Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
* National reconciliation
* 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

Review: Borders eBook - finally a rival to the Sony Reader

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, 3 July—The Borders “eBook” device could be the first real competition to the Sony Reader, which was introduced in Britain last year. The new gadget, made by Elonex for Borders UK, is not particularly flashy. Where the Sony Reader and Amazon’s Kindle - which is not available in Britain - are sleek and beautiful, the Borders eBook is simple and functional.

The differences are minuscule. The first thing you notice is that the Borders device is lighter than the other electronic readers. At 180g, it weighs less than most paperbacks you may currently lug around.

The Borders eBook can hold 180-200 novels - a few more than the Sony Reader. But both devices can be upgraded to hold close to 1,000 books.

The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

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Senior General Than Shwe receives UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe received Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon and party at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, at 2 pm today.

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador U Than Swe, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of the State Peace and Development Council Office and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department.

The UNSG and party were accompanied by Senior Adviser Mr B Lynn Pascoe, Senior Adviser Mr Ibrahim Gambari, Senior Adviser Mr Kim Won-Soo, Senior Adviser Ms Catherine Bragg and Resident Coordinator of the UN Agencies Mr Bishow B Para Juli. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW — Senior General Than Shwe, who is also Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, received the Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon and party today at Bayintnaung Yeiktha.

Also present at the call were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Vice Senior General, Maung Aye; Member of the State Peace and Development Council, General Thura Shwe Mann; Prime Minister, General Thein Sein; Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council, General Thha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo; Minister for Foreign Affairs, U Nyan Win; Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador U Than Swe; Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Col Kyaw Kyaw Win; Director-General of the Protocol Department, U Kyaw Kyaw.

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**PERSPECTIVES**

Strive together with the government in the fight against narcotic drugs

The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control has laid down and is implementing the 15-year Drug Elimination Plan in three phases each of which is five years from 1999-2000 to 2013-2014.

At present, the CCDAC has completed the second five-year phase and is in the process of implementing the third five-year phase of the plan. And the respective work groups of the Central Committees are making all-out efforts for effective implementation of the third five-year plan based on achievements of the first five-year plan and the second five-year plan.

Placing emphasis on elimination of drug abuse, the respective work groups are now fully engaged in medical treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts with the opening of youth rehabilitation centres namely Shwepyitha, Shwepyiaye and Shwepyithit under the supervision of the CCDAC in addition to measures for supply elimination and law enforcement.

As Myanmar alone is unable to cope with the tasks and needs to cooperate with the international community, it has signed MoUs with neighbouring countries in the fight against drugs.

As part of cooperation with regional countries, it has signed MoUs with six countries of Mekong region and cooperating with ASEAN countries.

Since Myanmar is cooperating with the international community while striving through its own resources in the fight against drugs, it is incumbent upon all the national people to participate in the drive under the motto “No individuals, family or community is safe where illicit drugs take control” so that the people will be free from the dangers of narcotic drugs.

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**Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport meets**

Yangon, 3 July — The coordination meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport was held at the head office of All-Bus Lines Control Committee in Tamway Township this afternoon with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint.

The commander heard reports on matters related to ferries, traffic rules enforcement and arrangements being made for public convenience presented by officials of universities and colleges, departmental officials and chairmen of bus lines and attended to the needs. The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the commander. — MNA

**Commander attends International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking commemorative ceremony**

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 July — International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking commemorative ceremony was held at Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe, staff officers of the command, departmental heads, teachers, students and members of social organizations. The commander spoke on the occasion.

Next, the commander and officials presented the prizes to winners in poster, cartoon and computer art contests. They then viewed the posters and documentary photos, and artworks of participants.

The commander attended the ceremony to donate funds for Bogale Education College and donated funds. — MNA

**Basic Accountancy and Store Accounts Keeping course in Nay Pyi Taw District**

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 July — Under the arrangements of Auditor-General’s Office, Basic Accountancy and Store Accounts Keeping course organized by Nay Pyi Taw District Accounts Office will be opened. The course is aiming for matriculation passed citizens. The course will last 3 months for every Saturday and Sunday.

Any interested persons may enrol on a course at Nay Pyi Taw District Accounts Office, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana starting from 10 July and may dial Ph: 23925 during office hours. — MNA
Two killed, 17 injured in Iraq bomb attacks

BAGHDAD, 3 July — At least two people were killed and 17 others injured in a car bomb and a roadside bomb explosions near and in the Iraqi capital on Thursday, a well-informed police source said.

A booby-trapped car parking at a marketplace in Kirkuk lies in a hospital bed after being transported to Arbil, some 80 kms away. Bombings in the lead-up to the pullback of US forces from Iraq's towns and cities, resulted in the bloodiest death toll seen in the conflict-hit nation in 11 months, official figures showed Wednesday. (Internet)

Egypt opens Rafah crossing for Hamas, humanitarian cases

RAFAH, 3 July — The Egyptian authorities reopened, partially for few hours, Rafah crossing at the border with the Palestinian territory of Gaza Strip on Thursday, for the return of Hamas representatives, a security source told Xinhua.

The source said that Rafah crossing was opened to let Hamas leaders go back to Gaza Strip and also for some Palestinian patients. (Internet)

UN Secretary-General's Message on the International Day of Cooperatives

4 July 2009

The first cooperatives were born more than two hundred years ago when rural entrepreneurs and farmers decided to pool resources and help one another to overcome their limited access to commercial opportunities. Subsequently, retail cooperatives emerged to help poor households escape the debt trap and provide access to better quality goods and services. Cooperatives have since developed in many areas, from manufacturing to financial services, spurred by the desire for a more equitable way of working and doing business.

At a time of global economic distress, this history deserves to be more widely known. The theme of this year’s observance of the International Day of Cooperatives — Driving Global Recovery Through Cooperatives — highlights the value of cooperative enterprise. Cooperatives can strengthen the resilience of the vulnerable. They can help to establish more balanced markets for small farmers and give small entrepreneurs access to financial services. They can create job opportunities and improve working conditions.

The economic model of cooperatives is based not on charity but on self-help and reciprocity. In countries hit by the financial crisis, the cooperative bank and credit union sector expanded lending when other financial institutions had to cut back, easing the impact of the credit freeze on the most vulnerable. This highlights the importance of strong alternative business models and institutional diversity for the resilience of the financial system.

Cooperatives deserve greater support. I urge Governments to adopt policies that support the establishment and development of cooperatives. Consumers, too, can help by buying food produced by small-holder cooperatives that is traded in fair markets.

In the face of the current economic crisis, communities around the world are rediscovering the critical necessity to work for the common good. On this International Day, I encourage Governments and civil society everywhere to recognize the effectiveness of cooperatives and to engage with them as vital partners for global recovery and achieving internationally agreed development goals. —UNIC

World health officials meet on combating A/H1N1 flu pandemic

CANCUN, 3 July— Health officials from 43 countries gathered in Mexico on Thursday for a two-day meeting to discuss measures to confront the A/H1N1 flu that is sweeping across the world.

“I hope this meeting will help us take major steps forward towards building new collective defenses against a menace that affects us all,” Margaret Chan, the World Health Organization (WHO) director-general, told the opening session in Cancun, a beach resort town in the Mexican state of Quintana Roo.

She acknowledged the measures taken by Mexico to deal with the disease, saying that the situation in the country is currently stable.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon said at the summit that international cooperation is needed to jointly tackle the disease that has posed a new challenge to the world.

“No government can win this battle alone,” he said.

