NAV PYI TAW, 12 June—The Central Organizing Committee of Myanmar War Veterans Organization held meeting No. 1/2009 at its headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township this afternoon.

Chairman of the MWVO COC Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung delivered an address.

It was attended by the secretary, the joint secretary and members of the central organizing committee and officials of the headquarters.

Secretary Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe sought the approval for the minutes of Meeting No. 1/2009 of Myanmar War Veterans Organization.

Joint-Secretary Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe submitted the report of the headquarters.

Secretary of the COC Leader of National Defence and Security Work Group Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe reported on State Defence and Security tasks.

COC members Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein presented reports on economic tasks.

COC member Leader of Social and Welfare Work Group Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe reported on social and welfare tasks.

COC member Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt submitted the report on public welfare tasks.

The COC members took part in the discussions. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the Chairman of the MWVO COC.

MNA

Easy access to higher education, better health care in Bago Division (West)

Article: Win Naing (Kyemon); Photos: Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)

Transition to a modern, developed nation calls for development of human resources and high living standard of the people. The government, with this aim in view, is opening more and more schools and upgrading old ones in order that every youth has access to basic education, and opening universities of particular subjects for local young people to pursue higher education in their own regions. As a result, the population of graduates of the nation is on the increase.

In the meantime, the government is opening many hospitals, health care centres and rural health centres for enabling the entire people to lead a healthy life with greater longevity and enjoy better health care.

During our trip to Technological University (Pyay) on Pyay-Paukhaung Road, eight miles from Pyay, Rector of Pyay Technological University Dr Aung Kyaw Myat said that previously, the highest (See page 7)
Take preventive measures against New Influenza A/H1N1

The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and OIE jointly held a meeting to discuss matters related to veterinary services meeting the set standards of OIE at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 8 June.

The meeting focused on ways in sector-wise cooperation for promotion of veterinary services to prevent infectious diseases from animals to humans.

So far, New Influenza A/H1N1 pandemic has spread to 74 countries, and no A/H1N1 cases are found in Myanmar.

Influenza A/H1N1 has occurred around the world since 17 April. The World Health Organization reported on 28774 confirmed cases and 144 deaths in 74 countries up to 11 June, and the infectious disease has been mutated into the world’s pandemic disease.

And the A/H1N1 virus may be mutated into a global human pandemic disease. So, the Ministry of Health has been taking precautionary measures since 25 April in order that the pandemic will not spread to Myanmar.

Talks on Influenza A /H1N1 and new virus in pigs were held. The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries in its public notice said that the virus cannot survive if pork and pig products are cooked at 70 degree centigrade or 160 degree Fahrenheit. And the virus does not spread if pork and pig products are touched systematically.

Now, talks on preventive measures and health education are being conducted through the media to raise public awareness about A/H1N1 pandemic.

Therefore, the entire people have to take precautionary measures in collaboration with the departments concerned as a national duty in order that Myanmar will not see A/H1N1 cases.

Meeting between Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association and Economic Mission of Malaysian Timber Council in progress.— MNA

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo delivers an address at meeting on taking preventive measures against New Influenza A/H1N1 Pandemic.— MNA

MFPTMA discusses cooperation with economic mission of Malaysian Timber Council

Yangon, 12 June—CEC member and executive committee members of the Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association met with the 11-member economic mission of the Malaysian Timber Council led by Mr Ahmad Shah Mohamad yesterday morning.

They discussed matters to promote the cooperation between MFPTMA and Malaysian Timber Council, matters related to source of teak, ironwood and other hardwoods and market for wood-based finished goods and products.

Moreover, entrepreneurs from Holmawood Sdn Bhd, Shinagawa Sdn Bhd, Kompleks Perkayuan Kelantan Sdn Bhd and How Mah Pacific (M) Sdn Bhd from Malaysia discussed matters related to economic cooperation with member companies of MTEA and visited the factory.— MNA
Iraqi government warns more violence likely

BAGHDAD, 12 June—Iraq’s government warned Thursday that more violence is likely as Iraqi security forces gear up for the withdrawal of US forces from urban areas by the end of the month.

Several high-profile bombings have eroded public faith in Iraqi security forces as the Americans face a 30 June deadline to pull back to bases outside the cities.

In the latest attack, a motorcycle bomb exploded outside a popular park near the Shiite holy city of Karbala, south of Baghdad, killing two civilians and wounding 14, said Mohammed al-Moussawi, head of the Karbala provincial council.

Al-Moussawi initially said it was a suicide bombing but later said the explosives were detonated by remote control.

The blast came a day after a car bomb exploded near the mainly Shiite city of Nasiriyah, killing 35 people.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki called the blast a “political message” and said it was part of a Sunni insurgent campaign to re-ignite sectarian violence.

“These acts will increase before the next parliamentary elections (on 30 Jan),” he said during an address to Iraqi commanders. “They will also try during the withdrawal of foreign troops from cities to say that Iraqi security services are incapable and a failure.”

Iraqis gather near bloodied clothes following a bomb blast near Nasiriyah, on 10 June 2009. Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki warned on Thursday that attacks could increase in the coming weeks ahead of the US troop pullout from urban areas, after a deadly car bomb hit the south of the country.  

Militants gun down district police chief, bodyguard in NW Afghanistan

KABUL, 12 June — Anti-government militants in their latest wave of targeting government interests shot dead the district police chief of Shirin Tagab district in the northwest Faryab province, a local official said Friday.

“Taliban insurgents ambushed the car of Abdul Wahed the district police chief of Shirin Tagab on Thursday evening killing him and his bodyguard and wounding two others,” Syed Laqman Gahrtold Xinhua.

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 631

WASHINGTON, 12 June—As of Thursday, 11 June, 2009, at least 631 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department. The department last updated its figures Thursday at 10 am EDT.

Of those, the military reports 465 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 67 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

US officer in Baghdad finds loss of leverage

BAGHDAD, 12 June—The American captain was visibly irritated as local officials pressed him to move his vehicles away from the meeting place to allow traffic to pass. Finally, he walked out of the meeting — and none of the Iraqis asked why.

Months before, Capt Nathan Williams was treated with respect bordering on reverence. Iraq officials with whom he worked in Baghdad’s Hurriyah district sought his opinion and deferred to his ideas.

But as the US military pulls back from Baghdad and other cities ahead of a June 30 deadline, American commanders like Williams are rapidly losing influence in neighbourhoods they once ruled.

That became clear at the weekend meeting of the Hurriyah district council. Williams, 28, of Raleigh, NC, was not greeted with the same enthusiasm he received during previous council meetings during his seven months as commander of a military outpost at Hurriyah.

This time, no one sought his opinion on the issues under discussion. And when he left, the meeting continued as if he were never there.

Williams, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment based at Fort Riley, Kan, said the mood change was a sign that Iraqis are depending less and less on the Americans — a longtime US goal.

“I want you all to know that I will keep coming to see you until the end of the month,” Williams told the 15 councilors before he left the room. “Should you need us after that, let us know and we will come to see you.”

Hell of Afghanistan brought home to British troops

STANFORD, 12 June—The British Army has spent 14 million pounds (23 million dollars) on creating a replica Afghan village to get their soldiers used to life on duty in Helmand before they spend six months serving in the real Afghanistan.

