capacity. CNOOC would also take a 5-percent stake in the reserves and some resources of some BG group holdings and a 10-percent share in the equity in one of the two liquefaction trains.—Internet

Three die in explosion at Ark fuel storage facility

LITTLE ROCK, 13 May—An empty gasoline tank undergoing repairs exploded on Tuesday at a fuel storage facility in rural north-central Arkansas, killing three workers for an outside company contracted to do the repairs.

The tank had been cleaned previously and workers were preparing to install a new gauge on it when the blast occurred just before 2:30 pm, said Rick Rainey, spokesman for the facility’s owner, Houston-based energy company TEPPCO.

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Brain chemical may play key role in anxiety

CHICAGO, 13 May — A chemical important for brain development may play a role in explaining why some people are genetically predisposed to anxiety and could lead to new treatments, US researchers said on Tuesday. They said rats bred to be highly anxious had very low levels of a brain chemical called fibroblast growth factor 2 (FGF2) compared with rats that were more laid back.

But when they improved the anxious rats’ living conditions, — giving them new toys to explore, an obstacle course and a bigger cage to live in — levels of this brain chemical increased and they became less anxious.

“The levels of this molecule increased in response to the experiences that the rats were exposed to. It also decreased their anxiety,” Javier Perez of the University of Michigan, whose study appears in the Journal of Neuroscience, said in a telephone interview.

“Public health measures to increase folate intake were followed by a decrease in the birth prevalence of severe congenital heart defects.”

Currently 67 countries fortify wheat flour. 47 of them by mandate. Helena Gardiner of Imperial College in London and Jean-Claude Fouron of CHU Sainte-Justine University Hospital Center in Montreal noted in an editorial.

Folic acid helps the body make healthy new cells. It is important that women get enough of it before and during a pregnancy to prevent major birth defects, involving a baby’s brain or spine. Leafy green vegetables, fruits, dried beans peas and nuts contain folate acid. It can be added to grain products or taken as a dietary supplement.

Flu drug advised for pregnant women with swine flu

ATLANTA, 13 May — Pregnant women should take prescription flu medicines if they are diagnosed with the new swine flu, health officials said on Tuesday.

So far, the swine flu has not proven to be much more dangerous than seasonal influenza, and it’s not clear whether or not pregnant women catch swine flu more often than other people. But in general, flu poses added risks for pregnant women, said Dr Anne Schuchat of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Pregnancy weakens a woman’s immune system, so that she’s more likely to suffer pneumonia when she catches the flu. In earlier flu pandemics, infection also raised the risk of a premature birth, said Schuchat.

Pregnant women with asthma and some other health conditions are particularly at risk for complications.

Worldwide confirmed cases approach 6,000 as A/H1N1 engulfs more

BEIJING, 13 May — The worldwide confirmed A/H1N1 cases have reached around 5,914 as two more countries in Asia and Europe reported their first known cases on Tuesday. Thailand and Finland reported two cases each after Cuba earlier confirmed its first case in a Mexican student in Havana, bringing the total number of countries with confirmed cases to 33.

In the United States, which has surpassed Mexico with most known cases, on Tuesday reported that a total of 3,009 have tested positive of the virus in 45 of its 50 states, with three deaths. The number of confirmed cases on Monday was 2,600 in 44 states, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

NASA finds minor scratch damage to shuttle shield

CAPE CANAVERAL, 13 May — The US space shuttle Atlantis apparently was hit by a piece of debris that nicked part of its heat shield but the damage appeared very minor, NASA said on Tuesday.

Atlantis and its seven-member crew blasted off from Florida on Monday on an 11-day mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope.

It will be the US space agency’s last chance to tinker with the telescope — which has vastly expanded scientists’ knowledge of the universe — before NASA ends the shuttle program in 2010.

Nasa told the Atlantis crew additional inspections might be needed of the area where the ship’s right wing joins the fuselage around where the debris hit. — Internet

Russian cargo spacecraft docks with space station

MOSCOW, 13 May — The Russian Progress M-02M cargo spaceship docked with the International Space Station (ISS) late Tuesday, said a spokesman for the Mission Control Center outside Moscow.