Calderon thanked foreign officials for their attendance, which he described as “a gesture of friendship and solidarity” to a nation, which has seen 116 deaths of the disease since it was first detected in April.

Chinese Health Minister Chen Zhu said at the meeting that a series of comprehensive measures have been taken by China to tackle the disease, including strict border inspection and quarantine, enhanced surveillance and vigorous medical treatment. (Internet)

Engineering trucks are seen at the construction site of the Changjiang Nuclear Power Plant, south China’s Hainan Province, on 1 July, 2009. With a total investment of 17 billion yuan, the construction of the first stage of the Changjiang project with two units that generate 650,000 kilowatts each is expected to be started this October and put into operation in 2014. The two units will use advanced second-generation pressurized water reactor technology. (Internet)
HE BEIJING, 3 July—Employers cut a larger-than-expected 467,000 jobs in June, driving the unemployment rate up to a 26-year high of 9.5 percent, suggesting that the economy’s road to recovery will be bumpy.

The Labour Department report, released on Thursday, showed that even as the recession flashes signs of easing, companies likely will want to keep a lid on costs and be wary of hiring until they feel certain the economy is on a solid ground. June’s payroll reductions were deeper than the 363,000 that economists expected. However, the rise in the unemployment rate from 9.4 percent in May wasn’t as sharp as the expected 9.6 percent. Still, many economists predict the jobless rate will hit 10 percent this year, and keep rising into next year, before falling back.

All told, 14.7 million people were unemployed in June.

If laid-off workers who have given up looking for new jobs or have settled for part-time work are included, the unemployment rate would have been 16.5 percent in June, the highest on records dating to 1994.—INTERNET

EU economy shows signs of touching bottom

BRUSSELS, 3 July—The global financial crisis has dragged the economy of the European Union (EU) into a deep recession in the first half of this year, but there are signs that the worst may be soon over though the way to recovery is tortuous and bumpy.

In one of its two most important forecasts each year, the European Commission predicted in May that the EU economy would follow a “V-shaped” recovery pattern with high possibility of passing the rock-bottom around the end of the year.

According to the commission, the EU economy was further worsening in the first quarter of this year due to the unfolding financial crisis, but very likely at a lower pace and a recovery is expected to take hold next year.—INTERNET

At least 23 killed in bus collision in Peru

LIMA, 3 July—Two buses collided head-on on a mountain road in the southeastern Andean state of Puno, leaving at least 23 people dead and 50 others injured, police said on Thursday.

The accident occurred early morning in the Santa Lucía District, about 1,300 km southeast of Lima.

The injured have been rushed to hospital.

According to preliminary investigation, speeding and bad weather could be the cause of the deadly bus crash.—INTERNET

Japan may add noise to quiet hybrid cars for safety

TOKYO, 3 July—Japan’s near-silent hybrid cars have been called dangerous by the vision-impaired and some users, prompting a government review on whether to add a noise-making device, according to an official.—INTERNET

“Blind people depend on noise sounds when they walk, but there are no engine sounds from hybrid vehicles when running at low speed” and on the electric motor, he said.

The ministry has launched a panel of scholars, vision-impaired groups, consumers, police and the automobile industry to discuss the matter.

“They decided to consider introducing a sound-making function” in petrol-electric hybrids when the 13-member panel held its first meeting on Thursday, the official said.

They have not decided on what kind of sound should be used, only that it should induce a response of caution, he said.

“On the other hand, we should pay attention to residents (along roads) as hybrids are excellent in reducing noise,” the official added.—INTERNET

Renaat to test electric cars with EDF

PARIS, 3 July—The Renault-Nissan Alliance and French electricity company EDF announced on Thursday a large-scale test of electric vehicles in the Paris region in 2010.

According to a statement from the two companies, starting from September 2010 for one year, 100 electric cars from the Renault-Nissan Alliance will be tested by individual customers, professionals and employees of local authorities.

The cars will be able to recharge at home, workplace, parking lots and on roads.

Renault-Nissan and EDF plan to launch the proposed cars to the market from 2011.—INTERNET

An electric cable is attached to the side of a car. Renault-Nissan will hold large-scale tests for its new electric cars in the Paris and Milan regions next year ahead of planned mass production from 2012, the Franco-Japanese auto group said Thursday.—INTERNET

Australian resources company forms joint venture with China

CANBERRA, 3 July—Australia-based Emergent Resources announced on Friday it would form a joint venture with China Metallurgical Investment to develop its Beyondie Iron project in Western Australia, the Australian newspaper reported.

Emergent revealed that the agreed joint venture would provide 200 million Australian dollars (159.3 million US dollars) to fund the project.

The mine, in the state’s mid-west iron ore region, will initially target production of three million tonnes a year of magnetite concentrate.—INTERNET

A customer admires a Honda Motor’s hybrid vehicle at a showroom in Tokyo. Japan’s near-silent hybrid cars have been called dangerous by the vision-impaired and some users, prompting a government review on whether to add a noise-making device, according to an official.—INTERNET

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China’s satellite positioning system to offer better service

BEIJING, 3 July—China’s home-grown global navigation satellite system, Compass, will provide regional service in 2011 with a constellation of 12 satellites, said an industry insider.

China aims to make Compass a navigation satellite system of 35 satellites by 2020, which can offer global service, Hu Gang, vice-president of Beijing BD Star Navigation Co Ltd, was quoted by Friday’s China Daily as saying.

Compass, or Beidou (Big Dipper) in Chinese, is expected to rival the US-developed GPS, the EU’s GPS and Russia’s Global Navigation Satellite System, earlier reports said.

Officials representing the four systems are now in negotiations to make their civilian-use technologies compatible, Hu said at a two-day national geographical information industry summit that ended on Thursday.

“This could possibly allow a civilian user of global navigation satellite system to have access to more than 120 navigation satellites in the future, which will assure stability and improve accuracy,” he said.—Xinhua

Indonesia rejects EU’s global flight ban proposal

JAKARTA, 3 July—Indonesia rejected the idea to widen the implementation of a ban on certain airline companies from serving the flight globally proposed by the European Union (EU) earlier, Indonesian Transportation Minister Jasman Syafii Djamal said here.

“The only institution authorized to ban an airline from serving flights across the world is ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization). Moreover, EU is not the world’s police,” the Bisnis Indonesia Friday quoted Jasman as saying.

He was commenting on a recent statement issued by the EU Transportation Commission official Antonio Tajani who proposed to widen the ban which initially implemented in 27 European countries in the EU.

Earlier reports said that the idea was intended to improve the flight security across the world.

The EU’s statement came up following the recent crash of Yemenia Air’s Airbus A310 in Comoro waters that killed almost all of its 153 passengers.

Indonesia is now expecting the EU’s announcement set for 12 July that will possibly revoke the ban over its national flag-carrier airline, Garuda Indonesia, from entering EU countries.—Xinhua

First report on Air France crash released

PARIS, 3 July—The Airbus A330 of Air France Flight 447 plunged vertically into the Atlantic Ocean but did not break up in the air, said the BEA accident investigation agency on Thursday when it released its first report on the 1 June crash.

The agency added that the faults of the speed sensors were not the cause of the crash.

“The plane was not destroyed in mid-air,” said Alain Bouillard of the BEA during a news conference at BEA headquarters outside Paris.

“The plane appears to have hit the surface of the water in flying position with a strong vertical acceleration,” he noted, adding that the plane’s belly hit the water first.

