Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Belarusian President

**NAY PYI TAW, 3 July—**Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Alexander R. Lukashenko, President of the Republic of Belarus, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Belarus, which falls on 3 July 2009.  

* MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Belarusian counterpart

**NAY PYI TAW, 3 July—**General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Sergey Sidorsky, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Belarus, which falls on 3 July 2009.—MNA

Grow fast-growing multipurpose eucalyptus on wider scale

We had an opportunity to attend the monsoon tree-planting ceremony held to mark the Environmental Conservation Day 2009 at the watershed area of Hti-thein Lake in Taunggyi, Shan State (South).

The lake can store 161 million gallons of freshwater and it supplies 250,000 gallons of water to Taunggyi as a result of annual establishment of plantations in the watershed area and conservation of nearby woodlands.

I noticed that many of the saplings were eucalyptus, so I asked Director U Htay Sein of Shan State (South) Forest Department about that. He said that they also grew eucalyptus saplings to make forests in the deforested areas, produce forest products, get industrial raw materials, help conserve the environment, get raw materials for traditional medicine enterprises, and boost family incomes. Eucalyptus was native to hardwood species and was equal to teak and ironwood in terms of quality, so they organized local people to grow three teak saplings and 20 eucalyptus saplings a family, he said.

Eucalyptus grows well in tropical sandy soil, coastal soil, hilly sandy soil, silt soil, and even in poor soil with tropical climate. Its roots grow fast in sandy soil, so eucalyptus trees can be used as wind-breaking trees.

*(See page 7)*

*A eucalyptus plantation in Thamaingkham, Kalaw Township.*

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation
Myanmar women to treasure, exalt their prestige

Myanmar women by nature are a people that relates the fine tradition of fostering national prestige and integrity from one generation to the next. Myanmar women have preserved cultural heritage and national character since time immemorial. It is required of the people to ensure perpetuation of the motherland and national culture in the global community.

Each and every citizen is duty-bound to defend the nation not only by risking life and limb but also by preserving the Myanmar culture. In particular, they have to preserve and promote the national culture with nationalist fervour.

Women’s cherishing and protecting own race depicts their prestige, might and value. Myanmar women by law and by tradition have enjoyed fundamental rights equally with their male counterparts for generations. They do their bit in serving the interest of the nation and the people. So, they have to place emphasis on boosting their dignity and fine traditions.

Women make up more than half of the nation’s population. The Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation has been formed with the aim of improving the living conditions for women. The federation devotes itself to the tasks for life security, protection, and promoting the social, cultural and living standard of women.

The 3rd July, on which the Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs was set up, was designated as Myanmar Women’s Day, and it has been celebrated yearly since 1998, thus honouring Myanmar women for their preserving fine traditions, serving public interest and keeping abreast of their male counterparts in terms of work.

Myanmar women have high calibre and have worked with heart and soul in successive periods. Therefore, it is the duty of the mass of today’s Myanmar women to continue to appreciate, preserve and enhance their image, while maintaining the noble tradition of protecting own race with patriotic spirit and preserving the national culture.

Paper reading session on organic farming will be held

YANGON, 2 July— Organized by the Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock and Fishery Sciences and the Myanmar Fruits and Vegetable Cultivation and Producers Association, the paper-reading session on Organic Agriculture Practices in Myanmar will be held at UMECCI Office Tower in Lannadaw Township from 8 am to 5 pm on 8 July.

Those wishing to take part in the discussions may contact the association at 262/264 on 6th Floor of Block A at Dagon Centre on Pyay Road in Sanyuqon Township, Tel: 514226.

MNA

The Full Moon of Waso, the Dhammacakkavattana Day falls on 6th July 2009. The Full Moon Day of Waso associates with the four great noble and significant events related to the precious life of the Omniscient Gotama Buddha. On that holy day, the Buddha-to-be (the Gotama Buddha) took pregnancy in the womb of Queen Maya, wife of His Majesty King Suhododana of Kapilavatthu Kingdom, and also on that day at the age of 29, the Buddha-to-be renounced the world, and after having full attainment of the Buddhahood, the Gotama Buddha preached His first great sermon, Dhammacakkavattana Sutta to His five disciples, in which He explained the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path, on the Full Moon Day of Waso. All five disciples received ordination and formed the first nucleus of the holy brotherhood of disciples known as the Sangha.

And also, on the Full Moon Day of Waso, the Omniscient Buddha performed the great miracle called the Twin Miracle. The reason for this was to dispel the wrong views of heretics, and to prove that He possessed the attributes of a Buddha. It is the miracle of water and fire.

The Dhammacakkavattana Sutta Day Over 2540 years ago, the unrivalled Omniscient Buddha preached His first great sermon, the Dhammacakkavattana Sutta to His five disciples (Kondanna and other four) in the Deer park, now known as Saranath, India, on the Full Moon Day of Waso. In commemoration of this significant and holy event associated with the precious life of the Buddha, the Buddhist peoples across the Buddhist world celebrate the Dhammacakkavattana Sutta Day on this Full Moon Day of Waso by observing precepts delivered by members of the Sangha and respectfully listening to the Dhammacakkavattana Sutta recited by members of the Sangha.

And also, the generous Buddhist peoples perform meritorious deeds such as offering Waso robes, alms and other offerings to the members of Sangha on the Full Moon Day of Waso, the Dhammacakkavattana Day.

Rains retreat period, Vassavasa

During the three months of monsoon rains, Bhikkhus go into retreat at a monastery designated before hand at the start of the rainy season. This practice was introduced during the life-time of the Buddha. Before the Buddha decreed the rains retreat period, Bhikkhus walked across fields under cultivation. People started to criticize them as some people believed that plants and even drops of water were living beings. Why is it that the disciples of the Buddha go on travels all the year round and trample young plants and insects into oblivion while even members of other sects do not go on journeys during the rains? Even birds and animals have the good sense to stay in their nests or dens during the rains, people complained. To put an end to this controversy the Buddha decreed that the rains-retreat period be observed.

Rains-retreat period may be observed by taking up the designated residence during one of the two periods:

(1) Earlier rains-retreat period (purimavassavasa), commencing from the day after the full moon of Waso (roughly corresponding to July) and ending on the full moon day of Thadingyut (roughly corresponding to October);

(2) Later rains-retreat period (pacchimavassavasa), commencing from the day after the full moon of Wagaung (roughly corresponding to August) and ending on the fullmoon day of Tazaungmon (roughly corresponding to November).

Full Moon of Waso, Dhammacakkavattana Sutta Day

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

Foreign Minister sends message of felicitations to Belarusian counterpart

Myanmar Gazette

Hlawga Park kept open on Waso Fullmoon Day

MNA
Gunmen kidnap govt official in SE Nigeria

LAGOS, 2 July—Unidentified gunmen kidnapped the executive assistant to the southwest Nigeria’s Oyo State governor on administration, Richard Fagbemi, in Ibadan on Wednesday. The governor’s aide was said to have travelled to the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, on a private visit, was kidnapped while returning between Ondo and Edo states on Sunday. He was kidnapped together with his wife and three children.

The kidnappers are demanding a ransom of 20 million naira for their release. The governor’s aide could not be reached by his family members by phone, after the kidnappers got in touch with his son, who is a lawyer, to let him know that they had been kidnapped.