The tense atmosphere in Sindh Kalay village bazaar explodes as a Taliban suicide bomber strikes. Afghan locals scream in pain and terror and nervous British patrol troops hit the deck.

Yelling in Pashto, fruit-sellers flee the bazaar as a car packed with explosives ploughs into a crowd of tourists and chicken droppings of the noisy, smelly market.

But this familiar scene is not being rehearsed in the green English countryside.

Iraqi army soldier check a bus that rests by a collapsed blast wall after a road side bomb which apparently targeted an Iraqi army convoy hit the bus instead and injured four passengers in Baghdad, Iraq, on 11 June, 2009.  

NATO troops seal off city after deadly bomb blast near the main police station in central Baghdad.

Iraqi children were wounded in the attack.  

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 631

WASHINGTON, 12 June—As of Thursday, 11 June, 2009, at least 631 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department. The department last updated its figures Thursday at 10 am EDT.

Of those, the military reports 465 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 67 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Of those, three were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen.

There were also four CIA officer deaths and one military civilian death.

Iraqi army soldier check a bus that rests by a collapsed blast wall after a road side bomb which apparently targeted an Iraqi army convoy hit the bus instead and injured four passengers in Baghdad, Iraq, on 11 June, 2009.
New fuel pipeline built between Israel, Gaza

JERUSALEM, 12 June — An Israeli construction team Thursday finished its work on a new pipeline for the transfer of fuel and natural gas from Israel to the Gaza Strip, Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said in a statement sent to Xinhua.

The decision to build the pipeline was made in accordance with decisions made by the Israeli government, following security assessments and as a result of the coordination between Israel’s Civil Administration and the Palestinian side, said the statement. The IDF will continue to work in order to improve the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, it added.

Israel imposed a tight blockade on Gaza after Hamas, a Palestinian militant group pledges to the Jewish state’s destruction, seized control of the coastal territory in June 2007. Under the siege, only essential humanitarian goods are allowed into the impoverished enclave, home to some 1.4 million population.

Obama envoy in Syria on revived peace push

DAMASCUS, 12 June— US Middle East envoy George Mitchell is due to arrive in Syria amid renewed efforts to revive stalled Middle East peace talks a week after President Barack Obama reached out to the Muslim world.

As part of a tour of the region and on his first visit to Damascus, Mitchell is set to pursue the Obama administration’s cautious pursuit of diplomatic engagement with Syria in a bid to promote Arab-Israeli peace.

The US envoy heads to the Syrian capital after a brief visit to Beirut, where he was to hold talks Friday morning with Lebanese officials following elections July 6 that saw a pro-West coalition defeat a Hezbollah-led alliance.

State Department spokesman Ian Kelly told reporters in Washington that Mitchell’s trip to Syria and Lebanon is partly a “follow-up” to Obama’s speech in Cairo last week and that Washington rated it a “very high priority.”

The Obama administration has been cautiously pursuing diplomatic engagement with Syria, which has long had strained ties with Washington, in a bid to promote peace in the Middle East.

Jeffrey Feltman, the acting assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs, and National Security Council Senior Director Daniel Shapiro visited Damascus last month for a second visit since Obama took office in January.

Airstrike missed martial commander, Afghans say

KABUL, 12 June—US airstrikes in western Afghanistan missed their target of a militant commander and instead killed 12 other militants and 10 civilians, provincial officials said on Thursday.

The US military originally said the strike killed a warlord named Mullah Mustafa but now says he apparently survived. In a statement issued Thursday, the US said “credible reports surfaced that Mustafa survived the attack” in Ghor Province.

The US said it was investigating reports that civilians had been killed.

Ban stresses preparedness as UN declares global flu pandemic

UNITED NATIONS, 12 June —Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon yesterday cautioned against undue alarm while stressing the need for preparedness, as the United Nations health agency announced that the world is experiencing an influenza pandemic caused by the new A(H1N1) virus.

Yesterday morning, the head of the UN World Health Organization (WHO) said the agency had elevated its alert from phase 5 to phase 6, indicating a global pandemic outbreak.

“The world is now at the start of the 2009 influenza pandemic,” WHO Director-General Margaret Chan told reporters in Geneva. As of today, nearly 30,000 confirmed cases have been reported in 74 countries.

Mr Ban noted that the raising of the alert level is “a formal statement about the geographic spread of disease” and “not in itself a cause for alarm.”

Speaking at his monthly news conference in New York, the Secretary-General said that though infectious, this new virus has so far not been as severe as had been feared and death rates have been low.

“But … we must be watchful. We do not know what picture will emerge in the coming months,” he stated. “The virus has hit mainly developed countries. That is likely to soon change – and it will have consequences.

He noted that poorer countries have less developed health systems, people tend to seek health care later, and there is often a higher level of other diseases in the general population.

In addition, the Southern Hemisphere is only now entering the flu season.

“We must therefore be prepared,” Mr Ban stressed. “Our best response is a firm demonstration of global solidarity.”

The Secretary-General said he will convene a meeting of the Influenza Steering Committee in New York on Monday to “map out our immediate next steps.” This will be prior to the opening session of his Forum on Advancing Global Health in the Face of Crisis.

He pledged to work with national governments and WHO to ensure that the response to the pandemic is as well-coordinated and as effective as possible.

The Secretary-General highlighted that access to vaccines and anti-virals— in addition to antibiotics and other commodities—is crucial. At a meeting he convened with Dr Chan last month in Geneva, more than two dozen pharmaceutical companies agreed to contribute part of their vaccine production to vulnerable nations, upon request by WHO.

Manufacturing of pandemic vaccines has already begun, and the first doses will be available in September 2009, Mr Ban noted, adding that, at the same time, virus samples and other information about the disease must also be widely and openly shared.

It is also important to guard against “rash and discriminatory” action such as travel bans or trade restrictions, he stated, pointing out that the response to any pandemic must be grounded in science.

Noting that the impact will be felt far beyond the health sector and will require coordination on every front, the Secretary-General stressed the need to safeguard the interests of those who are most vulnerable.

WHO declares A/H1N1 pandemic, raising alert level to highest

GENEVA, 12 June—The World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday raised its pandemic alert to the highest level of six, formally declaring that the widely spreading A/H1N1 influenza has developed into a global pandemic.

“On the basis of available evidence, the scientific criteria for an influenza pandemic have been met. I have therefore decided to raise the level of pandemic alert from phase 5 to phase 6, the world is now at the start of the 2009 pandemic,” WHO Director-general Margaret Chan told a news briefing in Geneva.

Chan made the announcement following consultations with leading influenza experts around the world through a teleconference, and amid signs that community-level transmission of the new H1N1 flu virus has occurred in a number of countries outside of North America, including Australia, Chile, Britain, Spain and Japan.

Chan stressed, however, that governments and the public should have a right understanding of the word “pandemic,” which mainly reflects the geographic spread of the virus, instead of the severity of the disease it has caused.

“…We want to make the clarity that the higher alert level of the pandemic does not necessarily mean that we are going to see a more dangerous virus, or many more people falling severely ill or dying,” she said.