After one month of probe into the crash, investigators also found the faults of speed sensors on Airbus A330 were “a factor but not the cause.”—Xinhua

Dozens arrested in US in bust of drug trafficking ring

SAN FRANCISCO, 3 July—US federal, state and local law enforcement officials on Thursday said they have arrested 31 people after busting a drug trafficking ring that was bringing methamphetamine and cocaine from Mexico into the US state of Washington.

At a press conference held in Seattle, officials announced that the arrests were result of a 14-month investigation code-named “Operation Arctic Chill” which also led to the seizures of drugs and weapons, The Seattle Times and other local media reported. Twenty of those arrested have been charged for attempt and conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, officials said.—Xinhua

Children pose for photo beside the cartoon character statue in Shanghai East Asia Exhibition Hall in Shanghai, on 2 July, 2009. A cartoon exhibition was held here from 1 to 3 July.—Xinhua

First report on Air France crash released

A handout picture released by the Brazilian Navy shows recovered debris of the Air France aircraft lost in midflight over the Atlantic Ocean on 1 June onboard a Brazilian Navy Corvette at Recife’s harbour on 19 June, 2009.—Xinhua

Chinese Compass-G2 satellite is launched on a Long March-3C carrier rocket at the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on 15 April, 2009.—Xinhua

A handout picture released by the Brazilian Navy shows recovered debris of the Air France aircraft lost in midflight over the Atlantic Ocean on 1 June onboard a Brazilian Navy Corvette at Recife’s harbour on 19 June, 2009.—Xinhua

Farmers are busy harvesting the Chinese wolfberry fruits in Zhongning County of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in northwest China, on 2 July, 2009. Xinhua

Many Czech medical graduates leave to work abroad

PRAGUE, 3 July—A quarter of Czech medical graduates leave to work abroad immediately after graduation as they are not satisfied with the working conditions and possibilities to improve their qualification in Czech Republic, president of Czech Doctors’ Chamber Milan Kubek said on Thursday.

At least 200 doctors go away one year in spite of an urgent shortage of 600 doctors in Czech hospitals, Kubek told journalists. He supported the establishment of Young Doctors’ group with the goal to change the situation.

Health Minister Dana Juraskova said recently that the ministry would allot considerable finances for the higher specialist training programmes for doctors and nurses to help them quickly obtain higher qualifications, in this way to prevent personnel from leaving the health sector. According to her, half a billion crowns (about 27.33 million US dollars) will be annually earmarked for this purpose from the state budget.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency
Australia pledges millions to Aboriginal projects

SYDNEY, 3 July—Australia has pledged almost 200 million dollars (155 million US) to projects in remote Aboriginal communities, one day after releasing a damning report on the minority’s grim living conditions.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd signed off on the 195 million dollar East Kimberley development package, which is designed to boost health, education, housing and transport in the remote west coast region.

“This investment promotes sustainable regional development, providing social infrastructure,” Rudd said.

“It will also provide training and productive employment opportunities for indigenous communities in the region.”

The announcement comes one day after the centre-left leader vowed “decisive action” on a report which showed conditions for Aborigines were worsening, with 35 in every 1,000 children suffering abuse or neglect.

According to the Sydney Morning Herald, with hospitalisations from domestic violence 34 times higher and Aborigines 13 times more likely to be imprisoned.

Two RAF crew killed in jet crash

LONDON, 3 July—Two aircrew of the Royal Air Force (RAF) were killed in a Tornado jet crash on Thursday, British Defence Ministry said.

The aircraft crashed during a routine training flight in the remote countryside in Scotland, said a spokesman for the Defence Ministry.

“The next of kin have been informed and have requested a period of 24 hours grace before further details are released,” added the spokesman.

According to the Sydney Morning Herald, search and rescue helicopters were scrambled to search the area for the wreckage and crew.

An RAF spokesman said there had been a small blaze at the scene, but no civilian injuries were reported.

Toothy 3-foot piranha fossil found

If you thought piranhas were scary, be glad Megapiranha is no longer around.

Megapiranha was up to 3 feet long (1 metre) - a fish-beast four times as big as piranhas living today, studies of its jawbones indicate. It lived about 8 million to 10 million years ago and might have been quite comfortable stalking cartoon animals in an “Ice Age” movie.

Another close relative of the piranha, called pacu (singular and plural), is not so scary. Pacu have squared-off stumps even carving a name for themselves as cartoon animals in an “Ice Age” movie.

Now a newly uncovered jawbone of a transition species ties all these teeth together. Named Megapiranha paranaensis, this previously unknown fossil fish bridges the evolutionary gap between flesh-eating piranhas and their plant-eating cousins.

Present-day piranhas have a single row of triangular teeth, while the blade on a saw, explained the researchers. Pacu have two rows of square teeth, presumably for crushing fruits and seeds.

“In modern piranhas the teeth are arranged in a single file,” said Waasla Dahu, a visiting scientist at the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center in North Carolina. “But in the relatives of piranhas - which tend to be herbivorous fishes - the teeth are in two rows.”

Fifth blast hits Canada gas pipeline

OTTAWA, 3 July—A gas leak at a pipeline owned by EnCana in Canada’s western British Columbia province was caused by a blast that police said Thursday is the fifth act of sabotage in the region since October 2008.

The oil and natural gas company informed the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) on Wednesday, after company employees noticed a loss in pressure in the pipeline close to Dawson Creek, in the northeast of the province.

In a statement, the RCMP said preliminary examinations allowed them “to confirm that the rupture was caused by an explosion.”

The statement said there was “no immediate or imminent danger to the public as a result of the gas leak,” adding that EnCana and the RCMP had put in place a wide area of containment.

“This blast is considered the fifth in a series of criminally motivated acts that have occurred at EnCana sites in northeastern British Columbia spanning 2008 and into 2009,” the RCMP said.

The blasts have not caused any deaths or injuries, but have damaged various EnCana sites, with one explosion forcing the shutdown of a minor pipeline.

Police have said they believe the acts are the work of local residents.

Last year, a local newspaper received a suspicious letter that called on energy companies to leave the area.

EnCana has offered a reward of 500,000 Canadian dollars for information leading to the arrest of those responsible for the blasts.

Israel, Palestinians could face robust int’l peacekeeping forces

JERUSALEM, 3 July—International consensus is increasing on the need for more “robust” peacekeeping around the world.

Now experts are trying to ascertain if strengthening peacekeeping forces could have effect on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

At a meeting of the United Nations Security Council on 29 June, general understandings were reached that there have been failings with previous peacekeeping missions globally and a fresh approach needs to be taken to the subject.

The Security Council meeting was carefully monitored by Efraim Elron, a senior fellow with the New York-based International Peace Institute.

Summarizing the meeting, she said that missions have so far been impris- ose or over ambitious and that there has been inadequate consultation with member states, regional organization and host countries.

Canada mom, child survive 40-metre fall in ravine

A young mother and her two-year-old daughter survived a 40-metre fall down an almost vertical ravine nearly unscathed in the western Canadian province of Alberta, Canadian media reported.

Firefighters scooped the pair out of the Blackmud Creek ravine in provincial capital Edmonton on Saturday evening, according to the newspaper “Edmonton Sun”.

The area is lined with walking paths. It is not known how the mom and tot fell down the bank. The mom was uninjured and the child escaped with minor cuts.

A fire official described the bank as “nearly 90 degrees.” “We came and they were just sitting at the bottom of the ravine,” he said.

The toddler was strapped to a child-sized backboard and pulled out of the ravine by firefighters.