France wants to evacuate 13-year-old girl survivor of Yemenia air crash

PARIS, 2 July—French Cooperation Minister Alain Joyeaud said on Wednesday the French government wants to evacuate the 13-year-old girl who miraculously survived the Yemenia air crash on Tuesday.

“France wants to evacuate the young girl and see how to help her father who wants to travel to the Comoros to find his wife’s body,” Joyeaud said. French sources confirmed that the young girl got in touch with his father and her father said he wants to travel to the Comoros.

The girl clung to a piece of debris and was reportedly able to swim after being thrown from the Yemenia jet that crashed into the Indian Ocean. Officials said she was only survivor from the 153 people on board the doomed Airbus A310. According to the sources, the girl was traveling with her mother to the Comoros to visit relatives. Her mother was still missing. France’s Comoros news agency confirmed that the safety record of the plane, which had been banned from France’s airspace, was that the tragedy could have been avoided.

Northern Chile shaken by 5.5 magnitude earthquake

SANTIAGO, 2 July—An earthquake measuring 5.5 magnitude on the Richer-Scale hit the far north of Chile on Wednesday at 2:30 pm local time, shaking Arica, Tarapaca and Antofagasta without causing major injuries or material damage.

Its epicenter was 30 kilometers north of Pica, or around 2,000 kilometers north of the capital Santiago. The University of Chile’s Seismology Service reported.

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The kidnappers allegedly demand a ransom of 20 million naira for their release. The governor’s aide could no longer be reached by his family members by phone, after the kidnappers got in touch with his son, who is a lawyer, to let him know that they had been kidnapped.

Iran’s election “victory for anti-imperialist camp”

TEHERAN, 2 July—Iran’s President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Wednesday that Iran’s presidential elections mark a “victory for the anti-imperialist camp,” the official IRNA news agency reported.

“Iran’s election results mark a big victory for the entire anti-imperialist camp. Absolutely from now on, we will deal with global issues more powerfully,” Ahmadinejad said. Ahmadinejad made the remarks in a meeting with the visiting Venezuelan Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez in Tehran on Wednesday. We should use all possible means to promote bilateral relations. Iran and Venezuela will stand by each other firmly until final victory and will make our ties stronger than ever before,” Ahmandinejad quoted as saying by IRNA.

“Campaign against imperialism brings the two countries closer and in this way victory is with those not sitting idle.” Ramirez said. Ramirez also urged expansion of bilateral ties, saying that, “We should follow up joint projects with full strength. Undoubtedly, promotion of cooperation will create a new atmosphere for cooperation in Latin America.” —Internet

This recent handout photo provided by the Polish customs office shows scorpions discovered by Polish customs agents in Warsaw in a package posted from Hong Kong.—INTERNET

Palestinians still have one chance to reconcile

RAMALLAH, 2 July—A Fatah official on Wednesday said the upcoming round of inter-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo would be the last chance for the rivals to reconcile.

Nabil Shaath, a member of President Mahmoud Abbas’s party delegation to the national dialogue, called on Egypt to “expose the party that blocks reaching an agreement” if the final round, due to start on 25 July, failed. On Tuesday, Islamic Hamas movement and Fatah announced that the sixth round of dialogue ended without reaching an agreement. Egypt wanted this session to be the last one and was intended to declare the agreement on 7 July.

The seventh round later this month is expected to be the final round of talks Hamas and Fatah have been pursuing since February, hoping to reconcile and restore political unity to the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip and the Fatah-ruled West Bank.—INTERNET

Obama, Medvedev discuss importance of US-Russian summit

WASHINGTON, 2 July—US President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev have attached great importance to the US-Russian summit due next week, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said on Wednesday.

During their telephone conversation on Tuesday, Obama and Medvedev discussed issues set to dominate their summit, including bilateral effort to reach a deal on the reduction of nuclear weapons, Gibbs told a news briefing. Obama, together with his wife Michelle, is due to visit Moscow on Monday, the first since he took office in January.

During his stay in Moscow, Obama is expected to discuss with Medvedev and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on a new pact to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty that expires this December. The scheduled visit is expected to be part of the efforts by the Obama White House to “reset” Washington-Moscow ties as promised by the new US administration.—INTERNET

An old woman makes a victory gesture to Iraqi army in Baghdad, capital of Iraq, on 1 July, 2009, the first day of US combat troops withdrawing from major cities in Iraq.—INTERNET

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Its epicenter was 30 kilometers north of Pica, or around 2,000 kilometers north of the capital Santiago. The University of Chile’s Seismology Service reported.
Shanghai sells out 40,000 World Expo tickets to individuals

SHANGHAI, 2 July — More than 40,000 individual tickets for the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai have been sold as of 5:30 pm Wednesday, event organizers said.

The financial and business center started to sell the tickets to individuals on Wednesday. Tickets are sold by China Mobile, China Telecom, Bank of Communications and China Post in 2,796 outlets. People can also buy tickets online or by telephone.

There are no long queues for the tickets as the six-month-long event is 10 months away, said Qian Chenhui, a manager at the Bank of Communications’ Shanghai branch.

Buyers don’t have to bring their ID cards as there is no limit as how many can one person buy at one time.

Blue tickets for the fair’s opening and closing and special dates — 1 to 3 May, 1 to 7 October (National Day holiday) and 25 to 31 — cost 200 yuan (29.4 US dollars). Yellow tickets for regular fair days cost 160 yuan (23.5 US dollars). Silver tickets for the fair’s opening and closing and special dates — 1 to 3 May, 1 to 7 October (National Day holiday) and 1 to 7 October (National Day holiday) — cost 200 yuan (29.4 US dollars).

The sale of group tickets started on 27 March. So far, about three million group tickets have been sold.

The event, which lasts from 1 May to 31 Oct next year, is expected to attract 70 million visitors, the organizer said.

Economist says China’s economic recovery to be sustainable

BEIJING, 2 July — Fan Gang, China’s renowned economist and central bank advisor, said Wednesday that China’s economic recovery is poised to make a U-turn. Fan, director of the National Economic Research Institute, made the comment at a financial forum organized by Globe, a biweekly magazine run by Xinhua News Agency.

“I believe the current recovery has been confirmed and can be sustained,” said Fan, also a member of the monetary policy committee of the People’s Bank of China, the country’s central bank. Fan said he was optimistic about China’s economic recovery, adding that the recovery would take the shape of a narrow-bottomed “U”, instead of an “L”, indicating a period of continued slow growth, or a “W”, marking fluctuations in the recovery.

Fan said the country’s response to the financial crisis, including a 4-trillion-yuan stimulus package and a record budgeted deficit of 950 billion yuan (139 billion US dollars) for 2009, would be sufficient to sustain a certain growth despite the slowdown. — Internet

Gold surges as dollar went sharply down

CHICAGO, 2 July — Gold futures on the COMEX Division of the New York Mercantile Exchange ended higher on Wednesday on a falling dollar, recovering from the previous day’s loss. Silver and platinum both went up, too. Gold price for August delivery gained 13.90 US dollars, or 1.5 percent, finishing at 941.30 dollars an ounce.

Dollar plummeted after the Reuters reported that China has required to discuss the issue of a new global reserve currency at next week’s G8 summit in Italy, which pressured dollar to go down with the rate against euro dipping as low as 1.4201 dollars, the lowest level since 5 June.