She said current assessments made by experts suggest that the first pandemic in the 21st century should be a moderate one in terms of severity.
Fire balloons rise during the Third Haikou Fire Balloon Festival in Haikou, capital of south China’s Hainan Province, on 12 June, 2009. A total of 25 teams took part in the event. —Xinhua

China’s largest LCD panel completes 12 b yuan share placement

BEIJING, 12 June—China’s largest LCD panel maker BOE Technology Group has sold shares worth 12 billion yuan (1.76 billion US dollars) to fund a new liquid crystal display panel production line, the most advanced on the Chinese mainland, reported Friday’s China Daily. The Shenzhen-listed firm is likely to turn into the world’s third largest LCD panel provider once the new assembly line becomes fully operational, the newspaper said.

The company sold 5 billion shares at 2.4 yuan each to 10 investors, including Haitong Securities Co, Southwest Securities Co and Xiamen Hengxing Industrial Co’s Chairman Ke Xiping, it said in a statement to the Shenzhen Stock Exchange.

The new investment by BOE Technology, whose major shareholders are state-owned enterprises in Beijing, Hefei and Chengdu, is expected to give a shot to the Shenzhen Stock Exchange.

However, many experts are still cautious about BOE’s new investment as supply of LCD panels far outpaced current demand. And, with more overseas LCD panel makers, mainly the Taipei firms, moving their factories to the Chinese mainland, the LCD market in China is expected to get more crowded. —Xinhua

Los Angeles beefs up security for Jewish community after Washington shooting

Los Angeles, 12 June—Authorities in Los Angeles took measures to beef up security for Jewish institutions on Thursday, in the wake of a fatal shooting at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC on Wednesday.

Jack Weiss, a City Council member, said that the city is taking every lawful means to protect the Jewish community and that he was confident about the security of Jewish institutions across Los Angeles.

“We’ve got a very close working relationship between the Jewish institutions and the LAPD when it comes to any sort of threats,” said city official.

However, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) declined to comment on whether the Simon Wiesenthal Center/Museum of Tolerance in West Los Angeles was under heightened security following the shooting incident.

Richard French, a spokesman of the LAPD, said that the LAPD would have no comment on specific security issues.

James von Brunnard, an 88-year-old self-described Holocaust denier and white supremacist, went to the Holocaust Museum in Washington on Wednesday and opened fire with a 22 rifle, killing a security guard before he was critically wounded by other guards. —Xinhua

Vietnam to launch second man-made satellite in 2012

HANOI, 12 June—Vietnam will launch the country’s second man-made satellite in 2012, local newspaper the New Hanoi reported Friday.

This is an important plan which was included in the strategy of research and application of space technology to 2020 of the country, said the newspaper.

The satellite, called VNREDSat-1, is of small size and low orbit. It will be used to monitor and take picture of the earth surface of different sizes and types and provide those pictures to center gathering earth-surface satellite pictures.

A controlling center will be built on an area of two hectares in the Hoa Lac High-Tech Park in Hanoi. —Xinhua

UN officials see promising prospect of Trans-Asian Railway Network

BANGKOK, 12 June—Chief of UN Asia-Pacific regional arm Dr Noeleen Heyzer said Thursday the Inter-governmental Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway Network, with China being an important party, will play a significant role in boosting intra-regional trade.

“The agreement is a framework for coordinating the approach for railway development in Asia-Pacific region. It links basically the hinterland of Asia to the coastal area of development,” said the executive secretary of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in an interview with Xinhua at the ESCAP headquarters on Thursday, right after a ceremony marking the agreement coming into force.

Dr Heyzer, who is also the UN Under-Secretary-General, said that she thinks that currently it is extremely difficult for Asia to trade within itself, citing it lacks the infrastructure development as well as connectivity across borders to facilitate trade. “In fact, if you look at the exports, Asia is more integrated with the rest of the world than with itself. Only 37 percent of all the exports of Asia is done within the Asian region.”—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Acut global warming could shift monsoon patterns, hurt agriculture

WASHINGTON, 12 June—At times in the distant past, an abrupt change in climate has been associated with a shift of seasonal monsoons to the south, causing more rain to fall over the regions than in the Earth’s tropical regions, and leading to a dramatic drop in global vegetation growth, a new study concludes.

If similar changes were to happen to the Earth’s climate today as a result of global warming — as scientists believe is possible — this might lead to drier tropics, more wildfires and declines in agricultural production in some of the world’s most heavily populated regions, according to a report to be published Friday in the Science journal.

The findings by researchers from Oregon State University (OSU), the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Desert Research Institute in Nevada, were based on oxygen isotopes in air from ice cores, and supported by previously published data from ancient stalagmites found in caves. The research was supported by the National Science Foundation.

The data confirming these effects were unusually compelling, researchers said. “Changes of this type have been theorized in climate models, but we’ve never before had detailed and precise data showing such a widespread impact of abrupt climate change,” said Ed Brook, an OSU professor of geosciences. “We didn’t really expect to find such large, fast environmental changes recorded by the whole atmosphere. The data are pretty hard to ignore.”—Xinhua
Brazil recovers three more bodies from Air France flight 447

BRASILIA, 12 June— Three more bodies of the victims of the Air France passenger plane that crashed in the Atlantic have been recovered near Fernando de Noronha archipelago, bringing the total number found to 44, Brazilian Air Force said on Thursday.

The bodies were located by a plane searching the open seas for bodies or debris from the crashed airplane, and were recovered by the Constitution, a Brazilian navy ship, which sailed to the site later, Brazilian Air Force’s Lieutenant-Brigadier Ramon Borges Cardoso said.

“It is expected that the bodies will arrive at the archipelago early on Saturday,” Cardoso said.

He added that there are possibilities of finding more bodies in the area. “However, we did not collect any remains of the plane on Thursday,” he said.

Cardoso said that the first 16 recovered bodies were taken to the Institute of Legal Medicine to be identified, while 25 other bodies were taken to the Fernando de Noronha archipelago for preliminary identification.

China’s industrial output up 8.9% in May

BEIJING, 12 June— China’s industrial output expanded 8.9 percent in May from a year earlier, faster than the 7.3 percent rate in April, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Friday.

The figure exceeded analysts’ forecasts of less than 8 percent.

Large industrial enterprises (those with annual revenue of more than 5 million yuan, or about 714,285 US dollars) also reported May output growth of 8.9 percent.

Their expansion rate was 7.1 percent points less than a year earlier but 1.6 percentage points above that of April.

The sales ratio of industrial products for May was 97.34 percent, 0.49 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

Americans’ net worth shrinks 2.6% in first quarter

WASHINGTON, 12 June— American households’ net worth fell 2.6 percent in the first quarter of this year to $50.38 trillion dollars, the lowest level since the third quarter of 2004, the Federal Reserve reported on Thursday.

The drop of 2.6 percent, or $1.33 trillion dollars, came as a result of sinking stock market and falling home prices.

In the first three months of this year, the value of Americans’ stock holdings dropped 5.8 percent from the final quarter of 2008, while the value of real-estate holdings fell 2.4 percent, according to the report.

Net worth represents total assets such as homes and checking accounts, minus liabilities like mortgages and credit card debt. However, the report showed that the speed at which households’ net worth shrank slowed in the first quarter of this year.

In the October-December period last year, the deepest point of the recession which started in late 2007, Americans’ net worth fell by 8.6 percent according to the Fed’s revised figures. That was the largest drop on records dating back to 1951.

With wealth declining and unemployment rate rising, the worry is that consumers could cut their spending, delaying any recovery.

Consumer spending accounts for two thirds of overall economic activity and is a major force pushing the economy to grow.

