Tasks of Uppatasanti Pagoda to Pagoda Board of Trustees for systematically carrying out tasks for long term maintenance

Secretary-1 attends coordination meeting on Uppatasanti Pagoda of Nay Pyi Taw

INUSTRY

Waso begins Buddhist Lent

Since the time of Myanmar Kings, ordination in Waso has been the great festive event of the month. The king patronized and supported this event providing lavish finance from royal treasury. His sons and nephews and even he himself would be ordained for a short period and attained the title “Sasana Dayika Min [Royal Inheritor of Buddha Sasana].

Waso Memoirs

The Fullmoon Day of Waso is the season's greeting to the beginning of the Buddhist lent and is one of the holiest days in Buddhism.

INUCKY

INSIDE

SECRETARY GENERAL THIHA THURA TIN AUNG MYINT OO ADDRESSES THE WORK COORDINATION MEETING ON UPPATASANTI PAGODA OF NAY PYI TAW.—MIN

NAI PYI TAW, 5 July—A work coordination meeting on Uppatasanti Pagoda of Nay Pyi Taw was held at the hall of the Pagoda Board of Trustees at 2 pm today, with an address by Chairman of the Leading Committee for Construction of Uppatasanti Pagoda Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present at the meeting were Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, the Attorney-General, deputy ministers, members of the leading committee and work committee and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that today’s meeting was to hand over the tasks of the pagoda to the Pagoda Board of Trustees for systematically carrying out the tasks of the pagoda for long term maintenance, for finishing the remaining tasks of the pagoda, for systematically putting on records the construction tasks and architectural works and (See page 8)
Fullmoon Day of Waso, a
day of extraordinary virtue

Today, the Fullmoon Day of Waso, is a
day of religious significance. Better known
to the Buddhists as the Dhammacakka Day,
significance of the day can be seen in that it
was the day on which the Lord Buddha
delivered His first Sermon—Dhammacakka
Pavattana (The Wheel of the doctrine)—to
Panca Vaggi (the group of the first Five
Monks) in the Deer Park soon after His
Enlightenment.

In the sermon, the Lord Buddha
expounded the Middle Way (Majjima
Patipada) that comprises the two extremes—
-Kama Sukkhilamanyoga which means
indulgence in sensual pleasures and
Atakilamathanuyoga which means self-
mortification. And with those wrong paths
one cannot free oneself from the cycle of
birth and death. The Buddha also said that
only through Majjima Patipada or Noble
Eightfold Path, it would be possible for one
to gain insight and attain Nibbana.

The Noble Eightfold Path consists of
right understanding, right thought, right
speech, right action, right livelihood, right
effort, right mindfulness and right
concentration.

The Fullmoon Day of Waso, is also a
day of extraordinary virtue as it was the day
on which the Buddha-to-be Prince
Siddhattha was conceived and the day on
which He renounced the worldly life. This
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on which the Buddha-to-be Prince
Siddhattha was conceived and the day on
which He renounced the worldly life. This
being so, all the Buddhists usually offer Waso
flowers to pagodas and monasteries, offer
Waso robes and requisites to members of the
Sangha and do meritorious deeds such as
making charity (dana), observing morality (sila)
and undertaking meditation (bhavana) while
practising the Noble Eightfold Path that
includes in His first Sermon “Dhammacakka
Pavattana”.

Progress of Yatanarpon Myothit Project inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July—Minister for
Communications, Posts
and Telegraphs Brig-Gen
Thein Zaw inspected sand
filtering pond and water
tank being built by
Mandalay City
Development Committee
and construction of roads
in the area of Yatanarpon
Myothit Project near
PyinOoLwin on 4 July.

The minister looked into construction
of CDMA-450 control
room and building of
factories and workshops
in Soft Base Factories.

International Day of the Cooperatives observed

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July—A ceremony to mark the
International Day of the Cooperatives was held at
the hall of the Ministry of
Cooperatives, here,
yesterday morning.

Minister for
Cooperatives Maj-Gen
Tin Htut delivered an address.

Mandalay Natural
Disaster Management
Committee meets

MANDALAY, 5 July—A coordination meeting
of Mandalay Natural
Disaster Management
Committee took place at
the office of Mandalay
City Development
Committee on 24 June
with an address by
Chairman of MNDMC
Chairman of MCDC
Mayor Brig-Gen Phone
Zaw Han.