The mother was seen walking around, but was later strapped to a backboard. Both were taken to hospital for examination.

Man tries to rob hotel with a butter knife

Police arrested a man they said tried to rob a hotel around 6 pm on Sunday with a butter knife. The clerk refused to give the man any money, and he left the hotel on foot. Police said about an hour later they spotted a man matching the description given by the clerk.

Officers arrested a 34-year-old man on a robbery charge. They said they also recovered the knife.

Soapy sheep are seen in France in 2004. Climate change has caused a flock of wild sheep on a remote northern Scottish island to become smaller, according to an unusual investigation published. The wild Soapy sheep live on Hirta, in the St Kilda archipelago in the storm-battered Outer Hebrides, and have been closely studied for nearly a quarter of a century.
UN Secretary-General and party arrive in Yangon

Yangon, 3 July—Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon and party arrived in Yangon at 9:20 am today.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador U Than Swe, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Union of Myanmar Mr Pak Key-Chong, Resident Coordinator of the UN Agencies Mr Bishow B Para Juli and officials.—MNA

Forestry Minister awards outstanding students

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July—The prize presentation ceremony of the Ministry of Forestry was held at Kyun Shwe Wah Hall of the ministry here this afternoon with an address by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

Next, departmental heads and officials presented prizes to other outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination with flying colours. On behalf of the outstanding students, a six-distinction winner spoke words of thanks. MNA

Yangon Division WAO celebrates Myanmar Women’s Day

YANGON, 3 July—Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization celebrated the “Myanmar Women’s Day” at Sangyoung Basic Education High School No. 2 here today.

The celebration was commenced with songs of schoolgirls.

Chairperson of the Working Group for Protection and Rehabilitation of Women under Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Hmwe Hmwe Nge delivered address and presented gifts to those who participated in the women costume show to mark the Myanmar Women’s Day and 30 outstanding women.

 Afterwards, the chairperson and participants of the celebration browsed the documentary photos and wall papers displayed at the booth of the celebration. —MNA

Land measuring and land record course opens

YANGON, 3 July—Land measuring and land record course No (29/2009) of the Settlement and Land Records Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was opened at the central land record development training school in Taikkyi yesterday. The opening ceremony was attended by the deputy director-general of the department and officials. Altogether 170 trainees are attending the course that will last five and a half months. —MNA

Entry invited for Independence Day commemorative colour photo contest

YANGON, 3 July—A colour photo contest titled ‘Myo-gon-myintma Myanma poneikmyma’ (Myanmar Images of High National Prestige) will be held in commemoration of the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day, which falls on 4 January, 2010. Anyone can participate in the contest with colour photos depicting national developments, beautiful sceneries, peace and stability and high national prestige.

The size of entries must be 10 inches by 14 inches. The contestants may submit any number of entries with the use of any camera. The photos applied by digital technology and the award winning photos are not allowed. Handsome prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Entries are invited to U Aye Kywe, Director (Production) of Information and Public Relations Department, No 228, Theinbyu Road, Botataung Township, Yangon not later than 1 September at 4 pm. —MNA

Bus lines to ensure better transport for passengers to new Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July—Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee arranged the plying of bus lines for smooth transportation of the passengers to new Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station.

Tawin bus line will run its buses along Thaikchaung-Kytaunggan-Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station-Modern Mingala Market-Pyinnama Market-Sangha Hospital Route and Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market-Myayyo Market-Thabyegon Market-Pyinnama-Swenyaungbin Terminal-Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Route commencing 5 July.

Shwe Myodaw bus line started the plying of light trucks for passengers along Pyinnama Market-Swenyaungbin Terminal-Pali Corner-Pankhin-Modern Mingala Market-Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Route beginning 1 July.

Ahmanthit bus line launched the runs of light trucks for passengers along Bawgathiri bus terminal-Arharathukha Market-Swenyaungbin Terminal-Pali Corner-Pankhin-Modern Mingala Market-Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Route on 1 July.

Taungnyo-Moeswe bus line will commence the plying of light trucks for passengers along Kyweshin-Taungnyo-Myoma Market-Swenyaungbin Terminal-Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Route on 5 July.

Light trucks will ply the designated routes for passenger transport on the arrivals of all trains from the morning to the evening daily.

Nay Pyi Taw taxies are available at the car parking of new Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station. For emergency requirements, may dial 414994, 414995, 414996, 414997 and 414998 of Nay Pyi Taw Taxi Hire Service.—MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 4 July, 2009
NAY PYI TAW, 3 July—The Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation observed the Myanmar Women’s Day at the City Hall, here, at 9 am today.

Present on the occasion were members of the Panel of Patrons of the federation, CEC members, wives of deputy ministers, deputy leaders of the working groups, leaders of the sub-working groups, secretaries of departments, working groups and sub-working groups, chairpersons of State/Division Women’s Affairs Organizations, intellectuals and intelligentsia, supporting group members, departmental heads, the wife of military attaché, resident representatives of UN agencies and officials, representatives of social organizations, prize winners and their families.

Speaking on the occasion, President of MWAF Dr Daw Myint Kyi said that Myanmar women have significant cultural characters in fostering nationalism and religion. They are held in high esteem by the society because they stood shoulder to shoulder with the men in serving the interest of the State. At present, many outstanding women emerge in economic, education, health and technology sectors and they can be seen in the nation-building tasks. The Government formed the Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs for uplifting the efficiency and livelihoods of the women and designated the 3rd July as the Myanmar Women’s Day.

The Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation laid down the basic principles to serve national interests. The seven aims of MWAF for life security and development of women are as follows:

1. To promote the role of women in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation,
2. To safeguard women’s rights,
3. To develop eco-devours for the brighter life of the Myanmar women, the MWAF is standing as an organization which has served in the interests of the nation.
4. To support the women’s education and training by meeting the need of the community.
5. To systematically carry out tasks for prevention of violence against women and rehabilitation;
6. To carry out eradication of human trafficking of women and children as a national duty,
7. To cooperate with international, regional, internal and external organizations in carrying out matters on women’s rights in accord with traditional culture and customs of national races.

While making endeavours for the brighter life of the Myanmar women, the MWAF is standing as an organization which has served the interest of the entire nation.

MWAF will continue to work steadfastly for ensuring life security, better living standard and improvement of the calibres of women and to stand as a reliable force of the nation.

In so doing, MWAF has been cooperating with the government of the sports, education, arts and health fields are conducted in the run-up to Myanmar Women’s Day.

MWAF President Dr Daw Myint Kyi presents prize to a winner in photo contest to mark the Myanmar Women’s Day.—MNA
Regional development work inspected

NAI PYI TAW, 3 July —Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win accompanied by departmental officials arrived in Kywecan Village in Paung Township on 24 June. Next, he attended a ploughing and fertilizers-scattering ceremony of farmer U Ngwe Thein and the paddy field of farmer U Ngwe Thein where the integrated farming system is being used. The commander and party next inspected construction of Yangon-Myeik road, new school building of Naungkala Village primary school and University of Computer Studies (Thatmon). Together with Kayin State PDC Chairman Brig-Gen Zaw Min, the commander visited Thanwin Bridge (Hpa-an) and inspected the durability of the bridge. They then viewed ploughing tasks and scattering of fertilizers at the paddy field on farmer U Tin Ngwe. Later, the commander met the teachers who were to attend the special refresher course No 68 for basic education teachers at Phaunggyi Central Institute of Civil Service. —MNA

UNSG and party arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

NAI PYI TAW, 3 July—Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon and party, accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador U Than Swe, arrived at Nay Pyi Taw by special aircraft at 12.15 pm today. They were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint and officials.—MNA

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking observed in Kengtung

NAI PYI TAW, 3 July—The ceremony to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held at the Town Hall in Kengtung on 26 June with an address by Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Kyaw phyoo. The commander presented prizes and viewed the educative booths. —MNA

Energy Minister receives Iranian Ambassador

NAI PYI TAW, 3 July—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi received Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Myanmar Mr Majid Bizmark at his office on 30 June afternoon. They cordially discussed matters on bilateral energy plans. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay, director-general, managing directors and officials from Ministry of Energy.—MNA

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Life security and development of women call...