Vietnam to host International Tourism Exhibition 2009

HANOI, 12 June— The International Tourism Exhibition 2009 will take place in the Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam in October this year, the local newspaper People’s Army reported on Friday.

According to Vietnam National Administration of Tourism, the fair will draw about 180 tourism sellers and 200 buyers from more than 13 countries and regions.

Industry insiders and investment-makers from European, American, and Asian countries will attend the fair to share experiences in tourism-related businesses, said the administration.

In addition, the fair will also be a chance for participants to get involved in other activities like international conference on outlook of investment tourism, friendship golf tournament between sellers and buyers, art performance of foreign artists from Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Malaysia.

Man allegedly tries to use fake $100 at McDonald’s

Police have arrested a man for trying to pass a fake $100 bill at McDonald’s, leading to a find of $16,000 more in counterfeit C-notes. Police said the man was arrested Monday after an employee at McDonald’s reported someone trying to pass a counterfeit $100 bill.

A preliminary investigation led police to $9,700 in counterfeit $100 bills. Further investigation by Madison police and the U.S. Secret Service resulted in the seizure of an additional $6,200 in counterfeit $100 bills.

The man was charged with first-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument and was taken to the Madison County jail, where he is being held on $20,000 bond.

Man admits robbing six banks — all on Thursdays

If it’s Thursday, it’s time to rob a bank. That was the schedule followed by a man who admitted robbing six New Jersey banks on consecutive Thursdays between late January and early March.

Police said the man admitted he robbed five others as well.

A rare new white rhino calf lies next to its mother during its debut at the Madrid Zoo. The unnamed calf is only the third in the world to have been conceived through artificial insemination.

A woman has been arrested on suspicion of theft after police say she placed fake ads in a newspaper she worked for to boost her salary. Officer Katie Flood said the woman was hired as an advertising salesperson for the Lincoln Weekly, a newspaper started in January.

Flood said the woman was paid a salary, but would earn more based on the size of each edition of the paper. Flood said the woman placed plenty of ads in the paper, but when the paper’s owner began calling businesses seeking payment for the ads, he was told no ads had been bought.

Police said the woman made up the ads to increase the paper’s size and get more money. Police said she placed $12,000 worth of fake ads in the newspaper.

Japan’s Paralympic tennis champion Shingo Kunieda, seen here, believes that his success can serve as an inspiration to other disabled people and encourage them to take up the sport.

A folk stunt performer shows unique skill of blowing the beverage bottles for music melody, during the Traditional Chinese Folk Stunts Show, on the Xijinda Ancient Street of Zhenjiang City, east China’s Jiangsu Province. The folk artists from around the country put on myriad of traditional Chinese folk stunt shows, to mark the 4th Cultural Heritage Day of the country, which falls on 13 June this year.
Easy access to higher education, better health care in Bago Division (West)

Article: Win Naing (Kyemon); Photos; Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)

General Hospital (Pyay) provides better health care to local people.

(level technological institution in Pyay, Bago Division (West), was the government technical college, so the students had to join Yangon Technological University or Mandalay Technological University if they wished to do further studies in the technological field.

In 1999, the college was upgraded to a university, and so were the syllabuses to be on a par with that prescribed by the Technological Promotion Board. So, local students had opportunities to pursue higher education in their regions, said the rector.

He said, “Our university is intended to produce a growing number of well-qualified graduates in the engineering field. So, we stimulate the students to cultivate a sense of self-discipline, and we have equipped our university with various forms of teaching and learning aids. Students are interested in their studies, and here the number of the students is growing year by year.

They also study hard in the subjects, so we have been able to produce a growing number of qualified graduates.”

A girl student said, “I live in Hsin-mee-hsw, Paukkhaung Township. I am attending second year Mechatronic course. The university is not far from my home, so I go home in the weekends. Bus fare is not high, and the transport is smooth, so there are many students from Rakheine State. We have to do a lot of practical. I want to become a reliable engineer.”

Maung Thaha Aung (B.Tech) from Yangon said, “What I want to be is an engineer. My matriculation marks are not high, and the university I could join was a university of distance education. A student with no high marks can join a technological university if he gets high grades in the courses in Maubin and Pyay technological universities. I have learnt that in Pyay Technological University, teaching methods are effective, and students have to abide by the disciplines strictly. So, I decided to join this university.”

The rector.

Translation: MS Kyemon: 7-6-2009
Information Ministry staff urged to join hands with people to successfully realize State’s seven-step Road Map with political, organizational and security outlooks

Anniversary ceremonies aimed at reviewing strong and weak points in previous year’s performances and awarding outstanding staff

Old students of YUCS to be pay respects in July

Yangon, 12 June—A ceremony to pay respects to faculty members of Yangon University of Computer Studies of old students (1986-2007), will be held in July in conjunction with a cash donation in memory of faculty members who passed away before the respect paying ceremony. For detail information, please contact Ma Min Thu (Tel: 0950-06329), Ko Min Oo (Tel: 0950-07166), Ma San Yin Myint (Tel: 652264), Ko Tun Khine (0950-47915), Ko Tin Htoo Khine (0951-42789), Ko Kyaw Kyaw Naing (0950-52101), Ko Zaw Min Htwe (0951-90290), Ko Kyaw Myat Thaw (0950-34426), Ma Padamya Kay Khine (0951-46509), Ko Ye Wint Htoo (0950-03700) and Ma Ei Mon Win (0951-77565), the Ministry of Information and Public Affairs (Ms. Khin Maung Htay). They provided cash assistance for children of the staff of the Ministry of Information and to hold the 37th Anniversary of PPE. The ceremony, said, were aimed at reviewing strong and weak points in previous year’s performances and awarding outstanding staff. The minister urged the staff to make efforts to improve their respective tasks. He said he was pleased to present awards to 17 one-distinction winners, two two-distinction winners, two three-distinction winners, two four-distinction winners and four five-distinction winners, totalling 28 who passed the matriculation examination for 2008-2009 academic year. He continued to say that in the present education and technology age, the students are to try hard to become educated and technologically qualified persons have the ability to develop themselves, their families and the nation. In conclusion, the minister urged the staff of the ministry to join hands with the people to successfully realize the seven-step Road Map of the State with political, organizational and security outlooks and to train the staff to become qualified media persons who are supporters of national interest. The minister presented prizes to the outstanding students of the staff. Next, the minister handed exercise books and cash assistance of over K8,565,550 for 3265 students at primary, middle, high school levels and university level through Head of Office U Myint Htwe, Director-General U Khin Maung Hay of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise. The minister urged the staff of the Ministry of Information and Public Affairs (Ms. Khin Maung Htay) to join hands with people to successfully realize State’s seven-step Road Map with political, organizational and security outlooks and to train the staff to become qualified media persons who are supporters of national interest.