It was also attended
by Vice-Chairman of
MNDMC Secretary of
MCDC U Maung Pu,
Joint-Secretary U San
Maung, divisional level
departmental officials,
Joint-Secretary of
Mandalay Division
USDA U Sein Myint,
heads of department of
MCDC and local
authorities.

First, Mayor Brig-
Gen Phone Zaw Han
delivered a speech. U San
Maung reported on the
formation of the
committee and duties
assigned.

Later, officials of various
departments took
part in the discussions and
the mayor gave a
concluding remark.—NLM

Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut presents prize for
outstanding students through principal for
2008-09 academic year to mark International
Co-operatives Day.—CO-operatives

Well-wishers donate US$ 60000 for
Labutta Youth Training School

YANGON, 5 July—Well-wishers Mr. Zulho
Nakashita and wife Daw Aye Aye Khine, son Maung
Pyae Thuta and Shin Nyajasoti (Tharavada University)
donated US$ 60000 to build a Labutta Youth Training
School through Secretary of National Disaster
Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Social
Welfare and Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung
Maung Swe at the hall of Fire Service Department in
Mayangon Township, here today. The Minister
presented the certificates of honour and spoke words of
thanks.—MNA
Suicide bombing kills security guard, wounds four others in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 5 July—A suicide car bombing against security guards of an Afghan private security company Saturday afternoon killed one guard and injuring four others in southern Afghan province of Helmand, an official said on Saturday.

“An Afghan, driving explosive-laden car, exploded himself near to a convoy of local security firm in Kandahar-Helmant highway, killing one guard and injuring four more,” Mohammad Dawod Ahmadi told Xinhua.

No groups or individuals have claimed responsibility for the incident so far.

Taliban-linked insurgency and violence, mostly in southern and eastern region, is sharply going up in the country, as more than four dozen people, including two NATO-led International Security Assistance Forces soldiers, were killed in a single day Saturday.

17-year-old charged with shooting girl

BALTIMORE, 5 July—A Baltimore teenager was charged Saturday with wounding a 5-year-old girl who was shot in the head as she walked home with her aunt, police said.

Police Commissioner Frederick H Bealefield III said Lamont Davis, 17, will be charged as an adult, was shot in the head as she walked home with her aunt, and two of them were being treated for smoke inhalation and exhaustion.

President Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev end a seven-year hiatus in US-Russian summitry on Monday, with both men declaring their determination to further cut nuclear arsenals and repair a badly damaged relationship.

“Both sides appear to want to use progress on arms control as a pathway into possible agreement on other, far trickier issues 0 like Iran and the tiny country of Georgia, a former Soviet republic. Those difficulties and many others have soured a promising linkage in the first years after the Cold War and pushed ties between Moscow and Washington to depths not seen in more than two decades.

Obama arrives here Monday afternoon, the first stop on a weeklong trip that will also take him to Italy and Ghana.

“It’s not, in our view, a zero-sum game, that if it’s two points for Russia it’s negative two for us, but there are ways that we can cooperate to advance our interests and,”

at the same time, do things with the Russians that are good for them, as well,” Obama’s top assistant on Russia, Michael McFaul, said in a press conference.

He seemed to be of one mind with the Russian leader, Medvedev.

“Russia and America need new, common, mutually beneficial projects in business, science and culture,” the Russian president said in his weekly Internet address.

“I hope that this sincere desire to open a new chapter in Russian-American cooperation will be brought into fruition,”

In this photo released by China’s Xinhua News Agency, taken on 4 July, 2009, destroyed vehicles are seen at the site of a suicide attack in Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital of Helmand Province south of Kabul, Afghanistan. An Afghan civilian was killed and five others were wounded in the attack, Afghan police officials said.—INTERNET

One killed, four wounded in US fireworks truck blast

WASHINGTON, 5 July—One person died and four others were critically injured when a truck carrying fireworks exploded on an island in North Carolina on Saturday, authorities said.