After five days of independent flight, the spaceship successfully docked with the ISS at 11:24 pm Moscow time (1924 GMT) on Tuesday, said Valery Lyndin, spokesman for the flight control centre.

The Progress M-02M spaceship blasted off at 10:37 pm Moscow time (1837 GMT) on Thursday from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan, to is deliver some 2.5 tons of supplies for the ISS crew members.

It carries food, water, fuel, clothes and equipment, as well as the third Orlan-MK space suit for the crew.
Sports

China, South Korea into semis of Sudirman Cup

GUANGZHOU, 13 May—Defending champion China and South Korea both secured Sudirman Cup semifinals slots after winning their respective matches here on Tuesday.

China whitewashed Japan 5-0 in a lop-sided match, while South Korea overcame Denmark 4-1. Olympic silver medallists Cai Yun/Fu Haifeng defeated Kenta Kazuno/Kenichi Hayakawa 21-14, 21-13 in the men’s doubles to put the China 1-0 in front.

“Both sides played quite well today,” said Fu Haifeng. “We haven’t played with him before and that’s why we were keeping pressing them. We did well quite and gave the opponents no chance.”

Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia returns the shuttle during the men’s singles competition against Chinese Hong Kong’s Hu Yun at the 11th Sudirman Cup World Team Badminton Championship in Guangzhou, south China’s Guangdong Province, on 11 May, 2009.—Internet

 Platini calls for ‘zero-tolerance’ approach to racism

BUCHAREST, 13 May—UEFA president Michel Platini on Tuesday called for a “zero-tolerance” approach to racism in European football, on the first day of UEFA’s two-day executive committee meeting here.

“The UEFA president proposed that strong and decisive action, in line with his ‘zero-tolerance’ approach, should be taken in accordance with law five of the game’s rules, which permits the referee to suspend or abandon a match due to outside interference,” a UEFA statement read.

The executive committee will examine the practical consequences of the application of this rule during its next meeting on 1-2 July in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The committee also awarded the 2011 men’s under-19 European Championship to Romania and the tournament’s female equivalent to Italy.—Internet

Russia very likely to host Argentina in soccer friendly in August

MOSCOW, 13 May—Diego Maradona’s Argentine national soccer team is almost certain to play a friendly against Russia in Moscow in August.

“Maradona is ready and very willing to take on the Russian side in Moscow. I can give an almost 100 percent guarantee that the match will take place on 12 August,” the RIA Novosti news agency quoted Maradona’s spokesman as saying on Tuesday.

However, a number of financial issues remained unclear so the match cannot be currently confirmed, the spokesman added.

Media reports said the friendly was set for the preparation of the World Cup qualifiers.

Though having little experience in managing, Maradona as a 48-years-old soccer celebrity became Argentina’s head coach in November 2008.—Internet

No clear favorite for Bundesliga title

BERLIN, 13 May—German Bundesliga leaders Wolfsburg and their two main challengers Bayern Munich and Hertha Berlin crushed their rivals on Tuesday, leaving no clear favorite for the title of German top football league with just two rounds to come.

Wolfsburg beat Borussia Dortmund 3-0, while Bayern Munich scored thrice in the second half en route to a 3-0 victory over Bayer Leverkusen. Hertha Berlin, meanwhile, secured a 2-1 victory at Koeln.—Internet

Federer starts Madrid campaign with win over Soderling

MADRID, 13 May—Roger Federer imposed his game on Swede Robin Soderling for the ninth consecutive time, earning a 6-1, 7-5 victory into the third round of the ATP Masters claycourt tournament Roger Federer won 6-2, 7-5.—Internet

The Swiss second seed, who lost a Rome semi-final to Novak Djokovic and then hit the practice courts for the Madrid Masters claycourt tournament Roger Federer won 6-2, 7-5.—Internet

I’d never seen the centre court until I stepped out to play.
Mudslides, avalanches kill 18 in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE, 13 May—Unusually powerful mudslides have killed at least 18 people in the Central Asian republic of Tajikistan this month, the Emergencies Ministry said on Tuesday.

Landslides happen every year in Tajikistan but they were stronger than usual this spring due to very heavy rainfall. That has added hardship to the mountainous nation of seven million already hit hard by the global economic downturn.