Information Ministry staff urged to join hands with people to successfully realize State’s seven-step Road Map with political, organizational and security outlooks

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Yangon, 12 June—A ceremony to pay respects to faculty members of Yangon University of Computer Studies of old students (1986-2007), will be held in July in conjunction with a cash donation in memory of faculty members who passed away before the respect paying ceremony. For detail information, please contact Ma Min Thu (Tel: 0950-06329), Ko Min Oo (Tel: 0950-07166), Ma San Yin Myint (Tel: 652264), Ko Tun Khine (0950-47915), Ko Tin Htoo Khine (0951-42789), Ko Kyaw Kyaw Naing (0950-52101), Ko Zaw Min Htwe (0951-90290), Ko Kyaw Myat Thaw (0950-34426), Ma Padamya Kay Khine (0951-46509), Ko Ye Wint Htoo (0950-03700) and Ma Ei Mon Win (0951-77565), the Ministry of Information and Public Affairs (Ms. Khin Maung Htay). They provided cash assistance for children of the staff of the Ministry of Information and to hold the 37th Anniversary of PPE. The ceremony, said, were aimed at reviewing strong and weak points in previous year’s performances and awarding outstanding staff. The minister urged the staff to make efforts to improve their respective tasks. He said he was pleased to present awards to 17 one-distinction winners, two two-distinction winners, two three-distinction winners, two four-distinction winners and four five-distinction winners, totalling 28 who passed the matriculation examination for 2008-2009 academic year. He continued to say that in the present education and technology age, the students are to try hard to become educated and technologically qualified persons have the ability to develop themselves, their families and the nation. In conclusion, the minister urged the staff of the ministry to join hands with the people to successfully realize the seven-step Road Map of the State with political, organizational and security outlooks and to train the staff to become qualified media persons who are supporters of national interest. The minister presented prizes to the outstanding students of the staff. Next, the minister handed exercise books and cash assistance of over K8,565,550 for 3265 students at primary, middle, high school levels and university level through Head of Office U Myint Htwe, Director-General U Khin Maung Hay of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise. The minister urged the staff of the Ministry of Information and Public Affairs (Ms. Khin Maung Htay) to join hands with people to successfully realize State’s seven-step Road Map with political, organizational and security outlooks and to train the staff to become qualified media persons who are supporters of national interest.

Information Ministry staff urged to join hands with people to successfully realize State’s seven-step Road Map with political, organizational and security outlooks

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F&R Ministry holds rainy season tree planting ceremony

NAV PYI TAW, 12 June—The Ministry of Finance and Revenue held the first rainy season tree planting ceremony 2009 at Nay Pyi Taw Bank of Myanmar Economic Bank Head Office on Myatpan Thazin Road in Nay Pyi Taw Banks Zone, here, this morning.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun planted mango and Gangaw (Mesua ferrea) saplings.

Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, directors, general, managing-director departmental heads, officials and staff grew shady trees and vegetables.

The minister and party viewed cultivation of vegetables and perennial crops at staff quarters of the ministry in Danatheliki and Pyinnyatheliki wards.

Next, they looked into participation of staff in the tree growing ceremony at Budget Department, Internal Revenue Department and Central Bank of Myanmar. The minister planted a mango tree.

The deputy minister and departmental heads together with staff participated in the tree growing ceremony.

Today’s ceremony, they planted 1,150 saplings.—MNA

Magway Div observes World No Tobacco Day

NAV PYI TAW, 12 June—A ceremony in commemoration of World No Tobacco Day was held at the hall of Magway Division Health Department in Magway on 5 June morning with an address by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe. It was also attended by division level departmental heads, members of social organizations and staff from the health department.

ASEAN Energy meetings held

YANGON, 12 June—The Ministry of Energy, the ASEAN Energy Centre and the EE&C Practice for Energy Efficiency Management Centre of Japan jointly conducted the 4th Board of Judges BOJ for Energy Management Competition on 8 June, the 15th BOJ EE&C Practice for Energy Efficiency Building Competition on 10 and 11 June and the 13th EE&C Practice for Energy Efficiency Building Competition on 8 June. After hearing the reports on progress of production presented by in-charge of the factory, the mayor left necessary instructions.

Next, the mayor also looked into the progress of self-reliant tarred road in Chanmyathazi Township and housing project in Yadanabon Myothit.—MNA

Defence witness Daw Khin Moe Moe to appear for case against US citizen Mr John William Yettaw, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Daw Khin Khin Win, Ma Win Ma Ma

NAV PYI TAW, 12 June—The cases filed against US citizen Mr John William Yettaw, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Daw Khin Khin Win and Ma Win Ma Ma under Criminal Case 47/2009, 48/2009 and 49/2009 were heard at Yangon North District Court this morning.

The cases were put off to 10 am on 26 June for Yangon North District Court to question defence witness Daw Khin Moe Moe for Criminal Case 47/2009 to be heard under the order dated 9 June of Criminal Amendment No. 437/2009 of Yangon Division Court.

Indian Pharmaceuticals Exposition 2009 commences

YANGON, 12 June—Under the arrangement of Myanmar Medical Association and Myanmar Medicine and Pharmaceutical Entrepreneurs Association, an opening ceremony of Indian Pharmaceuticals Exposition 2009, organized by Indian Pharmaceuticals Executives Association and Indian Embassy, took place at Traders Hotel on Sule Road here this morning.

First, Mr Himanshu Sekhar Biswal from Indian Pharmaceuticals Executives Committee extended greet- ings. Indian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Aloke Sen, Director-General from the Ministry of Commerce U Khin Maung Lay and Chairman of Myanmar Medicine and Pharmaceti- cal Entrepreneurs Association Dr Win Sithu delivered speeches.

Next, Director Mr Raghveer Kini-M from Pharmexl explained facts about medicines produced by the Republic of India. Member of Organizing Committee Mr Sandeep Gemini spoke words of thanks for the exposition.

Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun and Indian Ambassador Mr Aloke Sen opened the exposition and visited the booths.

The exposition put on view up to 14 June from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. The get-together of buyers and sellers and medical symposiums will be held and those interested may participate.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun and Indian Ambassador Mr Aloke Sen formally open Indian Pharmaceuticals Exposition 2009. UMFCCI

Mandalay Mayor inspects regional development tasks

NAV PYI TAW, 12 June—Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han inspected the production processes of concrete block factory at Pyigyidagan Township on 4 June. After hearing the reports on progress of production presented by in-charge of the factory, the mayor left necessary instructions.

Next, the mayor also looked into the progress of self-reliant tarred road in Chanmyathazi Township and housing project in Yadanabon Myothit.—MNA
Central Command Commander
views sanitation tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 12 June—Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe viewed sanitation tasks in Amarapura Township Hospital and presented cash to patients and then he contributed cash donation to the hospital.

Next, the commander delivered an address at the coordination meeting of cultivation of monsoon paddy to meet the target and the coordination meeting of integration of sports and education at the meeting hall of the division.

The commander, wife and officials concerned attended the final women’s football match of Patron’s Cup of Mandalay Division Women’s Sports Association and prizes presenting ceremony and official presented the prizes to the winners.

Gwegyo Dam contributing to greening of Pakokku District

Article & Photos: Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)

Gwegyo Dam supplying water to summer paddy plantations through a drain.

(from page 16)

The region has 19 inches of rainfall yearly. Indeed, it is a hot and dry region with shortage of water. To store rainwater, the local people dug ponds in their villages. Water from the ponds is supplied to croplands and plantations. To be able to overcome the difficulty of water scarcity, Gwegyo Dam was constructed by damming Hsinmawin Creek, and arrangements were made to irrigate 400 acres of cultivable lands. As water from Shinma Hill and Kyaukhtet Hill flows into the creek, the water source is reliable for Gwegyo.