Jamie Tunnell, spokeswoman for Hyde County, North Carolina, said the fireworks were to be used for the evening’s Fourth of July fireworks show on Ocracoke Island, and the dead person and the four wounded were members of a crew involved in setting up the display. The truck exploded at the island’s docks. Emergency crews and firefighters were called to the scene and two of them were being treated for smoke inhalation and exhaustion.

In this photo released by China’s Xinhua News Agency, taken on 4 July, 2009, local people paddle boats through a flooded street in Rongshui county, southwest China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.—XINHUA

Beijing, 5 July—At least 16 people have died and more than 320,000 have evacuated homes in southern and central China after heavy rains toppled houses, flooded roads and damaged a dam, news reports say.

In the central province of Hunan, floods have killed eight people and forced 140,000 to relocate since rain began pounding the region on Wednesday, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Five people have died in southeastern Fujian Province, two others were missing, and 22,000 people have been evacuated, Xinhua said Saturday.

Another three people died and four were missing in Jiangxi Province of the Guangxi region.

Another 80,000 people were forced from their homes.

Rains caused 287 rural houses in Guangxi to topple and inundated Rongshui county causing the Rongjiang river to overflow its banks. More than 70,000 people in the region have been moved, the news agency said.

The county government estimated damage at 210 million yuan ($31 million).

Obama seeks new start in US-Russia relations

MOSCOW, 5 July— Presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev end a seven-year hiatus in US-Russian summitry on Monday, with both men declaring their determination to further cut nuclear arsenals and repair a badly damaged relationship.

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**Bleak payrolls report mauls Wall St; volume thin**

**New York, 5 July**—Stocks tumbled on Thursday, driving the S&P 500 down to its third-straight weekly loss, as a steeper-than-expected slide in June nonfarm payrolls revived caution about economic recovery prospects.

News that US employers shed nearly half a million jobs last month and the unemployment rate jumped to 9.5 per cent, the highest in nearly 26 years, dampened recent hopes that the recession might be abating.

Investors pummeled stocks across the board, but energy, industrials, financials, technology and consumer-oriented shares were among the hardest-hit sectors.

These sectors were at the forefront of the broader market’s recent recovery from the 12-year closing lows of early March as investors bet that the worst of the economic slump was over.

All told, the jobs data served as a reality check and signaled that any recovery will not be smooth sailing, analysts said.

“Quite frankly, rising unemployment is bad for the entire economy,” said Sasha Kostadinov, portfolio manager at Shaker Investments in Cleveland, Ohio.

“It’s not positive for discretionary stocks. It’s not positive for financials—because there’s a direct correlation between the high unemployment rate and charge-offs and delinquent payments.”

**Late blight hits early in Northeast**

**ITHACA, 5 July**—The disease blamed for the Irish potato famine in the 1840s is infecting tomato and potato plants in the eastern United States, agricultural officials said.

A press release from Cornell University, New York state’s land grant college, warned home gardeners and commercial farmers that late blight is killing the tomato and potato plants. Meg McGrath, associate professor of plant pathology and plant-microbe biology, said “late blight has never occurred this early and this widespread in the US.”

Another blight, basil downy mildew, is also affecting plants in the Northeast.

McGrath said an early symptom is brown spots on stems. As the spots enlarge, white fungal growth develops until a soft rot collapses the stem.

Since the spores are carried on the wind, McGrath said gardeners must act quickly to make sure their plants are not the source of blight spreading to commercial farms. She recommended gardeners spray regularly with fungicides and destroy plants with severe blight.

**Beatings spark fears for Bangladesh’s tigers**

**Dhaka, 5 July**—When forest officials in southeastern Bangladesh heard that two tigers had strayed out of the forest and into a remote village they knew they had to act quickly.

Though villagers in the area were worried about their own lives, the authorities were racing to save the big cats after a wave of similar incidents in recent years have ended with the endangered animals being beaten to death.

In this instance, the tigers were already dead by the time the officials arrived.

“Tigers go in and out of villages in the night but if they go in during the day, they never survive. The villagers beat them to death,” said Aboni Bhusan Thakur, the government’s chief conservation officer for the Sundarbans mangrove forest.

One of the tigers, a five-year-old male, had apparently got lost and hid in a shack, where he was attacked by villagers wielding sticks, spears and machetes, Thakur said.

An 18-year-old tigress was also attacked and killed.