In a report released recently, the Chinese central bank reiterated to push the reform of the international currency system to make it more diversified and lessen dollar’s role as the world’s reserve currency. Analysts consider this change is bullish to gold as dollar’s appeal is reduced. — Internet

US again delays releasing CIA interrogation report

WASHINGTON, 2 July — The US Government on Wednesday once again delayed the release of a full report on CIA’s controversial interrogation programme.

The government had intended to complete its review of the 2004 report and release it two weeks ago. However, due to political reasons, the report’s release has been delayed from time to time. — MNA/Xinhua

US construction spending down 0.9% in May

WASHINGTON, 2 July — US construction spending fell by 0.9 percent in May, the seventh decrease in the past eight months, the Commerce Department reported on Wednesday. The decrease was worse than analysts’ expectation of 0.5 percent. The drop followed a revised 0.6 percent increase in the previous month.

For May, US construction spending was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 964.0 billion dollars, with a 11.6 percent year-on-year decrease, reflecting the steepness of recession in the country. Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 649.2 billion dollars.

Meanwhile, construction spending by the government decreased by 0.6 percent to an annual rate of 316.9 billion dollars. — Internet

China's economic recovery is poised to make a U-turn. ©Xinhua

China's economy is poised to make a U-turn. ©Xinhua

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China's economy is poised to make a U-turn. ©Xinhua

China's economy is poised to make a U-turn. ©Xinhua
Air China launches direct Beijing-Lhasa flights

BEIJING, 2 July — Air China, the nation’s biggest carrier, said Wednesday it will launch the nation’s first direct flight between Beijing and Lhasa, the capital city of southwestern Tibet Autonomous Region, beginning 10 July to promote tourism. The three-hour-fifty-minute flight will be operated by the Airbus A330. Previously, travelers had to transfer through Chengdu, the capital city of Sichuan Province neighbouring Tibet. The transfer added two hours to the flight.

CA4122 will leave at 7 am everyday from the Beijing Capital International Airport, and arrive at the Lhasa Gonggar Airport at 10:50 am.— **Xinhua**

Eleven killed in rainstorm of east, southwest China

NANCHANG, 2 July — Eleven people were killed in eastern China’s Jiangxi Province and Guizhou Province in the southwest as rainstorms swept parts of the country, said local authorities on Wednesday. The heaviest rains this year have hit Jiangxi since Tuesday afternoon, triggering landslides in Huashan village in Shangrao City at about 3 am Wednesday. A house was toppled, killing two residents. According to the provincial flood prevention authority, the rain will last until Friday, with a maximum rainfall of about 250 millimetres. Local governments were ordered to beware of possible floods and landslides, and to evacuate residents to ensure their safety.

Separately, nine people were killed and another is missing in disasters resulting from torrential rains since Sunday in Guizhou Province. The rain triggered flood, mud-rock flow and landslide in 31 counties, cities and districts in the mountainous province, affecting 1.53 million people — among whom 106,500 were evacuated.— **Xinhua**

Brazil plans to expand rocket launching base at north

RIO DE JANEIRO, 2 July — Brazil plans to expand its Alcantara aerospace base in the north by building 12 more rocket launching pads at there, the government said on Wednesday. Defence Minister Nelson Jobim described the project as one of “international importance.” “We must not be naive. There are nations who are seeking to prevent Brazil from entering the exclusive circle of nations that launch rockets,” Jobim said.

Alcantara, which is located at Maranon in Amazon state, has the broadest launch angle in the world because it is very close to the Equator, a factor that dramatically reduces launching costs, according to the minister. There are currently three rocket launching pads at the base.— **Xinhua**

Hong Kong Ocean Park to raise admission fee by 20%

HONG KONG, 2 July — Hong Kong Ocean Park announced Wednesday that it will raise its admission fee by about 20 percent on 1 Aug. The single ticket for adults will cost 250 HK dollars (about 32 US dollars), compared with the current 208 HK dollars while the child ticket will rise by 22 HK dollars to 125 HK dollars.

In terms of the annual pass, the fee will be up 67 HK dollars to 695 HK dollars for adults and 37 HK dollars up to 350 HK dollars for children. Meanwhile, children younger than three years old and elders aged above 65 will still have free access to the park.— **Xinhua**

US to participate in 2010 Shanghai World Expo

WASHINGTON, 2 July — The United States will take part in 2010 Shanghai World Expo in Shanghai, China. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said here Wednesday. “Our national pavilion will showcase American business and technology, as well as cultures and values to foster stronger friendship between the American and Chinese peoples as it also demonstrates America’s commitment to a forward-looking, positive relationship with China,” Clinton told reporters.

It will be “a perfect opportunity to highlight US innovation, particularly in environmental initiatives, and to share ideas with countries from around the world on ways to create better cities and communities for all our people,” she said.

Jose Villarreal, an attorney in San Antonio, Texas, will be in charge of the US participation in the Expo, according to the State Department. The Shanghai World Expo will be held in Shanghai from May to October next year under the theme “Better City, Better Life.”— **Xinhua**

Six confirmed dead in Peru’s boat collision

LIMA, 2 July—Six people have been confirmed dead in a boat crash in the Amazon rainforest in central-eastern Peru, a navy spokesman said on Wednesday.

The number of fatalities could rise as passenger registries were being checked, the spokesman said. He did not give a number for the injured, who had been taken to local hospitals.

Earlier, authorities said there could be as many as 20 deaths in the accident.

Two boats, Super Salas and Milagritos, collided head-on on a river in Ucayali province Tuesday night. Unregistered and lacking proper authorization, Super Salas was carrying 70 passengers when it slammed into Milagritos, a cargo boat carrying fruit. A third boat sailing nearby rescued some passengers.— **Xinhua**

All items from Xinhua News Agency
World Heritage session concludes, challenges remain

SEVILLE, 2 July — The 33rd session of the UNESCO’s (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s) World Heritage Committee concluded on Tuesday with 13 new members added to the list, while some inherent challenges remain.

During the nine-day closed-door meeting, 13 new sites were put on the World Heritage list, three extensions were granted to existing World Heritage sites, one site was deleted and three were downgraded and put on the danger list, bringing the new total to 900. Among the newly-listed sites, more than half are in Europe. They include The Dolomites in Italy, The Wadden Sea in Germany and the Netherlands, Stoclet House in Belgium, the Tower of Hercules in Spain, two Swiss watch-making towns — La Chaux-de-Fonds/Locle, and Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal in the United Kingdom. The Great Saltworks of Salins-les-Bains in France, and Levoca in Slovakia were granted extensions.

EU launches in-depth probe into Lufthansa’s bid for Austrian Airlines

BRUSSELS, 2 July — The European Commission said on Wednesday it had launched an in-depth probe into the planned acquisition of Austrian Airlines by Lufthansa of Germany. The European Union’s (EU) antitrust watchdog said that its initial investigation indicated that the proposed bid could, on certain routes, give rise to reduced choice of airline services for passengers and the likelihood of higher fares. "There are therefore serious doubts as to the proposed takeover’s compatibility with the (EU) single market in the absence of appropriate remedies,” it said. Lufthansa is the largest German airline with hubs at Frankfurt and Munich airports. Lufthansa also controls Swiss, based at Zurich airport, Air Dolomiti, Eurowings and low-cost carrier Germanwings. As a leading member of the Star Alliance, it also cooperates closely with a number of other airlines. Austrian Airlines is Austria’s largest airline with its principal hub in Vienna. It is a full-service air carrier. Its subsidiaries include Lauda Air and Tyrolean Airways. Lufthansa plans to pay 366 million euros (516 million US dollars) to buy 41.56 percent stake of Austrian Airlines now owned by the Austrian government.