At present, water from Gwegyo Dam is being supplied regularly. A total of 85 acres of land were put under summer paddy and 250 acres under monsoon paddy. Seedling of paddy was nurtured on the soil prepared with sand and soap by practising the Japanese nurturing system. The plan is under way to cultivate monsoon paddy plantation with the use of irrigated water from the dam.

Local farmers grew cotton, sesame, beans, mung beans and green gram as double cropping. The local people produce jaggery from toddy palms that are plenty in the area. The region where the residents wanted water more than gold is now enjoying fruits of water supply. Now, the local farmers understand the goodwill of the government.

We saw thriving summer paddy plantations and toddy palms. During the visit, we had an interview with a local farmer. He said that the locals sought sources for drinking water and fetched it from far away places in the past. Due to lack of water for agriculture purpose, they missed the chance to grow summer and monsoon paddy. Thanks to construction of Gwegyo Dam, they have the opportunity to carry out agriculture task with the use of irrigation water. In addition, he gladly said that the local people have adequate drinking water.

The government built Gwegyo Dam for greening Pakokku District to be free from trouble of water scarcity. Therefore, the local people are enjoying fruits of the irrigation facility. As such, the residents have to make the best use of the irrigation water and maintain the dam and drains for their durability as the national duty.

Gothenburg, 11 June — Internet use continues to increase, this is especially true regarding social media. Older people in particular have increased the use of internet since 2007. However, television continues to have the large coverage in all groups with one exception, 15 to 24 year olds used the Internet more than they watched television an average day in 2008, according to a national survey of 4,500 persons, conducted by Nordicom at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

“We can also see how news consumption is changing. This suggests a new role for journalists, and viewers who are have more knowledge about, and are critical of, the media.” says Professor Ulla Carlsson, who directs the survey at Nordicom, the University of Gothenburg. Ever since 1979, Nordicom at the University of Gothenburg has been conducting Media Barometer, a survey of how Swedes use the media.

**Internet**

Total time spent on media.

**Gothenburg, 11 June — Internet use continues to increase, this is especially true regarding social media. Older people in particular have increased the use of internet since 2007. However, television continues to have the large coverage in all groups with one exception, 15 to 24 year olds used the Internet more than they watched television an average day in 2008, according to a national survey of 4,500 persons, conducted by Nordicom at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.**
Gates: Civilian casualties defeat for US, NATO in Afghanistan

BRUSSELS, 12 June—US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said Friday that civilian casualties in Afghanistan must be reduced as every casualty is a defeat for NATO and the US troops fighting in the country.

“Every civilian casualty, however caused, is a defeat for us and a setback for the Afghan government,” Gates told defense ministers whose countries contribute troops to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.

“We need to make more changes in the way we conduct our operations to overcome what I believe is one of our greatest strategic vulnerabilities in Afghanistan, that is, civilian casualties,” Gates quoted his statement delivered at the meeting at a press conference.

Gates said he has told Gen. Stanley McChrystal, whom he has hand-picked to command both ISAF and American troops in Afghanistan, to take the reduction of civilian casualties as one of his highest priorities.

Gates stressed that the issue must be addressed on ISAF-wide basis as 43 percent of air support missions are flown in support of non-US forces.

The American troop level is expected to surge to 68,000 by year end, doubling the number of troops committed to ISAF by allies and partner countries.

Four killed in north China quarry blast

HOHROTT, 12 June—Four workers were killed in a quarry blast in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

The accident happened at 9:50 a.m. Friday, when five people were working in a quarry belonging to the Fuyuan mining company of the Araxan League in the western part of the region. One man was seriously injured and the other three were slightly injured in the explosion.

Three workers were killed at the scene, while one who was seriously injured died on the way to the hospital. The fifth worker, who was the farthest from the dynamite, managed to escape, said an official surnamed Tian with the Araxan safety administrative bureau.

Police have detained the owner of the quarry and were investigating whether it had legal licenses for operation.

The cause of the blast is under investigation.

Confirmed cases of A/H1N1 flu rise to 114 in Oklahoma

HOUSTON, 12 June—The health department of the US state of Oklahoma Thursday confirmed 21 new cases of A/H1N1 flu, bringing the total confirmed cases to 114 in the state.

Earlier this week, the department reported the first death from A/H1N1 flu virus in the state. The victim was a 43-year old man in Kay County.

Last Friday, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on its website that the state of Oklahoma had 93 confirmed cases of A/H1N1 flu. Oklahoma and Tulsa are the two hardest-hit counties, with 32 and 24 confirmed cases respectively.

Confirmed cases of A/H1N1 flu rise to 25

HANOI, 12 June—Vietnam’s Ministry of Health said that the country confirmed two more influenza A/H1N1 cases, bringing the total number of flu patients to 25, Vietnam News Agency reported on Friday.

A seven-year-old boy, living in Ho Chi Minh City, was confirmed positive to the influenza virus after having contacts with two other A/H1N1 flu patients. Another returned to Vietnam from the United States, according to the report.

The two patients are being isolated and receiving treatments. Their health are in stable conditions, said the ministry.

It warned that people with flu symptoms like fever, cough and sore throat should be isolated, wear masks and report their health conditions to the nearest health agency.

Infected people were recommended not to be taken to the hospitals by public means of transport.
** CLAIMS DAY NOTICE **  
** MV XIANG DA VOY NO (9022) **  
Consignees of cargo carried on ** MV XIANG DA VOY NO (9022) ** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.6.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. 
* Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

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

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** CLAIMS DAY NOTICE **  
** MV DIBENA UNITY VOY NO (123) **  
Consignees of cargo carried on ** MV DIBENA UNITY VOY NO (123) ** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.6.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. 
* Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

** SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT **  
** MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY **  
** AGENT FOR: M/S CHAI PHUSAWAT MARITIME CO., LTD ** 
Phone No: 256919/256916/256912

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** CLAIMS DAY NOTICE **  
** MV SEA HORIZON VOY NO (07/2009) **  
Consignees of cargo carried on ** MV SEA HORIZON VOY NO (07/2009) ** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.6.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. 
* Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

** SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT **  
** MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY **  
** AGENT FOR: SANG THAI SHIPPING CO., LTD ** 
Phone No: 256924/256914

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** Tight squeeze ahead on space station **  
WASHINGTON, 12 June—Things may get a little tight at the international space station next week when it is set to be a temporary home to 13 astronauts with the arrival of the shuttle Endeavour and its seven crew. It will be the first time so many people have stayed on the orbiting station at once, and the 12 men and one woman will also represent the main countries involved in constructing the $100-billion-dollar outpost in space. Endeavour is on target to launch on Saturday morning at 07:17 am (1117 GMT) from Cape Canaveral in Florida. Things may get a little tight at the international space station next week when it is set to be a temporary home to 13 astronauts with the arrival of the shuttle Endeavour and its seven crew. —Internet

** Wife, husband both win lottery sums **  
VILLAROCA, 12 June—A Georgia couple said the excitement they felt winning $5,000 in the lottery was nothing compared to the thrill of winning $1 million the next week.Karen Hill, 34, of Villa Roca said she was pleased when her husband Chuck came home with a $5,000 Weekly WinFall ticket, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported on Thursday. “I never thought in a million years that I’d win anything, even the $5,000,” Hill said. “So I’m still in a state of shock.” However, she said the state of shock increased by a factor of 200 when she bought a winning Georgia Lottery ticket that paid out $1 million.