Police have arrested one man accused of being the ringleader.

The story is not a new one in Bangladesh. There have been 14 registered cases of tigers being killed in similar circumstances since 2000. Newspaper reports suggest the real figure is closer to 30 while conservationists say it is even higher.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Red List, there are fewer than 2,500 Bengal tigers left in the world with as few as 200 of those in Bangladesh — the single largest population in the wild.

**Movement to shut down shark tours in Hawaii grows**

**Haleiwa, 5 July**—Three women donned scuba masks and jumped into the waters off Oahu’s North Shore, floating inside a submerged cage as about a dozen sharks glided toward bloody fish scraps tossed into the water by a tour company.

Tourist Kim Duniec said the experience of coming eye-to-eye with sharks was exhilarating. “Their eyes were scary, but they were still graceful, absolutely beautiful,” the Beaver Dam, Wis, woman said.

Shark tours like this have become a popular visitor attraction in Hawaii, but a movement is gaining momentum to shut them down.

Some Native Hawaiians consider sharks to be ancestral gods and view feeding them for entertainment to be disrespectful of their culture. Surfers and environmentalists fear the tours will teach sharks to associate people with food — leading to an increase in attacks — while disrupting the ocean’s ecological balance. Federal fisheries regulators, meanwhile, are investigating the tours on the grounds that they are illegally feeding sharks.
Chinese President leaves for leaders’ dialogue between G8, emerging economies

BEIJING, 5 July—Chinese President Hu Jintao left Beijing on Sunday for a meeting between the leaders of the Group of Eight (G8) and five emerging economies (China, India, Brazil, South Africa and Mexico) from 8 to 10 July in L’Aquila, Italy, at the invitation of Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

Hu will also pay state visits to Italy from 5 to 8 July at the invitation of Italian President Giorgio Napolitano and to Portugal from 10 to 11 July as a guest of Portuguese President Anibal Cavaco Silva. Hu’s entourage includes Ling Jihua, member of the Secretariat of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and director of General Office of the CPC Central Committee; Wang Huarong, member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee and director of Policy Research Office of the CPC Central Committee; State Councillor Dai Bingguo; Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi; Minister of the National Development and Reform Commission Zhang Ping; Minister of Commerce Chen Deming; Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei; Director of the President’s Office Chen Shuang and Assistant Foreign Minister Wu Hongbo.

Gas pipeline in W Canada targeted by second bomb in four days

VANCOUVER, 5 July—EnCana-owned gas pipeline in the western Canadian province of British Columbia was targeted by a second bomb explosion in four days on Saturday, which police described as “domestic terrorism”, according to local media reports.

The bomb went off near Dawson Creek in the northern part of the province, not far from the bombing site on 1 July. The recent case is the sixth pipeline attack since last October.

The explosion caused gas leak but “no harms to the worker, the public or the environment,” EnCana said via a statement by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

“This is considered domestic terrorism. These persons, or this person, are terrorizing these communities of Poule Coupe and Dawson Creek and inflicting stress on these people,” RCMP Cpl Dan Moskaluk said during stress on these people,” RCMP Cpl Dan Moskaluk said via a statement by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

This is considered domestic terrorism. These persons, or this person, are terrorizing these communities of Poule Coupe and Dawson Creek and inflicting stress on these people,” RCMP Cpl Dan Moskaluk was quoted by the Canadian Broadcasting Company as saying. —Xinhua

Int’l business communities call for anti-protectionism

BEIJING, 5 July—International business communities released a joint proposal against trade and investment protectionism here on Saturday at the Global Think Tank Summit. The proposal, jointly issued by the International Chamber of Commerce in China, European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China and Korean Chamber of Commerce in China, called for internationally-united efforts to fight against all kinds of protectionism.

All countries are closely connected and dependent on each other, and protectionism could only bring further disasters to the world economy that had already been severely damaged, said the proposal.

The proposal called for enhanced cooperation between political leaders of major economies.

The world should maintain an open economic system and countries involved in the Doha Round need to complete the talks as soon as possible to boost global trade and economic growth, it said. —Xinhua

13 injured in French train crash

PARIS, 5 July—A Friday train crash near southwestern French city of Limoges left 13 injured, among whom two were seriously injured and are remained in hospital on Saturday, local officials said.