Man had boss killed to save job

Spanish police have arrested a man whom they suspect hired a contract killer to murder his boss in a desperate bid to avoid being laid off, newspaper El Pais reported.

The head of audiovisual services at the Barcelona International Convention Centre contracted a Colombian man who shot and killed the director of the convention centre on 9 Feb, according to police.

The director had planned to lay off the arrested man as part of a restructuring project, police said.

In fear of losing his job, the head of services, through his sister, contracted a team of six Colombians who planned and carried out the killing, El Pais reported.

Police have also detained the sister and six Colombians. The shooting marks one of the most extreme actions by Spaniards who fear losing jobs, homes and businesses during a recession in which unemployment is rising faster than in any other developed country.

Other cases include an indebted Spanish builder who kidnapped his bank manager at gunpoint and the head of a construction firm who threatened to set himself on fire unless debts he was owed were paid.

TV ads make children choose more junk foods

LOS ANGELES, 2 July — Influenced by TV ads, children tend to choose more junk food, increasing the risk of weight gain, a new study suggests. The finding was based on a series of experiments to test the effects of TV food commercials on children as well as adults, researchers at Yale University said in the study published in the July issue of the journal Health Psychology.

One experiment found that children aged seven to 11 who watched a half-hour cartoon that included food commercials ate 45 percent more snack food while watching the show than children who watched the same cartoon with non-food commercials. That increased amount of snacking would lead to a weight gain of nearly 10 pounds (about 4.5 kilogrammes) a year, unless it was countered by decreased intake of other foods or increased physical activity, the researchers said.

In another experiment, adults who saw TV ads for unhealthy foods ate much more than those who saw ads that featured messages about good nutrition or healthy food, according to the researchers.
Eucalyptus is native to Australia and comprises about 700 species. Now, about 14,826,000 acres of eucalyptus plantations have been set up around the world to extract oil, get wood for construction of buildings, produce telegraph posts, sleepers and firewood, protect farmlands and fruit farms against strong winds, and produce firewood for steel mills, and sawn timber floor blocks and furniture”, he said.

He said, “We grew seven species of eucalyptus on trial in PyinOoLwin District. So far, we have setup 188,263 acres of eucalyptus plantations. We grow eucalyptus for re-greening arid regions, conservation of watershed areas, and forming wind-breaking tree rows for farmlands and beekeeping farms in seaside regions.

Moreover, it is a fast-growing tree and it can be used for multipurpose. So, we grow eucalyptus on a large scale in monsoon tree-planting ceremonies. And we encourage rural people to grow eucalyptus trees beside their houses and farms, and along the village roads. Our department is organizing local people to grow three teak saplings and 20 eucalyptus saplings a family and an acre of rural plantation a village to improve their living standard and conserve the environment.” Establishment of eucalyptus plantations can prevent deforestation. The Forest Department should beef up organizing local people to grow eucalyptus for their economic growth, and environmental conservation.

It is a fast-growing multipurpose eucalyptus on wider scale

A worker preparing to cut down a eucalyptus tree near Pinhmi Village, Aungban Township.

Houses can be built of eucalyptus timber.

16th Test of Proficiency in Korean on 13 September

YANGON, 2 July—The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Myanmar will hold the 16th Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK) both in Yangon and Mandalay at the same time on 13 September from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm.

The test will be classified into three grades: Basic Level 1 and 2, Intermediate level 3 and 4 and Advanced level 5 and 6. Each test is made up of vocabulary, grammar and writing test and listening and reading test.

Application forms can be bought at K 1000 from the Korean Embassy at No. 97, University Avenue, Bahan Township, and from Korean Language Department of Mandalay University of Foreign Languages starting 1 July. Application forms together with application fee K 9000 should be returned to the above-mentioned addresses, not later than 15 July.

The test will be held at Myanmar Info-Tech in Yangon and Swan Hotel in Mandalay. For more information, please dial 527142-4.

Road and bridge works in Ayeyawady Division inspected

YANGON, 2 July—Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe inspected roads and bridges along Hsama-lauk-Kabum Road and Mauzin-Yaylegalay-Shwe-taungmaw-Kyiukpyi-Mawlamyine-gyun Road on 1 July.

At the briefing hall of Yazudaing Bridge (1) Construction Project, the deputy minister heard reports on facts about the bridge presented by Superintending Engineer U Tint Lwin and Deputy Superintending Engineer (Bridge Design) Daw Yi Yi Myint and attended to the needs.

Then the deputy minister visited Yazudaing Bridge (2) Construction Project. After hearing reports on work progress presented by the chief engineer, the deputy minister looked into construction of bridge.

NLM
Commander’s Shield Sepak Takraw tournament concludes

NAI PYI TAW, 2 July—The final match and prize presentation ceremony of the Coastal Region Command Commander’s Shield Sepak Takraw Tournament was held at the Coastal Region Command Hall on 23 June, attended by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe on 28 June inspected the site chosen for construction of a rail-cum-road bridge across Ayeyawady River near Malun and gave necessary instructions. The minister viewed the site for the construction of the bridge on Miyaungye bank by z-craft. Next, he looked into progress in construction of 40-foot Myasaakng reinforced concrete bridge on Padaung-Taungup Road. At Nawade Yeiktha of Public Works in Pyay, the minister met engineers and staff and left instructions on construction tasks.

Sites for rail-cum-road bridge across Ayeyawady River inspected

NAI PYI TAW, 2 July—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint together with Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe on 28 June inspected the site chosen for construction of a rail-cum-road bridge crossing bridge near Malun and gave necessary instructions. The minister viewed the site for the construction of the bridge on Miyaungye bank by z-craft. Next, he looked into progress in construction of 60-foot Khathitya Bridge and 40-foot Myasaakng reinforced concrete bridge on Padaung-Taungup Road.

Functions of wood based factories inspected

Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo. After the matches, the commander presented the championship shield to the first prize winner. The ceremony to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed at No.1 BEHS in Myeik. The commander attended the ceremony and gave an opening speech. The commander presented the certificates of honour to those who actively participated in the narcotic drugs eradication tasks and viewed prize winning photos.

Winners awarded in Work Competition of Yangon Division ABCC

YANGON, 2 July—The Yangon Division All Bus-line Control Committee (Yangon Division) held the prize presentation ceremony for the 41st Work Competition at its office in Tamway Township yesterday morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Maj-Gen Win Myint. Also present on the occasion were members of the Division PDC, local authorities, the chairman of Yangon Division All Bus-line Control Committee, officials, bus owners and bus workers.

CPT Minister performs regional development task in Kachin State

NAI PYI TAW, 2 July—Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw on 28 June met with townmolders and local people from five villages in Kachin State, Takwin Village and five villages at Belin, Moenyn Township in Kachin State, Takwin Village BEMS and Kondangyi Village separately. At Nawade Yeiktha of Public Works in Pyay, the minister met engineers and staff and left instructions on construction tasks.