“I was really ecstatic about the $5,000,” Hill said, “but then, boom! When I got this one I was just like, ‘Wow, I can’t believe this. My life is going to change for the better’.” Hill said she and her husband plan to use their newfound riches to pay off their bills. —Internet

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** Mexico nabs drug suspect wanted in Tijuana battles **

** Mexico City, 12 June—** Mexican soldiers captured a suspected cartel member accused of killing two federal agents and leading bloody battles for smuggling routes in the northern city of Tijuana, authorities said on Thursday.

Jose Filiberto Parra Ramos appears in a US Drug Enforcement Administration poster of 10 men it believes have been locked in a violent power struggle since a split in the Arellano Felix cartel last year.

Soldiers captured Parra and three other drug suspects Wednesday in Tijuana using unspecified intelligence, the Defence Department and the Attorney General’s Office said in a statement.

The department said Parra is allied with Teodoro Garcia Simental, who is believed to be waging a bloody battle against reputed Arellano Felix cartel leader Fernando Sanchez Arellano, reputed heir to the Arellano Felix cartel. —Internet

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** Microsoft confirms plans to release anti-virus service **

WASHINGTON , 12 June — As it gets ready to launch a new operating system, Microsoft confirmed on Wednesday that it is getting ready to release a free anti-virus service later this year. The new service is currently code-named Morro, apparently after the Morro de Sao Paolo beach area in Brazil. Observers are expecting the free service to compete directly with McAfee and Symantec, two of the leading companies in this field. —Internet
India plans much solar power, slower emissions rise

BONN, 12 June—India will submit plans within weeks to slow its rise in carbon emissions significantly and to generate more solar power by 2020 than the whole world generates now, a senior climate official said on Thursday.

But the world’s fourth biggest emitter of greenhouse gases cannot say when its emissions will peak and start to decline, said Shyam Saran, special climate envoy to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Saran was speaking on the sidelines of a June 1-12 climate meeting in Bonn, the latest round of UN talks meant to lead to agreement in December on a pact to replace the Kyoto Protocol.

The talks are stuck on how far developing countries should share the cost of preparing for and curbing the worst effects of climate change and helping its victims.

“We are prepared to look at a significant deviation from business as usual (emissions),” provided this is supported by financing from rich countries, said Saran.

Dioxin linked to breast feeding ills

ROCHESTER, 12 June—Dioxin exposure during pregnancy can harm fast-changing breast tissue cells and that may cause some women to have trouble breastfeeding, US researchers said.

Corresponding author B. Paige Lawrence of the University of Rochester Medical Center said dioxins are generated mostly by the incineration of municipal and medical waste, especially certain plastics. Most people are exposed through diet.

Dioxins also get into the food supply when air emissions settle on farm fields and where livestock graze. Also, fish ingest dioxins and livestock graze. Also, fish ingest dioxins and related pollutants from food they eat.

Efforts have generated dioxins from organisms that produce them—prions. Lawrence said Lawrence said, because mammmary glands have a high rate of cell proliferation, especially during early to mid-pregnancy when the most rapid development of the mammary gland occurs.

Researchers also found that dioxin altered the induction of milk-producing genes, which occurs around the ninth day of pregnancy, and decreased the number of ducal branches and mature lobules in the mammary tissue.

Protein may predict cancer drug resistance

ROTTERDAM, 12 June—Dutch and US medical researchers have discovered a protein profile that may predict whether a breast cancer patient will be resistant to tamoxifen therapy.

Tamoxifen is a widely used and effective drug designed to treat breast cancer. But the scientists said resistance to tamoxifen is problematic in recurrent disease that affects 25 percent to 35 percent of patients because therapy-resistant metastatic tumor cells are a major cause of death.

In the new study, Arzu Umar of the Erasmus University Medical Center and colleagues in the Netherlands and Washington examined thousands of tumor cells taken from 31 tamoxifen therapy-sensitive and therapy-resistant tumors.

Using a combination of proteomic and mass-spectrometry approaches they identified a set of 100 proteins expressed at different abundance levels in the two tumor groups, highlighting a potential profile for tamoxifen resistance.

Possible new way to fight HIV discovered

MONTREAL, 12 June— Canadian researchers say they might have found a new way to fight the human immunodeficiency virus — the microorganism that produces AIDS. Scientists McGill University, Montreal’s Jewish General Hospital, and the Universities of Manitoba and British Columbia said they have determined the key cellular machinery co-opted by the HIV type-1 virus to hijack the human cell for its own benefit.

Once a cell is infected with HIV-1, activation of the virus’s gene generates a large HIV-1 RNA molecule known as the RNA genome, the researchers said. McGill Associate Professor Andrew Mouland and his colleagues discovered how the RNA genome is transported — or trafficked — from the cell nucleus to the inner surface of the plasma membrane. “There is a highway inside the human cell,” Mouland said. “When you drive your car ... you’re ‘trafficking’ the items in your trunk.”

Similarly, what we have shown is that HIV-1 commandeer the host cell’s endosomal machinery to traffic its structural proteins and RNA genome.

This trafficking can occur very fast in cells; so this is how these key components of HIV-1 so efficiently get to the plasma membrane, where the virus can begin to assemble.” The discovery is exciting, Mouland said, because now researchers have hopes they can begin to devise strategies to block the process.

Czech scientists take photos of solar corona

PRAGUE, 12 June — Czech scientists have taken the pictures of the solar corona which were carried on the cover of the latest issue of the prestigious international journal of Nature this week.

Czech experts from the Technical University in Brno (VUT) have developed a mathematical method which enables to process unique visualizations of the corona. The visualization helps astrophysicists explore the top layer of the solar atmosphere.

Finland confirms fifth A/H1N1 flu case

HELSINKI, 12 June — The Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare confirmed on Thursday the fifth case of A/H1N1 flu in Finland.

The male patient in southwest Finland returned from Australia on Monday and went to hospital on Wednesday, complaining of A/H1N1 flu symptoms. The man is now in good condition and quarantined at home. Relevant departments are searching for other passengers who traveled with the patient on the same flight.

Cuba reports first citizen infected by A/H1N1 flu

HAVANA, 12 June — Cuban Public Health Ministry on Thursday reported the first citizen infected by A/H1N1 influenza. The patient is a 65-year-old Cuban woman who traveled to the United States in May, said the ministry, adding that she received medical assistance and is recovering.

Number of A/H1N1 flu cases in India increases to 15

NEW DELHI, 12 June — Four more people were tested positive for the A/H1N1 flu virus in India Thursday, raising the total number of such cases in the country to 15, reported the semi-official Press Trust of India.

In New Delhi, a 41-year-old woman, who traveled from Haiti, was the latest case of A/H1N1 flu and has been admitted to the designated Ram Manohar Lohia hospital, said the report.
**United accepts record $131m Madrid bid for Ronaldo**

**BEIJING, 12 June —** Manchester United has agreed to sell Cristiano Ronaldo to Real Madrid for a world record 80 million pounds (131 million US dollars), media reports said on Friday.

“Manchester United have received a world-record, unconditional offer of 80 million pounds for Cristiano Ronaldo from Real Madrid,” said a statement on the website of Manchester United club, under the headline “Reds accept 80m Ronaldo bid.”

The statement continued: “At Cristiano’s request — who has again expressed his desire to leave — and after discussion with the player’s representatives, United have agreed to give Real Madrid permission to talk to the player. “Matters are expected to be concluded by 30 June. The club will not comment until further notice.”