(from page 8)

In conclusion, she said that Myanmar women have been doing their bit in serving the national interest, developing the Myanmar society, and nurturing the youth. So, it is great honour for Myanmar women to have successfully designated Myanmar Women’s Day.

At the prize presentation ceremony, Patron of MWAf Daw Ni Ni Win presented prizes to National Literary Award winner Writer Daw Sandar Khin (Santar Khan, Archaeology), Ma Su Yi Hnin of Yankin Township BEHS No (2), Yangon Division and Ma May Thu Kyaw of Pathein Township BEHS School No (6) who passed the matriculation examination for 2008 with the highest marks, outstanding police-women for 2008 Police Captain Ohmar Yin Mie of Anti-Human Trafficking Squad of Myanmar Police Force (HQ) and outstanding Red Cross member for 2008 Professor/Head of Oriented Studies Department Dr Daw Kyaw Kyaw Hla of Yangon West University of the Ministry of Education.

Patron of MWAf Daw Khin Mi Mi presented prizes to outstanding athlete for 2008 Ma Aung Hnyei (Archery), outstanding disabled athlete Ma La Pyae Win (Swimming) of Hpa-an Division, outstanding Fire Brigade member for 2008 Fire Sergeant Thida Aye of Insein Township Fire Station and outstanding blood donor for 2008 SAT Daw Yu Yu Wai of Botataung Township BEHS No (3). Next, MWAf President Dr Daw Myint Kyi presented prizes to A K Moe (Zoology), Kyaw Kyaw Win (Myanmar Photographer Association), Hlaing Than Tint (Shwe Bagyi-Yamethin) who stood first, second and third in Photo Contest in honour of Myanmar Women’s Day and five special prize winners, Dr Nwe Nwe Soe (Nwe Lay-Myanmarsar), Ma Myat Thiri Maung (Ma Myat Thiri Maung) and Ma Su Khin Lay Oo (Myo Myat Phone Si) who stood first, second and third in article contest in honour of Myanmar Women’s Day.

After the ceremony, members of the panel of patrons of MWAf and guests viewed documentary photos on Myanmar Women’s Day commemorative ceremonies 2008, activities of MWAf and photos of the outstanding women and documentary photos on preliminary activities to mark Myanmar Women’s Day and activities of State/Division WAOs. —MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspects chosen site for construction of Ayeyawady River Crossing Bridge near Malun. MNA

(News reported)

CONSTRUCTION

Life security and development of women call...

(from page 8)

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Employees of hotels in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone receive skills for receptionists

In his concluding remarks at the ceremony held at the ministry here, the minister said the course was conducted with the aim of improving the skills of the hotel staff in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone to be able to provide good services to customers of the hotels in the zone.

Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing awarded the outstanding trainees and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu presented certificates to the trainees. The course commenced on 10 June.

Mandalay Division Women’s Affairs Organization organizes Myanmar Women’s Day ceremony

was attended by members of Mandalay Division Women’s Affairs Organization, chairpersons of Mandalay District and seven townships Women’s Affairs Organizations. Group leader Daw Mi Mi Lay of Working Group on Protection and Rehabilitation of Women under Mandalay Division Women’s Affairs Organization spoke on the occasion.

Deputy Minister U Tint Swe awards an outstanding trainee.

Course on road quality test and control concludes

YANGON, 3 July—The course on road quality test and control for engineers, conducted by Public Works, concluded at the central training school (Thuwunna), here, this morning. Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe delivered a speech and presented prizes to the outstanding trainees.

Commander observes collective sanitation, blood donation in Kengtung

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July—Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Phyoo inspected the collective sanitation being carried out by departmental personnel, members of social organizations, local people and students along the road near General Hospital in Kengtung on 27 June.

The commander encouraged social organization members donating blood at the blood donation hall of the hospital and provided them with refreshments. Then the commander looked into construction of hostel for nursing school.

Next, the commander attended the opening of self-reliant bridge and inspected it.

 Afterwards, the commander observed providing free medical treatment to local people by specialists and fulfilled the requirements.

Schedule for questioning defence witness

Daw Khin Moe Moe postponed to 10 July as case file on Criminal Case No 47/2009 has not been returned yet in trial against US citizen Mr John William Yettaw, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Daw Khin Khin Win and Ma Win Ma Ma


Defence witness Daw Khin Moe Moe has been scheduled for questioning by the court, but the court was unable to hear the cases because it had not got back the case file on Criminal Case No 47/2009 Supreme Court (Yangon) had taken for Criminal Revision Case No 333 (b)/2009. Criminal Case No 47/2009 was therefore put off along with Criminal Case Nos 48/2009 and 49/2009 to 10 July to question defence witness Daw Khin Moe Moe. — MNA

Talk on Global Warming and Its Impact on World Politics and Economy on 4 July

YANGON, 2 July—Under the arrangement of Myanmar Fishery Federation and Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association and with the assistance of Sein Gay Har International Shopping Center, a talk on “Global Warming and Its Impact on World Politics and Economy” will be held on 4 July at 2 pm. — MNA

Latest molecular diagnostic tests for TB, DHF

YANGON, 3 July—Myanmar Molecular & Diagnosis Centre (MMDC) is a first ever molecular laboratory that uses the technology of real time PCR in Myanmar. It recently introduced latest molecular diagnostic tests for TB and DHF. MMDC provides services such as finding out number of viruses of hepatitis-B, hepatitis-C and HIV, classifying genotypes of hepatitis-C. DHF can be diagnosed on the first day of fever and results will come out within 24 hours. TB can also be diagnosed with the technology of WHO-recognized real time PCR and results will come out within one week.

For detailed information, dial 01-374676 and 02-72985. — MNA

YANGON, 3 July—A basic course for hotel receptionists opened in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone was concluded today with an address by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing.

A total of 44 trainees attended the four-week training course which was conducted under the supervision of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.
Three new dinosaur species found in Australia

SYDNEY, 3 July—Australian scientists hailed the country’s most significant dinosaur discovery in decades on Friday after three new species were unearthed in a Queensland billabong.

The flesh-eating theropod—dubbed Australia’s answer to the “Jurassic Park” velociraptors—and two sauropods had lain in a 98 million-year-old geological deposit until a recent archaeological dig.

Scientists said the three, named Banjo, Matilda and Will Murphy, 7, inspects the teeth of a Theropod dinosaur at an exhibition at the Melbourne Museum, 2008.

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Internet

Clancy in honour of Australia’s most famous song, “Waltzing Matilda”.

Foreign arrivals in Vietnam fell over 19% in first half

HANOI, 3 July—The number of foreign travellers fell 19.1 percent year-on-year to 1.89 million in the first half of this year, according to a report of the National Administration of Tourism. To boost the country’s tourism sector, Vietnam has decided to waive visa fees for foreign travellers booking tour packages under the “Impressive Vietnam” programme. The visa waiver will be applied from 15 May to the end of this September.