Matters coordinated for celebration of World Population Day

YANGON, 2 July—The third coordination meeting of the committee for organizing World Population Day took place at the Ministry of Immigration and Population here this afternoon. First, Committee Chairman Director-General of the Population Department U Maung Myint spoke on the occasion and officials from respective committees reported on the tasks carried out and to be carried out. Then the director-general gave a concluding remark.

Director-General U Maung Myint delivers an address at third coord meeting to mark World Population Day. — MNA
NAY PYI TAW, 2 July — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe attended a ceremony to hand over boxes of traditional medicine for emergency use and presented them to village representatives of respective townships on 27 June. Next, the commander and party viewed the traditional medicines and magazines on traditional medicine on display. Then, the commander attended a monsoon tree planting ceremony and presented saplings to departmental staff, members of social organizations and regiments and units. He and party planted trees. Later, they viewed those present growing trees. — MNA

Energy Minister meets local people in Kungyangon Township

NAY PYI TAW, 2 July — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi met with local people at Sanpya Ward in Kungyangon on 27 June. On 28 June, the minister met with local people at Paygon Village in Kungyangon Township and provided them with rice, edible oil and gram. Next, the minister presented rice, edible oil and gram in meeting with local people at Kyunchaung Village. On 29 June morning, the minister visited Basic Education High School No (1) in Kungyangon. Next, the commander and party viewed the traditional medicines and magazines on traditional medicine on display. Then, the commander attended a monsoon tree planting ceremony and presented saplings to departmental staff, members of social organizations and regiments and units. He and party planted trees. Later, they viewed those present growing trees. — MNA

Traditional medicine boxes handed over for emergency use

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe views traditional medicine booths at the ceremony to hand over traditional medicine boxes.— MNA

Health Deputy Minister inspects hospitals

YANGON, 2 July — Secretary of the central committee for fighting against infectious diseases Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo met with officials of the ministry at the Special Hospital (Waibargi) on 30 June and stressed the need for giving priority to carrying out preventive measures against and controlling the A/H1N1 virus and the importance of the participation of the local authorities and social organization in combating the flu pandemic. At the meeting on prevention and controlling the New Influenza A (H1N1) held at the hospital, officials from the Health Department reported on measures being taken for preventing the disease from spreading and controlling it. Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr Aung Lwin reported on the measures by the hospital and treatment at the hospital, staff, medicines, medical equipment and renovation of the separate ward for quarantine at the hospital. After the meeting, the deputy minister inspected the wards. Afterwards, the deputy minister went to North Okkalapa Hospital and met with the medical superintendent and staff and looked into the wards of the hospital. He also inspected Sanpya Hospital in Thingangyun and fulfilled the requirements of the hospital. — MNA

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking marked in Magway

NAY PYI TAW, 2 July — The ceremony to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held at the Town Hall in Magway on 26 June. Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe delivered an opening address on the occasion. Next, the chairman presented prizes to the winners of commemorative contests and viewed the works of winners displayed at the commemorative booths. — MNA

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo inspects out-patient ward in Special Hospital (Waibargi). — MNA
Rubber farming proves successful in Shan State (East)

Article: Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine); Photos: Htay Aung (Kyemon)

Workers tapping latex from rubber plants.

U Tun Lin, in-charge of the manager’s office of Shan State (East) Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise.

(from page 16) Village, we conducted an interview with U Tun Lin, in-charge of the farm. He told the Kyemon Daily, “Our enterprise was set up in Shan State (East) in 1994-95 financial year. Then we demonstrated trial farms and explained the benefits of the rubber farming to organize local farmers in order to extend rubber farming. In that regard, we began our plan with 100 acres in 1996-97.

Regarding the follow-up programme, he added, “We are now ready to distribute over 1,248,000 grafts and over 316,000 seedlings, totalling over 1,560,000 saplings to grow rubber for 8000 acres to meet the target of 100,000 acres under the 2009-2010 plan.”

He said that they had been growing coffee under the poppy-substitute crops programme; that then they had started to grow 30,000 acres of rubber under the four-year project, and they had distributed all the 1000 kilos of coffee seeds from PyinOoLwin in Mandalay Division to the whole region.

Then, we visited Shwe Phyu Rubber Farm in Yanwe Village. U Than Tun and Daw Aye Aye Win conducted us round their large rubber farm. A rubber plant produces latex at the age of six years. The latex season is from mid-March to the end of November. The tapping of latex is paused in the period from December to mid-March. Latex can be tapped from a rubber plant for over 30 years. Trunks of old rubber plants can be used to produce steamed rubber timber. Furniture made of steamed rubber timber is of high quality.

Rubber plants thrive in Shwe Phyu Rubber Farm.

U Than Tun and Daw Aye Aye Win explain rubber farming to Kyemon Daily.

Rubber farming proves successful in Shan State (East)

Yangon, 2 July — Mingalar Myanmar and UN agencies in collaboration with Nature Conservation Committee Task Force (2) held the World Environment Day Forum on 21st June at the International Business Centre here.

At the forum, some of Myanmar environmental organizations demonstrated their activities with the use of photos, and four related papers were presented by Myanmar intellectuals.

City Mart, contributed cash to Mingalar Myanmar to underpin the activities for the environmental conservation in the country.

Mingalar Myanmar is implementing Mangrove Replanting Programmes in 93 villages affected by Cyclone Nargis joining hands with community based organizations and in Rakhine and Taninthayi Divisions.

Moreover, Mingalar Myanmar has published a bilingual hand book, “Plantation Guide for the Mangroves of Myanmar” as part of efforts for giving information to villagers.

Mingalar Myanmar marks World Environment Day

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Lebanese man gets 25 years prison for weapons deal

NEW YORK, 2 July—A Lebanese man convicted of agreeing to sell millions of dollars of weapons to leftist guerrillas in Colombia was sentenced to 25 years in prison on Wednesday.

Tareq Moussa al Ghazi, 62, was accused of taking part in the weapons deal with Monzer al-Kassar, a Syrian who was convicted of terrorism charges and sentenced in February. The deal turned out to be a US-backed sting operation that stretched from Lebanon to Spain and Romania.

Ghazi was found guilty in federal court in March of three of four charges he faced, including conspiring to kill US officers and conspiring to acquire anti-aircraft missiles. During the trial, prosecutors said Ghazi took part in the deal thinking the weapons would go to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, and believed they would be used to kill Americans seeking to disrupt the cocaine trade. He was arrested in mid-2007 in Romania with a third man, Felipe Moreno Godoy, Kassar, who prosecutors called one of the world’s most prolific arms dealers, was sentenced to 30 years in prison. Moreno Godoy was sentenced to 25 years.

Lebanese man gets 25 years prison for weapons deal

ANTANANARIVO, 2 July—The black box of the Yemeni Airbus A330, which crashed early on Tuesday off the Comoros, has been located under the Indian Ocean.

Signal from the black box of the crashed YJ626 plane belonging to Yemenia airline was detected around 4:30 p.m. (1330 GMT) 40 kilometres off Grand Comore, one of the three Comoros.

A French ship, La rience, had already arrived at the scene around lunch time on Wednesday to begin operations to recover the black box. The French secretary of state for cooperation said the French Bureau for Investigation and Analysis would begin work and that the black box would tell the truth.