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**Fabregas pledges future to Arsenal**

**LONDON, 12 June —** Arsenal captain Cesc Fabregas has moved to quell speculation over his future by pledging to stay with the Premier League club.

With Real Madrid embarking on a dramatic spending spree over the last week, which has seen the Spanish club sign Kaka for a world record 60 million pounds and then make an 80 million pounds offer for Cristiano Ronaldo, it is inevitable that Spain midfielder Fabregas should be thrown into the mix as a potential Bernabeu signing.

But the 22-year-old, who joined Arsenal from Barcelona’s youth academy, has no plans to emulate Ronaldo’s proposed move to Spain.

Fabregas said in an interview with Arsenal TV Online: “I would have never signed that if I did not think I was capable of making it to the end of the contract. The boss knows that I really want to stay here.

Fabregas, who is under contract until at least 2014, added: “Of course I see my future at Arsenal. I have a very long contract with the club,” Fabregas said in an interview with Arsenal TV Online. “I would have never signed that if I did not think I was capable of making it to the end of the contract. The boss knows that I really want to stay here.

Fabregas was quoted as saying during a sports tournament at Matosinhos in northern Portugal. “I just say what I feel - and what I feel is that I hope I can be at Arsenal for many years and lift trophies which they have never lifted before, like the Champions League, to lift the Premier League, FA Cup.”

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**Olympic champion Bolt wins 100m in Canada**

**CANBERRA, 12 June —** Triple Olympic gold winner Usain Bolt won his first 100-meter race since an April car crash, taking the title at the Festival of Excellence meet on Thursday.

The Jamaican star, who won Beijing Olympic gold and set world records in the 100 and 200 meters last August, took the title by clocking 10.00 seconds.

American Shawn Crawford was second in 10.25 seconds, with American Ivory Williams third in 10.28 seconds. The 22-year-old crashed his car in a ditch two months ago and required stitches after having a procedure to remove thorns from his left foot as he exitd the vehicle.

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**Top seed Zheng knocked out in Birmingham**

**BIRMINGHAM, 12 June —** Chinese top seed Zheng Jie was dumped out of the WTA tournament in the third round here on Thursday by Slovakian Magdalena Rybarikova.

Rybarikova, seeded 13, won 7-6 (12/10), 6-4 in a busy day of tennis that saw most players out twice on the courts. India’s Sania Mirza moved into the quarter-finals with a 7-6 (7/5), 3-6, 6-2 victory over Russian fifth seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova.

Mirza demonstrated that she is fully recovered from a career-threatening wrist injury with an impressive performance against the world number 31. Pavlyuchenkova, 17, had already beaten Britian’s Elena Baltacha in three tough sets earlier on Thursday and Mirza took advantage of the teenager’s tiredness to continue her superb start to the grass-court season.

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**S Africa’s Zuma kicks off countdown to World Cup**

**CAPE TOWN, 12 June —** South African President Jacob Zuma on Thursday kicked a football into a crowd of cheering construction workers at Cape Town’s new stadium, marking the one year countdown to the 2010 World Cup.

“We have made it,” Zuma said to cheers in the new 4.45 billion rand (558 million dollar) Green Point Stadium, which is still under construction. At 4:00 pm (1400 GMT), precisely one year before the World Cup’s kick-off, a girl passed the ball to Zuma which he kicked into the stands. —Internet

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**Atletico keen to keep Aguero, Forlan**

**MADRID, 12 June —** Atletico Madrid say they are not willing to part with their Argentine star Sergio “Kun” Aguero despite reported interest from Chelsea, or Uruguayan stiker Diego Forlan.

The 21-year-old Aguero, who scored 17 goals last season to help Atletico claim a place in the Champions League, is one of the hottest properties in European football. British media reports on Wednesday said Chelsea had launched a 45-million-pound (53-million-euro) bid to sign him.

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**Deco seeking Chelsea exit**

**LISBON, 12 June —** Chelsea’s Portuguese midfielder Deco says he is unhappy at the London club and wants to leave, media reports said on Thursday.

The Brazilian-born playmaker moved to Chelsea last year from Barcelona, but struggled to make an impact under Luiz Felipe Scolari and was then left out entirely by Guus Hiddink. “I didn’t like the experience at Chelsea. I want to find another solution and another challenge,” the 31-year-old was quoted as saying during a sports tournament at Matoinhos in northen Portugal.

Last month, Deco admitted he was in talks with Inter Milan about a possible move to the north Italian club coached by former Porto boss Jose Mourinho. However the Portugal international declined to say if there had been any developments. “I am aware there is some interest but I can’t say anything about it,” he told reporters at the tournament. —Internet
Schwarzenegger threatens to close state government

LOS ANGELES, 12 June — California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger said that emergency borrowing would be too expensive and that his threat to block it was necessary to prod lawmakers into swift action, according to the paper.

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The California government would come to a “grinding halt” rather than agree to a high-interest loan to keep the government if a budget deal isn’t reached, it was reported in remarks published by the Los Angeles Times.

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Gwegyo Dam contributing to greening of Pakokku District

Article & Photos: Khin Maung Than (Sethmu)

Pakokku District in Magway Division is a hot and dry region where water for agriculture purpose and for drinking is scarce. Therefore, the Head of State gave guidance to search water sources for contributing to rice sufficiency and greening of Pakokku District.

With the aim of greening the region, ensuring availability of water for agriculture and drinking purposes and undertaking cultivation of paddy in line with the guidance of the Head of State, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation built dams and lakes in Pakokku District. In this regard, the Irrigation Department constructed 47 dams, the local and lakes in Pakokku District. In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation built dams line with the guidance of the Head of State, the purposes and undertaking cultivation of paddy in availability of water for agriculture and drinking is scarce. Therefore, the Head of State gave guidance to search water sources for contributing to rice sufficiency and greening of Pakokku District.

One summer day, the news team, together with Staff Officer U Myo Kyaw Thu of Sekpyu Township Irrigation Department, arrived at Bagang-NyaungU Port from Sekpyu via Chauk. We left NyaungU Port for Pakokku Port by motor boat. We saw beautiful sunset scene of Ayeyawady River. At Pakokku Port, we met with Staff Officer U Win Myint Oo of Pakokku District Assistant Director’s Office (Maintenance) and made a trip to Gwegyo Dam the following day.

We went to Gwegyo Dam Project along Pakokku-Yesagyo Road and turned to the west. After going a four-mile trip, we saw the dam near Gwegyo Village. Construction of Gwegyo Dam started in 2005-2006 and it was completed in 2006-2007.

New antibiotics could come from DNA binding compound that kills bacteria in 2 minutes

BERLIN, 12 June — A comprehensive investigation into the axis complex of sea urchins (Echinoidea), an internal structure with unknown function, has shown that within that group of marine invertebrates there exists a structural evolutionary interdependence of various internal organs.

The research demonstrates that the approach of combining all structural data available on a given organ in combination with a broad taxonomic coverage can yield novel insights into the evolution of internal organ systems.

Alexander Ziegler, from Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, led a team of researchers who used a high-resolution non-invasive imaging technique (magnetic resonance imaging) to compare the structure of the axis complex of specimens from almost all sea urchin orders.

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Enigmatic sea urchin structure catalogued

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