The Vietnam National Administration of Tourism targeted to attract 4.3 million foreign visitors to the country this year.—MNA/Xinhua

London oil market probes alleged rogue trader

An oil platform in the North Sea. Oil market officials have launched a probe into an alleged rogue trader who helped push prices to eight-month peaks this week, costing his company nearly $10 million (£6.12 million).—INTERNET

London, 3 July—Oil market officials in London have launched a probe into an alleged rogue trader who helped push prices to eight-month peaks this week, costing his company nearly 10 million pounds ($12 million).—INTERNET

GM bankruptcy exit hearing closes

NEW YORK, 3 July—The fate of General Motors, who must decide whether the largest US automaker can execute a swift exit from bankruptcy protection by selling its best assets to a new company. “We’re adjourned,” Judge Robert Gerber said around 4:00 pm (2000 GMT) after three days of hearings in which a host of creditors mounted objections to the plan which will create a leaner GM unburdened by old debts and supported by billions in government loans.—INTERNET

Indonesia successfully launches rocket into space

JAKARTA, 3 July—Indonesia Aeronautics and Space Agency successfully launched a rocket into space on Thursday morning as part of its plans to send a satellite into orbit in 2014. The agency said here. The home-grown RX-42 rocket was launched from a pad in Garut regency of West Java Province this morning, the spokesperson of the agency Elly Kuntjahyowati said. “The launch of the rocket has been successful,” she told Xinhua over phone. Another launch of the combined-two rockets, RX-420 and RX-430 would be conducted next year, the spokeswoman said.—MNA/Xinhua

Over 800 wildlife species now extinct

WASHINGTON, 3 July—More than 800 animal and plant species have gone extinct in the past five centuries with nearly 17,000 now threatened with extinction, the International Union for Conservation of Nature reported on Thursday.

A detailed analysis of these numbers indicates the international community will fail to meet its 2010 goal of bolstering biodiversity—maintaining a variety of life forms—a commitment made by most governments in 2002.

Based on data released in 2008 in the union’s Red List, the new IUCN analysis is being released now to precede the 2010 target year and to draw a connection between crisis in the financial and environmental realms, said report editor Jean-Christophe Vie. “We don’t want to make a choice between nature and the economy; we just want to bring nature to the same level when you have to take a decision,” Vie said by telephone from Switzerland.

“Jobs are important but not jobs to the detriment of nature,” he said. “We have done that to too much and look where we have arrived.” The new analysis shows 869 species became extinct or extinct in the wild since the year 1500 while 290 more species are considered critically endangered and possibly extinct. At least 16,928 species are threatened with extinction, including nearly one-third of amphibians, more than one in eight birds and nearly a quarter of mammals. By comparison, the 2004 Red List showed 784 extinctions since 1900.

Jackson memorial set for Tuesday in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, 3 July—The question of when and where a public memorial service will be held for Michael Jackson has finally been answered. But how city officials will handle the likelihood of a massive crowd remains to be settled.—INTERNET

Brazil: Senegal took control of doomed flight

View of a wreck floating in Guanabara Bay in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in homage to the people killed when an Air France jet plunged into the Atlantic on 1 June, 2009. The Air France jetliner that crashed in the Atlantic with 228 people on board did not break up in mid-air, the French bureau leading the investigation said Thursday.—INTERNET

BRASILIA, 3 July—Brazil’s air force has released a recording it says proves it handed over control of Air France Flight 447 to Senegalese authorities before it crashed.

The audio has been posted on the air force Web site after a French official said air traffic controllers in Dakar, Senegal, never officially took control of the flight.

Leif French investigator Alain Boulard made the accusation during the first public report on the 1 June crash in the Atlantic Ocean that killed 228 people.

But the Brazilian air force said on Friday that the audio message proves it informed the Senegalese of the Air France flight’s plan and turned over control of the flight.—INTERNET

Workers hang off the facade of a new mall at Singapore’s major shopping district on Friday July 3, 2009. The Singapore government expects its economy to shrink up to 9 percent this year, the worst recession since independence from Malaysia in 1965. INTERNET
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV XIANG XIU VOY NO (9036)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG XIU VOY NO (9036) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.7.2009 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. 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.

**MV KOTA RUKUN VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RUKUN VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.7.2009 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. 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.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV HOANG ANH 27 VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HOANG ANH 27 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.7.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.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 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.

**African leaders reach deal on regional Authority**

SUN., 3 July—African leaders reached a compromise early Friday on the powers of a new regional Authority that will coordinate key policies but have little power to act without a mandate from member states.

In lengthy and often heated talks, Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi—the current African Union chief—had pushed to grant broad power over regional defence and foreign affairs to the new AU Authority, a step toward his dream of a “United States of Africa.”

The continent’s biggest economy South Africa, as well as top oil producers Nigeria and Angola, led the opposition to his proposals and argued for a more gradual approach to integration. The final deal gave the Authority power to “coordinate the positions of the African Union on questions of common interest for the continent and its people.”

That includes coordinating defence and trade policies, but the Authority will only represent the continent in international affairs when mandated by the member states, according to the text.—Internet

**Asia tested as music industry seeks to boost sales**

HONG KONG, 3 July—Rampant piracy and a crumbling market for CDs has put the music industry in Asia under immense pressure, but a group of Southeast Asian nations is hoping that technology and social media will help fill the gap.

While demand for music continues to rise across the region, the global economic downturn has accelerated the Internet-fueled fall in sales of physical music. “Consumers are enjoying more hours of music—they just ain’t paying for it,” said Marcel Fenez, of PricewaterhouseCoopers’ entertainment and media practice. “The recession is accelerating a migration to digital,” he said. “The consumer is also migrating quicker because of the free content.”

Fenez told the recent Music Matters industry conference in Hong Kong that Asia’s physical distribution market fell by 9.3 percent in 2008—a biggest drop the industry had seen in five years.—Internet

**Traditional medicine for swine flu**

BEIJING, 3 July—Beijing’s municipal health department says some influenza A/H1N1 patients have been treated using traditional Chinese medicine.

The Beijing Health Bureau said as of Thursday, eight of 17 flu patients handpicked to receive the treatment using 5,000-year-old traditional Chinese medicine were fully recovered, China Daily reported.

The non-Tamiflu medication has shown great promise for the remaining nine recovering patients, officials of the Beijing Health Bureau said.

The Ministry of Health said nearly 90 percent of the influenza A/H1N1 patients in China have been treated with a combination of traditional Chinese medicine and modern medicine.—Xinhua

**Internet**

A sales assistant holds up a Nokia handset featuring a new mobile Internet music download platform at a store in Hong Kong.—INTERNET

**A flat television shows the 3-dimensional geographic informational service system for China Shenzhou Travel, during the National Exposition on Geographic Information Applications and Maps, which opens at the Beijing Exhibition Center, in Beijing, on 1 July, 2009.”—XINHUA

**Users warned of “Michael Jackson” email virus**

BEIJING, 3 July—Computer security firm Sophos warned Thursday that an virus is floating around the Internet and told people not to open an email claiming to contain secret songs and photos of Michael Jackson.

The email has a subject line of “Remembering Michael Jackson” and is sent from “sarah@michaeljackson.com,” Sophos said in a statement sent by its Asia office in Singapore.

According to Sophos, the email tells recipients that an attached file titled “Michael songs and pictures.zip” contains secret songs and photos of the pop music icon, who died of a heart attack in the United States on 25 June.