A total of 153 people, including a crew of 11, were on the Airbus A330-300 plane, belonging to Yemenia state carrier Yemenia Air, which was on route from Yemen’s capital Sanan to Moroni, the capital of Comoros.

The cause is linked to bad weather, conditions of route from Yemen’s capital Sanan to Moroni, the capital of Comoros.

Heavy clashes in Mogadishu leaves 15 dead

Mogadishu, 2 July—Fifteen people were killed and more than 40 others were wounded in Mogadishu on Wednesday in renewed heavy fighting between insurgent fighters and Somali Government forces who gained new grounds in the latest clashes, witnesses and officials said.

The fighting broke out in the south Mogadishu district of Karan after Somali Government forces tried to recapture positions previously lost to insurgent fighters of the Al-Shabaab Islamist movement and Hezbullo Islam opposed to the Somali Government.

Ambulance services in Mogadishu and witnesses near the battle areas said 15 people, mostly civilians, were killed while more than 40 others were wounded in the intense battle in which artillery and heavy machine guns were used by both sides. Reports from the battle grounds said Somali Government forces have made some headway in regaining lost positions from insurgent fighters in the latest clashes.

“We have captured part of Karan and a main road in the area in the fighting. Several insurgents died on the government onslaught which will continue until all anti-peace elements are repelled,” Yusuf Gaab, a government military commander, told Xinhua.

The latest government successes come nearly two months after the start of the insurgent advances into Somali Government-held territory in the south and north of the restive capital, Mogadishu.

Racial profiling of minorities persists in US

ATLANTA, 2 July—US authorities detain thousands of people each year solely on the basis of religion, race or nationality despite efforts by senior law enforcement officials and the government to stop it, the American Civil Liberties Union said. An ACLU report said racial profiling was often applied to immigrants from South Asia and to North Africans suspected of being Islamic militants following the September 11, 2001, attacks carried out by Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda militants.

The report by the ACLU and the Rights Working Group, submitted on Tuesday to the UN Committee to End Racial Discrimination, said profiling could involve harassment, detention, arrest or investigation. Many Latin American immigrants were also targeted for immigration violations while others, including black Americans, were profiled as suspected drug offenders, said the report, which did not provide precise figures.

President Barack Obama’s Government upholds the policy of the previous Bush administration that such profiling should end but related laws contain a significant gray area, said Chandra Bhatnagar, a staff attorney with the ACLU’s human rights programme. According to 2003 federal guidelines, it is illegal to detain or investigate someone solely on the basis of race, religion or ethnicity, but there are exceptions in the context of national security and border control.

Self-watering mechanism of desert rhubarb mapped out

JERUSALEM, 2 July—A group of Israeli researchers have mapped out the self-watering mechanism of desert rhubarb, which they say is able to harvest 16 times more water than other plants in the same environment and marks the first example of a self-irrigating plant worldwide.

This desert plant was found growing in the mountains of the Negev desert in southern Israel, where the average precipitation is as low as 75 millimeters per year, according to a statement released Wednesday by the University of Haifa-Oranim.

Unlike most of other desert plant species, which have small leaves so as to minimize moisture loss, this plant is unique in that its leaves are particularly large, and covered with a waxy cuticle. They also observed an exceptionally ridged structure on each leaf, which forms a leaf structure resembling the habitat’s mountainous topography.

INTERNET
Another 21 bodies rescued from Air France Flight 447 identified

Rio de Janeiro, 2 July — Brazil’s Federal Police informed on Wednesday that the bodies of other 21 occupants of Air France’s Flight 447, which crashed over the Atlantic a month ago, were identified. With that, the total number of identified bodies increased to 35. The plane’s pilot and at least one other member of the crew are among those.

The names of the victims will not be disclosed, by request of their families, but it is known that the remains belong to four Brazilians and 17 foreign citizens. The Brazilians are two males and two females; the foreigners are six males and 11 females.

According to the Federal Police, out of the 21 bodies, five were identified through dental records, eight through DNA tests, two through fingerprints and dental records, and six through dental records and DNA tests.

The search for the bodies of the plane’s occupants has already ended. In 26 days, the search teams managed to find a total of 51 bodies. The Brazilian authorities stated that the identification works will continue until all 51 bodies are identified and released to the families.

Air France’s Flight 447, an Airbus A330 model, crashed over the Atlantic Ocean, off Brazil’s northeastern coast, on the night of 31 May. The plane had left Rio and was heading to Paris, carrying 228 people, including eight children.

US obesity rates continue to climb

Los Angeles, 2 July — Twenty-six states in the United States saw a rise in adult obesity rates during the past year while there was no decrease in any other state, newly-released figures showed.

Meanwhile, the number of obese and overweight children has now climbed to 30 percent in 30 states, according to findings in an annual report on obesity in America.

Released on Wednesday by the Trust for America’s Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation this was a troubling trend that could signal decades of weight-related health problems such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease as these children become adults, said the report.

Overall, two-thirds of American adults are now obese or overweight, according to the report. In 31 states, obesity rates exceed 25 percent, and in 49 states and Washington, DC, the rates are above 20 percent. As recently as 1991, no state had an adult obesity rate higher than 20 percent; and in 1980 just 15 percent of adults were obese, the report noted.

And childhood obesity continues to be a growing concern, with the rate of childhood obesity more than tripling since 1980, the report said.— Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV RAINBOW ANGEL VOY NO (5)

Consignes of cargo carried on MV RAINBOW ANGEL VOY NO (5) are here by notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.7.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W.6 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.

South Korean special police force personnel disguised as a terrorist, right, holds a mock hostage during an anti-terrorism drill against possible attack and other crimes at their training camp in Seoul, South Korea, on 2 July. — Internet

Israel finds 36 more A/H1N1 flu cases

Jerusalem, 2 July — Israeli authorities detected 36 more cases of A/H1N1 flu in the Jewish state, which has a population of about 7 million. According to Ynet, the total number has more than doubled over the past two weeks.

No death case has been reported so far in Israel, and most of the previously reported patients have already recovered. Also on Wednesday, the Health Ministry decided to change the protocol for treating A/H1N1 flu patients. Ynet reported that patients in high-risk conditions do not need to go in for tests or receive preventive treatment, yet patients in high-risk groups, such as those suffering from chronic disease or lung disease, are still requested to be tested when they show symptoms of the sickness.— Internet

LA billionaire donate $100m for genomic research

Los Angeles, 2 July — Los Angeles billionaire philanthropist Eli Broad has donated 100 million US dollars to a genomic medicine research institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts, his foundation announced on Wednesday.

The real estate tycoon said that he and wife Edythe are convinced that scientists at the Broad Institute will identify the genes responsible for disease and will discover cures or completely eliminate ailments altogether. “We believe that our investment will put the Broad Institute firmly on the path toward this goal,” Broad said.

Online complaint system unveiled to monitor airport noise

Los Angeles, 2 July — The Los Angeles city agency that manages Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and two other airports launched a new online noise complaint system on Wednesday for residents living near the facilities.

The system, known as WebTrak, will be overseen by the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), which manages LAX and two nearby airports — the Ontario International and Van Nuys airports, according to a statement from LAWA. The system will allow users to identify loud airplanes flying in or out of the three airports and report them to LAWA on the organization’s website, the statement said.

The system, which will put the Broad Institute firmly on the path toward this goal,” Broad said.