The Emergencies Ministry said 18 people, including seven children, have died in separate landslides and avalanches over the last two weeks in the mainly Muslim former Soviet republic.

Downpours of rain and melting snow often cause torrents of water, clay and rocks to cascade onto settlements in spring in the mountainous nation bordering Afghanistan.

Last week, a powerful mudslide swept through the central streets of the Tajik capital Dushanbe, causing panic among some of its residents. No one died.—MNA/Reuters

Mudslides, avalanches kill 18 in Tajikistan

WEATHER

Wednesday, 13 May, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, water has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Rakhine and Kayah States, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Taninthayi Division, scattered in Mon State, Mandalay, Bago Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions.

Day temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above May average temperatures in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Rakhine, Kayah and Kayin States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Monywa, NyaungU, Chauk, Mindub and Pakokku (42°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were NyaPyiTaw (0.16) inch, Maubin (2.36) inches, Phapyan (1.96) inches, Puthain (1.50) inches, and Mawlamyine (1.34) inches.

Maximum temperature on 12-5-2009 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 13-5-2009 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 13-5-2009 was 81%. Total sunshine hours on 12-5-2009 was (6.1) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 13-5-2009 was (0.12) inch at Mingladon, (Tr) at Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (2.60) inches at Mingladon, (3.62) inches at Kaba-Aye and (5.67) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from South at (23:30) hour MST on 12-5-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 14th May 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Shan, Kayin and Mon States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Kachin, Chin and Kadathone States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Southwest monsoon is likely to advance into the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 14-5-2009: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 14-5-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 14-5-2009: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).
YANGON, 13 May—The US Embassy in Yangon sent a diplomatic note dated 11 May to the Consular, International Law and Treaties and Research Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, requesting a consular meeting under the rights on consular relations stated in Vienna Convention with US citizen Mr. John William Yettaw who is being questioned by officials concerned for his secretly entering and staying in the residence of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 6 May.

Only in the evening of 12 May did the Ministry of Foreign Affairs receive the note. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, after coordinating with responsible officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs, replied to the US Embassy that it would make arrangements for a consular meeting at 4 pm on 13 May.

Under the reply of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Second Secretary (Consul) of the US Embassy Mr. Colin P. Furst and one member had a consular meeting with Mr. John William Yettaw at Aungthabye Yeiktha here at 4 pm today.—MNA

Second Secretary (Consul) of the US Embassy Mr. Colin P. Furst and one member have consular meeting with Mr. John William Yettaw at Aungthabye Yeiktha.—MNA

Tayokhla River Water Pumping Station functioning near peaceful Hpa-an and Zwegabin Hill

In Kayin State, Hpa-an becomes more beautiful and peaceful with the lovely scenes of Zwegabin Hill. The town is facilitated with wide and straight roads together with development symbols of education, health and communication sectors and housings in every place. Hpa-an is gaining development momentum in all aspects.

Bacteria create aquatic superbugs in waste treatment plants

In the first known study of its kind, Chuanwu Xi of the University of Michigan School of Public Health and his team sampled water containing the bacteria Acinetobacter at five sites in and near Ann Arbor’s wastewater treatment plant. They found these bacteria create aquatic superbugs called superbugs—bacteria resistant to multiple antibiotics—up to 100 yards downstream from the discharge point into the Huron River. Xi stresses that while the finding may be disturbing, it is important to understand that much work is still needed to assess what risk, if any, the presence of superbugs in aquatic environments poses to humans.

Herschel and Planck flight dynamics: It really is rocket science

DARMSTADT, 13 May—Imagine you are a flight dynamics specialist at ESOC, ESA’s European Space Operations Centre, Darmstadt, Germany, on the afternoon of 14 May 2009. You and your colleagues on the Mission Control Team have just watched two satellites lofted into space on top of a powerful Ariane 5 ECA launcher. On the edge of space and unseen by any human eyes, the two spacecraft separate from the upper stage. An ESA ground station in Perth, Australia, picks up the first telemetry signals from the pair. The launch is a success!

Pressure is on while the clock ticks down. Your colleagues now turn to you, and ask urgent questions: Where are the two spacecraft? In which direction are they heading? How fast are they going?

About 0.5 hours after launch, Herschel separates from the launcher upper stage.