Sophos advised users not to open the email.—Internet

**Internet**

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New type of El Nino could mean more hurricanes make landfall

WASHINGTON, 3 July — El Nino years typically result in fewer hurricanes forming in the Atlantic Ocean. But a new study suggests that the form of El Nino may be changing potentially causing not only a greater number of hurricanes than in average years, but also a greater chance of hurricanes making landfall, according to climatologists at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

The study will appear Friday in the journal Science. “Normally, El Nino results in diminished hurricanes in the Atlantic, but this new type is resulting in a greater number of hurricanes with greater frequency and more potential to make landfall,” said Peter Webster, professor at Georgia Tech’s School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

That’s because this new type of El Nino, known as El Nino Modoki (from the Japanese meaning “similar, but different”), forms in the Central Pacific, rather than the Eastern Pacific as the typical El Nino event does. Warming in the Central Pacific is associated with a higher storm frequency and a greater potential for making landfall along the Gulf coast and the coast of Central America. Even though the oceanic circulation pattern of warm water known as El Nino forms in the Pacific, it affects the circulation patterns across the globe, changing the number of hurricanes in the Atlantic. This regular type of El Nino (from the Spanish meaning “little boy” or “Christ child”) is more difficult to forecast.

But El Nino Modoki follows a different prediction pattern.

NASA’s LRO spacecraft sends first lunar images to earth

WASHINGTON, 3 July — NASA’s Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, or LRO, has transmitted its first images since reaching lunar orbit on 23 June. NASA said on Thursday in a Press release.

The spacecraft has two cameras — a low resolution Wide Angle Camera and a high resolution Narrow Angle Camera. Collectively known as the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera, or LROC, they were activated 30 June.

The cameras are working well and have returned images of a region a few kilometers east of Hell E crater in the lunar highlands south of Mare Nubium, according to NASA. “Our first images were taken along the moon’s terminator — the dividing line between day and night — making us initially unsure of how they would turn out,” said LROC Principal Investigator Mark Robinson of Arizona State University in Tempe.

“Because of the deep shadowing, subtle topography is exaggerated, suggesting a craggy and inhospitable surface. In reality, the area is similar to the region where the Apollo 16 astronauts safely explored in 1972. While these are magnificent in their own right, the main message is that LROC is nearly ready to begin its mission.”

US scientists discover why A/H1N1 flu virus spreads less effectively

WASHINGTON, 3 July — The new A/H1N1 strain of flu has a form of surface protein that binds inefficiently to receptors found in the human respiratory tract, which make it spread from person to person less effectively than other flu viruses, scientists said.

A team from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported the discovery Thursday in the online edition of Science.

“While the virus is able to bind human receptors, it clearly appears to be restricted,” says Ram Sasisekharan, director of the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology (HST) and the lead MIT author of the paper.

Sasisekharan and his laboratory co-workers have been actively investigating influenza viruses. That restricted, or weak, binding, along with a genetic variation in an H1N1 polymerase enzyme, which MIT researchers first reported three weeks ago in Nature Biotechnology, explains why the virus has not spread as efficiently as seasonal flu, says Sasisekharan.

Europe has 563 more confirmed A/H1N1 flu cases

STOCKHOLM, 3 July — A European health agency said on Thursday that 563 new A/H1N1 flu cases were reported in European countries within the last 24 hours.

Of the new cases, 391 were confirmed in Britain, 39 in Spain, 23 in France, 41 in Germany, 11 in Greece, eight in Ireland, seven each in Switzerland and Italy, five each in the Czech Republic and Portugal, four each in Slovakia, the Netherlands, Finland and Poland, two each in Malta, Lithuania, Denmark and Belgium, and one each in Sweden and Norway, the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said in its daily situation report.

WHO Death toll from A/H1N1 flu reaches 337 worldwide

CANCUN, 3 July — The death toll from the A/H1N1 flu pandemic have killed 337 people in 121 nations and the number of the total infected has exceeded 80,000, a top official of the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday.

Most of the infected are young people and schools and homes are the places where people are most likely to be infected, WHO’s Deputy Director-General Keiji Fukuda told a meeting on the A/H1N1 flu in Mexico’s southeastern resort town of Cancun.

He said the virus is more similar to H5N1 avian flu rather than the seasonal flu and the future of the disease is uncertain due to the mutations that the virus could present, he added.

US death toll of A/H1N1 flu rises to 170, cases over 33,000

HOUSTON, 3 July — The A/H1N1 flu death toll in the United States has reached 170, while confirmed and probable cases rose to 33,902, according to the latest statistics released by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Thursday.

The CDC said that 43 more deaths have been reported in the past week, a 34 percent jump from the previous record of 127, and 6,203 new confirmed and probable cases have emerged, representing a 22 percent increase from the previous total of 27,717 released a week ago.

Since the outbreak of the A/H1N1 flu, the state of New York has been leading the nation with most deaths of the new flu virus.

Lebanese fishermen prepare their nets at the harbor of the southern port city of Tyre. Over-fishing, pollution and dynamic fishing have all but wiped out marine life in the Mediterranean waters off the 220-kilometer-long (136-mile-long) Lebanese coast, leaving many of the country’s estimated 8,000 fishermen destitute.

Austrian Airlines planes sit on the tarmac at Schwechat Airport in Vienna, in June 2009. Austrian Airlines said on Thursday it would cut 1,000 jobs following record losses in 2008 and amid a troubled bid by German flag carrier Lufthansa to take over the company.

The road is eroded by the floods in San Juan County in southwest China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 2 July, 2009. A heavy storm hit Gaoji Village, Heping Village, Danzhou Village etc. in Sanjiang County from Wednesday night to Thursday morning, which caused floods in these areas.
**SPORTS**

**Barcelona President wants to sign Valencia’s Villa**

**Madrid, 3 July —** Barcelona President Joan Laporta said on Thursday that he wants to bring Valencia striker David Villa to his club. Villa is thought to have already agreed personal terms with the current Primera Liga and European champions, although the two clubs have yet to reach agreement on his purchase. Villa is said to be in the region of 50 million euros.

With Real Madrid having bought Cristiano Ronaldo, Kaka and Karim Benzema, Barcelona has moved to move now or risk being eclipsed in the transfer market by its biggest rivals. “Villa knows that we want to strengthen our attack and he is one of our targets and that we really like him,” Laporta told radio station Cadena Cope on Thursday.

However, despite the rumors that Villa and the club had reached an agreement over his conditions, Laporta was reluctant to give too many details away. “In the case of Villa, it would not be prudent to reveal how the negotiations are going,” he said.

Laporta also refused to rule out a move to sign Arsenal captain Cesc Fabregas, a player who began his career in the Barcelona youth system before moving to England. “Cesc has Barcelona in his DNA and the way I understand it, he should play here one day. He is the leader at Arsenal, he’s a player that the technical staff, coach and I all like,” said Laporta.

**Chinese gymnasts show different class at Universiade**

**Belgrade, 3 July—** Olympians Cheng Fei and Jiang Yuyuan led Chinese gymnasts to an overwhelming victory in women’s team at the 25th Universiade on Thursday.

Two-time champion Serena Williams saves a match point and overcame Russian Dinara Safina 6-7(4), 7-5, 8-6 in two hours, 49 minutes. Five-time winner Venus needed only 51 minutes to overwhelm another Russian Dinara Safina 6-1, 6-0 and reach her eighth Wimbledon final.