The system will allow users to identify loud airplanes flying in or out of the three airports and report them to LAWA on the organization’s website, the statement said. Using the system, the public will be able to identify loud airplanes by aircraft type, altitude, flight number and both the originating and destination airports. Users can then report loud airplanes using an online complaint form, said the statement.
Singapore confirms more cases of Influenza A/H1N1

SINGAPORE, 2 July — Singapore on Wednesday confirmed 82 new cases of Influenza A/H1N1, bringing the total number of such cases to 783 in the country. According to a statement issued by Singapore’s Ministry of Health on Wednesday night, so far, most cases of Influenza A/H1N1 in the country are mild, and 300 have fully recovered and the rest are recuperating. Singapore reported its first confirmed case of Influenza A/H1N1 on 27 May. In the initial period of the influenza’s outbreak, most of cases are imported ones with travel history from affected countries such the United States and Australia. But the outbreak has since progressed from merely imported cases to local community transmission as of 26 June, this year.

With more local transmission cases, Singapore is in the process of moving from containment to mitigation, the ministry said, adding that the country is still trying to slow down the community spread by the ministry said, adding that the country is still trying to slow down the community spread by the

Austrian scientists find witnesses of Neolithic human habitation in Himalaya

VIENNA, 2 July — Archaeologists from the University of Innsbruck and the University of Vienna of Austria said on Wednesday that they have found evidence of human habitation in the late Neolithic period some 5,300 years ago in the East Himalayan region.

Geologist Michael Meyer from the University of Vienna in the northern part of the Kingdom of Bhutan, evidence of human migration and settlement in that region, the oldest traces of human habitation so far, were found through sediment analysis, determination of pollen, radiocarbon and fluorescence spectroscopy. They estimated that as early as the Neolithic period some 6,700 years ago, there was already human activity, while human settlement can be traced to at least 4,700 years ago.

Meyer also pointed out that data showed that people led a nomadic life at that time, and “their migration routes were closely related to the expansion of Himalayan glaciers and the changes in monsoon intensity in that region.”

The growth and shrinkage of Himalayan glaciers are directly affected by Indian summer monsoon, as large precipitation would lead to the expansion of the glaciers. However, 4,500 to 5,000 years ago, with the weakening monsoon activity, the glaciers in the valley area of the Himalayan Mountains shrank, so people began to graze yaks there, and later also grew highland barley. — Internet

Beijing school closed after seven students diagnosed with A/H1N1 flu

BEIJING, 2 July — A Beijing primary school was closed after seven students were confirmed as A/H1N1 flu cases Wednesday, the municipal health bureau announced late Wednesday.

Sixteen students at the Nanhu Zhongyuan Primary School in Chaoyang District were reported to have fever, and seven of them have been diagnosed with A/H1N1 flu, the bureau said.

A total of 154 students, teachers and parents who had close contact with the seven students are under observation.

Eighteen students were absent from class Monday and 12 of them, who are from four classes in two grades, developed fever.

Another four students were found ill the next day. Their testing results are yet to be released.

The health authorities are tracking where the students contracted the A/H1N1 virus, said Fang Luiying, director of the municipal health bureau. — Internet

World University Games start in Belgrade

BELGRADE, 2 July — The 2009 Summer Universiade officially raised its curtain Wednesday with a spectacular opening ceremony. An hour before the start of the ceremony, athletes and volunteers carrying flags of the competing countries and regions marched from the Universiade Village to the Belgrade Arena.

First held in Turin in 1959, this year’s event will be the 25th World University Games. Participants must be between 17 and 28 and studying for a degree or diploma, or have graduated within the past year.

On Thursday the first eight of 203 gold medals will be awarded in artistic gymnastics, fencing and taekwondo, while preliminary soccer, basketball and water polo rounds already got underway earlier in the week. The Universiade will close on 12 July.

Scientists find why HIV patients are more susceptible to TB infection

WASHINGTON, 2 July — A team of Harvard scientists has taken an important first step toward the development of new treatments to help people with HIV battle Mycobacterium tuberculosis (TB) infection.

In their report appearing in the July issue of the Journal of Leukocyte Biology, scientists describe how HIV interferes with the cellular and molecular mechanisms used by the lungs to fight TB infection. This information is crucial for researchers developing treatments to help people with HIV prevent or recover from TB infection.

“Infection by TB is a critical global health problem, especially in developing countries,” said Naimish Patel, lead researcher on the study and Instructor of Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School.

“We hope that these findings will lead to further studies and possible new therapies for treating or preventing tuberculosis in HIV disease,” Patel and colleagues made their discovery by extracting immune cells called “alveolar macrophages” from the lungs of otherwise healthy, asymptomatic HIV-positive patients as well as from people who did not have HIV.

In people who are HIV-positive, the macrophages have a decreased response to the TB bacteria when compared to people who did not have HIV.

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 3 July, 2009

Photo taken on 1 July, 2009 shows the Three Gorges Dam opening two deep-holes and a trash way hole for sluicing the mounting flood water, in Yichang, central China’s Hubei Province. The Three Gorges Reservoir has high influx of flooded water along with the arrival of Yangtze River’s main flood season with recent days’ persistent rainfalls. — Internet

Visitors watch a novel model of drone aircraft, during the National Exposition on Geographic Information Applications and Maps, which opens at the Beijing Exhibition Center in Beijing, on 1 July, 2009. — Internet
Corinthians win Brazilian Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO, 2 July — Corinthians won a third Brazilian Cup trophy on Wednesday after tying Internacional 2-2 in the return leg of the finals.

Corinthians won the first leg 2-0 at home. The visiting Corinthians got off to a quick 2-0 lead through a Jorge Henrique header and an own goal in the first 28 minutes. Internacionally finally responded in the 70th minute, scoring their first goal of the finals. Taking advantage of a sloppy defense play, Alessandro stole the ball and drove it past the Corinthian goalkeeper Felipe. Four minutes later, Alessandro scored again. — Internet

British actress Kate Winslet applauds on Centre Court during the quarter-final match between Andy Murray of Britain and Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain at the Wimbledon tennis championships, in London, on 1 July, 2009. Internet

Last batch of Olympic assets put on auction in Beijing

BEIJING, 2 July — The final batch of assets from the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games was put on auction in Beijing Tuesday by Beijing Assets and Equity Exchange. These assets include the table tennis table used in the final match, Rostrum chair, dining table and so on.

In the auction, the original price of three groups of assets are 32,000 yuan; 39,000 yuan and 14,000 yuan. After fierce competition, the prices jumped to 201,000 yuan; 300,000 yuan and 65,000 yuan respectively. The most expensive groups of assets include some sofas and chairs made for head of state attending the 2008 Olympic Games.

Sound bite: Buyer (Chinese) “Olympic assets are perfect, so I have bought some.” Considering the ongoing global financial crisis, the heated competition of the auction of the Olympic assets reflects the potential of property market and the celebration of the Olympic Games in China. The buyer of the table tennis table used for the final match Lu Xiaoxun believed that assets carries the spirit of the Olympic games. Sound bite: Buyer (Chinese) “We will place the table in our club, and the table will be used by our clients who are fond of table tennis.”

The auction of the Olympic assets started on June 25th last year and it have created four records in China’s property market. Beijing Assets and Equity Exchange have recycled cash of about 189 million yuan in the total 25 auctions. — Internet

Venus and Serena through to final

WIMBLEDON, 2 July—Serena Williams will face sister Venus in Saturday’s Wimbledon final after prevailing in a marathon tussle with Russian Elena Dementieva.

Second seed Serena saved a match point before coming through 6-7 (4-7) 7-5 8-6 in two hours and 48 minutes.

The high-quality match was the longest semi-final in recent Wimbledon history.

Venus’s encounter with top seed Dinara Safina was in complete contrast, the defending champion completing an embarrassingly one-sided 6-1 6-0 win. — Internet

Chinese women’s teams advance in world beach volleyball championships

STANAGDER, 2 July — Two Chinese women’s beach volleyball teams competing in the 2009 SWATCH FIVB World Championships here advanced to the 32-team single-elimination bracket after concluding their pool matches on Wednesday.

The 15th-seeded Zhang Xi/Huang Ying and 23rd-seeded Xue Chen/Zhang Ying both ranked second in their pools with two wins and one loss. Featuring a total of 1 million US dollars in prize money, the 2009 SWATCH FIVB World Championships began on June 25 and have drawn 48 men’s and 48 women’s teams from 32 countries. Both men’s and women’s teams are playing in 12 pools. — Internet

Tiger wants to be “greedy host” at Congressional

BETHESDA, 2 July — It’s not often that a player is bold enough to challenge Tiger Woods on the golf course. Rarer still is when it happens during a pro-am round from one of his amateur partners.

“That still puts me 1 up,” Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo said to him Wednesday morning. “Does it, now?”

Woods replied, not sounding the least bit concerned. The world’s No 1 player then smoked a fairway metal down the 17th at Congressional Country Club.

— Internet

Santa Cruz ready for Man City striker battle

MANCHESTER, 2 July—Roque Santa Cruz has said he would relish the opportunity of battling Samuel Eto’o and Carlos Tevez for a place in the Manchester City side next season.

Paraguayan international striker Santa Cruz is City’s biggest signing of the close season so far having cost 18 million pounds (30 million dollars) from City’s Premier League rivals Blackburn Rovers.

But City manager Mark Hughes is hoping to invest a total of 50 million pounds (83 million dollars) to secure the services of Barcelona’s Eto’o and Argentina’s Tevez, who is available for 25 million pounds (41 million dollars) after his two-year loan at neighbours Manchester United expired. — Internet

Real Madrid sign United target Benzema

LYON, 2 July — Lyon announced on Wednesday the transfer of Karim Benzema to Real Madrid for 35 million euros in a deal which dashes Manchester United’s attempts to capture the France striker.

In a statement the French club announced that the fee could rise to as much as 41 million euros depending on various bonuses attached to the deal.

Lyon, in a statement on their website, said they had accepted Benzema’s decision after he had made it clear he wanted the deal to be “concluded quicker than initially envisaged”.

The club wishes Karim the greatest success with Real Madrid,” the statement added.

Materazzi signs Inter contract extension

ROME, 2 July — World Cup winning centre-back Marco Materazzi on Wednesday signed a new deal with Inter Milan that will keep him at the Italian champions for another three years, the club announced on their website.

Materazzi, who was a bit-part player for Jose Mourinho last season, will be almost 39 by the time his deal runs out.” Now I can write it because it’s written on a contract,” he wrote on his blog. “And that’s not just a figure of speech.” — Internet
Say no to vodka, president tells Russians

MOSCOW, 2 July—President Dmitry Medvedev has told Russians they must kick the alcohol habit. “We drink more now than in the 1990s, although those were difficult times,” the ITAR-Tass news agency quoted Medvedev as saying on Tuesday.

Heath Minister Tatyana Golikova has been ordered to devise an anti-alcohol strategy. “We need to prepare a corresponding programme and take appropriate measures,” Medvedev said.

A report by The Lancet medical journal last week, said alcohol-related diseases caused around half of all deaths of Russians between the ages of 15 and 54. Vodka is enshrined in Russian culture despite efforts by previous leaders to break the macho drinking culture.

A 1986 anti-alcohol campaign by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev led to a boom in illegal production of low-quality alcohol, and Russians learned to drink. Medvedev quoted Medvedev as saying on Tuesday.

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Rubber farming proves successful in Shan State (East)

Having heard that rubber farming proves successful in Shan State (East), we made a trip to rubber farms in the region.

On the way along Kengtung-Lwemwe Road, we saw farmers doing groundwork to grow monsoon paddy, and thriving groundnut plantations which were like natural pictures painted on the ground.

Upon arrival at the office of the manager of the Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise Shan State (East) in Naungkon (See page 10)

Peer pressure plays major role in environmental behavior

WENCHEAN COUNTY, 2 July—People are more likely to enroll in conservation programs if their neighbors do—a tendency that should be exploited when it comes to protecting the environment, according to results of a new study.

The research, to be published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) this week, is the first to focus on the phenomenon of social norms in the context of China’s conservation efforts, said scientist Jianguo “Jack” Liu of Michigan State University (MSU). The study focused on a mammoth government initiative called Grain-to-Green that pays Chinese farmers to convert cropland back to forest.

“Much of the marginal cropland in rural communities has been converted from agriculture to forests through the Grain-to-Green Program, one of the largest ‘payment for ecosystem services’ programs in the world,” said Alan Tessier, program director in the National Science Foundation (NSF)’s Division of Environmental Biology.—Internet

The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Amount of Rainfall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sitway</td>
<td>7.56 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyaukpyu</td>
<td>6.18 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hkamti</td>
<td>5.12 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hpa-an</td>
<td>3.23 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maungtaw</td>
<td>3.15 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shwegyin</td>
<td>2.67 inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among those under surveillance, some are found to have symptoms of fever and suspected flu

Only one patient out of 27 who have had lab tests found to be infected with A (H1N1)

People urged to cooperate with Ministry of Health

NAY PYI TAW, 2 July—A 13-year-old girl was found to be infected with New Influenza A (H1N1) on 27 June and she is being looked after at Yangon General Hospital and she is recovering from her illness. She will be discharged from the hospital after a certain period of surveillance.

Those who came into contact with her, those who were together with her in the same flight and those who carried out duties at Yangon International Airport on 26 June are being provided with medical care and all are in good health now.

The Ministry of Health is taking necessary measures to prevent the spread of New Influenza A (H1N1) and control the outbreak of disease starting from 28 April. Up to 30 June, a total of 71,313 people had been kept under surveillance at the airport, 5,745 at the international seaport and 1,594,237 at the borders totaling 1,671,295.

A total of 4,628 were kept under surveillance at hotels and their residences. Of them, 3,654 are free from the surveillance because the certain period of surveillance is up. A total of 974 people continue to be kept under surveillance.

Symptoms of fever and suspected flu are found among those who are being kept under surveillance. After 27 people had laboratory tests, only one was found to be infected with A (H1N1). Seventeen people were found to have had seasonal influenza. Nine people were not found any influenza. Findings are being sent to the reference laboratory of WHO.

Regarding the New Influenza A (H1N1), the Ministry of Health has urged the people to cooperate with it by dialing (Tel-067 420437, 421205, 411388, 411389, 411156, 420268, 411002 and 411003) of the Ministry of Health (Nay Pyi Taw). (Tel-01 555734, 544279) of Yangon and (Tel-02 33173 and 65659) of Mandalay.—MNA