It will be their fourth all-sister Wimbledon final and eighth meeting in a Grand Slam title match. Venus is bidding to become the first woman since Steffi Graf in 1991 to win Wimbledon on three years in a row.

**Kim sets course record at Congressional with 62**

**Bethesda, 3 July —** Anthony Kim is regaining a lot of his strength and a little of his swagger. He can only hope his record start Thursday at the AT&T National golf tournament will allow him to get rid of some frustration built up from a year of not winning.

**Chinese player Cheng Fei performs during the women’s team competition of artistic gymnastics in the 25th universiade in Belgrade, capital of Serbia, on 2 July, 2009.**

**Williams sisters reach Wimbledon final again**

**London, 3 July —** Venus and Serena Williams followed different paths to set up a family duel again at the Wimbledon women’s singles final on Friday.

**Donovan issues ultimatum to Galaxy over Beckham**

**Los Angeles, 3 July —** Landon Donovan has issued the Los Angeles Galaxy an ultimatum - have English super star David Beckham clean up his act or risk the departure of Donovan, the club’s all-time top active scorer.

“Let’s say he does stay here for three more years. I’m not going to spend the next three years of my life doing it this way. This is (expletive) miserable,” Donovan said in passages from a forthcoming book put on Sports Illustrated’s website.

**Federer, Murray closing in on history**

**London, 3 July —** Roger Federer will put friendship aside while Andy Murray must turn his back on national hype and growing media hysteria when they aim to set up a dream Wimbledon final.

Five-time champion Federer, who is chasing a sixth title to give him a record 15th Grand Slam crown, tackles close friend Tommy Haas who, at 31, is two wins away from becoming the oldest Wimbledon champion for 34 years.

Murray, bidding to become Britain’s first man’s champion since Fred Perry in 1936, faces two-time runner-up Andy Roddick in his semi-final where he will be riding a wave of emotional support from a desperate nation.

**Magic Olympics** in Beijing to attract 2,300 magicians worldwide

**Beijing, 3 July —** About 2,300 magicians from 65 countries and regions will attend the 24th FISM World Championships of Magic, to be held here from July 26 to 31, according to the event’s host China Acrobats Association (CAA) on Friday.

The championships is the first of its kind to be held in a developing country since its founding 61 years ago. The magic arts committee of China Acrobats Association joined FISM in 2000 and won the bid to host this year’s event in 2006 during competition with Granada and Vienna.

In addition to the competition of the Grand Prix award and other categories such as close-up card, parlor magic and stage illusions, this year’s event also includes an exhibition of magic equipment, magic lectures and saloons and various performances, said Gao Wei, an official in charge of the information office under the CAA magic arts committee.

**Real Madrid’s new player Raul Albiol is warmly welcomed by fans during the presentation ceremony at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain, on 2 July, 2009.**

**Barcelona’s Ze Roberto joins Hamburg**

**Berlin, 2 July —** Bayern Munich’s Brazilian midfielder Ze Roberto has joined German Bundesliga powerhouse Hamburger SV on a free transfer, the club announced on Thursday. The 34-year-old has signed a two-year deal, but the club did not reveal his salary. Hamburg coach Bruno Labbadia appeared pleased to have acquired the energetic midfielder’s services.

“We’re delighted that Ze Roberto has decided to join us. He is extremely gifted technically and has plenty of top-level experience,” he said. “He’s shown his class both domestically and on the European stage over the last few years,” he added.

Ze Roberto has plied his trade at several top clubs around the world since first appearing in Europe with Real Madrid in 1997. Spells at Brazilian sides Flamengo and Santos and Bundesliga powerhouse Bayer 04 Leverkusen preceded the most recent of two spells at Bayern Munich, where he won a total of eight major domestic trophies.

**Venus Williams of the United States celebrates her victory over Dinara Safina of Russia during the women’s singles semi-final at the 2009 Wimbledon Tennis Championships, on 2 July, 2009.**

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**Landon Donovan.**

**Kim ran off eight birdies over his final 13 holes and set the course record at Congressional with an 8-under 62, giving him a two-shot lead over tournament host Tiger Woods and two others.**

**Anthony Kim waves to the gallery after putting out for birdie on the eighth hole during the first round of the AT&T National golf tournament at Congressional Country Club, on 2 July, 2009, in Bethesda, Md.**

**England’s Andy Murray returns a ball to Spain’s Juan Carlos Ferrero at the 2009 Wimbledon tennis championships.**

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Two-time champion Sergei Dovlatov and Svetlana Boginskaya of the Soviet Union and Russian Natalia Miliaanskaia and Vitaly Guzik of the Ukraine will take on the champions in the final.

Spearheaded by Olympic champion team members Cheng and Jiang, China collected an overall 169.150 points and an extraordinary seven-point edge for the title, leaving Russia a far second in 162.150.

The bronze went to DPR Korea in 161.450 points, which boast Olympic vault winner Hong Eunjong.

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Indonesian non oil, gas export rises up in May

Jakarta, 3 July—Spurred by the increasing export commodity prices, Indonesian non-oil and gas export value increased by 13.3 percent to 8.2 billion US dollars in May this year compared to a month earlier that stood at 7.2 billion US dollars, a senior official said here.

“In general, the export increase in May was incited by export commodity price increase which was seen since February this year,” the Bisnis Indonesia Friday quoted Mochtar, the head of research and development department at the Trade Ministry, as saying.

The non-oil and gas export volume in May also increased to 25.5 million tons, or 1.42 percent higher compared to 25.1 million tons a month earlier, he added.

Mochtar predicted that Indonesian export tends to increase in the coming months with the lowest export figure took place in February. —MNA/Xinhua
NAY PYI TAW, 3 July— Visiting Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon and party met with the officially registered political parties at Myat Tawwin Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone at 4.50 pm today.

It was also attended by patron, the chairman, the vice-chairman and Central Executive Committee members and organizers, totalling 23 persons of 10 political parties namely National League for Democracy, National Unity Party, Union Kayin League, Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Wa National Development Party, Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, Shan State Kokang Democratic Party, Lahu National Development Party and Union Pa-O National Organization.—MNA

UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and party meeting chairman, vice-chairman, leader and members of national race organizations at Myat Tawwin Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone.—MNA

UNSG meets national race organizations

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July—Visiting Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon and party met with national race organizations at Myat Tawwin Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone at 5.50 pm today.

Also present at the meeting were the chairman, the vice-chairman, the leader and members totalling 35 persons from Kachin Special Region (1) NDAK Group, Shan (North) Special Region (5) KDA Group, Shan (South) Special Region (6) PNO Group, Kayah Special Region (2) Ka La La Ta Group, Haunghharaw Special Region Peace Group, Phayagon Special Region Peace Group and DKBA.—MNA

UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and party meet patron, chairman, vice-chairman, CEC members and organizers of 10 officially-registered political parties at Myat Tawwin Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone.—MNA

UNSG meets political parties

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SCIENCE DAILY, 3 July — A similarity in brain disturbance between insects and people suffering from migraines, stroke and epilepsy points the way toward new drug therapies to address these conditions.

Queen’s University biologists studying the locust have found that these human disorders are linked by a brain disturbance during which nerve cells shut down. This also occurs in locusts when they go into a coma after exposure to extreme conditions such as high temperatures or lack of oxygen.

The Queen’s study shows that the ability of the insects to resist entering the coma, and the speed of their recovery, can be manipulated using drugs that target one of the cellular signaling pathways in the brain.

Human-like brain disturbances in insects: locusts shed light on migraines, stroke and epilepsy

Internet