The train which derailed on Friday around 8:40 p.m. (1840 GMT) caused 13 people injured after it hit a trailer.

Five people were hospitalized. But only two seriously injured are still in hospital. An investigation is under way. The owner of the trailer has been arrested.

The train was carrying about 450 people, traveling between Paris and Cahors when the accident occurred, the SNCF rail authority said.

Speaking on LCI news channel, French Transport Secretary Dominique Bussereau described the accident as “absolutely improbable,” “absurd” and “maybe just unpredictable.” Rail traffic resumed on Saturday around 10:30 a.m. (830 GMT) after 150 workers worked overnight. —Xinhua
Teen 5th killed by apparent serial killer

Gaffney, 5 July — A teenage girl shot while helping her father in their family’s small furniture and appliance store died Saturday, becoming the fifth victim of a suspected serial killer terrorizing a small South Carolina community, authorities said.

Abby Tyler, 15, died about 11:15 am at a Spartanburg hospital after fighting for her life for two days, Cherokee County Coroner Dennis Fowler said.

Tyler was wounded and her father was killed Thursday as they worked to close the Tyler Home Center near downtown Gaffney.

County Sheriff Bill Blanton said investigators believe the killings are linked and the search is on for a suspected male serial killer. An 83-year-old mother and her daughter were shot to death Wednesday, and a 63-year-old peach farmer was found dead at his home a week ago.

Blanton said all the victims were shot, but he would not say how the deaths were linked. The shootings all occurred within about 10 miles of each other in Cherokee County, a rural community of 54,000 people set amid peach orchards and farms some 50 miles west of Charlotte, NC.

Gunmen kidnap 16 Afghan UN demining workers

Gardez, 5 July — United Nations unidentified gunmen have kidnapped 16 Afghans working for a United Nations-sponsored demining agency in eastern Afghanistan, UN officials and police said on Sunday.

The Afghan gunmen work for the Mine Detection and Dog Center (MDDC), part of the overall United Nations mine clearing agency in Afghanistan known as UNMACA.

They were seized while traveling between Ghazni and Paktia Provinces late on Saturday, Pakistan’s police chief said.

“We do not know who kidnapped them and why. We are investigating,” Arizallah Wardak told reporters in the Pakistan provincial capital Gardez.

UNMACA official Gul Agha Ahmadzai said they were snatched as they drove along the Logar-Gardez road which links with Ghazni.

Afghanistan is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world after almost 30 years of war.

One dead, several hurt in Fla lightning strike

Lakeeland, 5 July — A lightning strike at a Fourth of July gathering in central Florida killed one person and 18 others were taken to hospitals, officials said Saturday.

About 100 people from a church group were outside playing soccer and volleyball in Lakeeland, about 30 miles east of Tampa, when a lightning bolt or series of strikes hit nearby, seemingly out of nowhere, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said.

Benjamin Gonzalez, 30, who was playing soccer, was hit and collapsed. He was taken to a nearby hospital and pronounced dead. Eighteen others were hospitalized and nine more treated at the scene.

Judd said their injuries were not life-threatening, with symptoms including numbness and tingling.

“It’s very sad to see folks just celebrating the Fourth, in a way that you would hope people would celebrate the Fourth, with friends and family, and a lightning strike, an act of God occurred, and one person died,” Judd said.

Authorities were called to the Iglesia Bautista Maranatha’s property at about 4:40 pm. Prior to that, the afternoon had all the makings of a festive holiday: Men were playing soccer; trophies, apparently soon to be awarded, stood nearby.

Women played volleyball and children came with their families.

Car going strong at 558,000 miles

A 90-year-old Florida woman said the Mercury Comet Caliente she purchased in 1964 is still going strong 558,000 miles later.

Rachel Vetch of Orlando, a retired nurse who volunteers several days a week at an Orlando Police Department office, said the car, which she calls “Chariot,” has lasted her through 45 years and three husbands, the Orlando Sentinel reported Monday.

“I’ll tell you something; This little beauty has lasted her through 45 years and three husbands,” she said.

Nearly one in five Italians trusts sorcerers

Nearly 18 percent of the Italian population — 11 million people — trusts self-styled sorcerers and healers, a consumer watchdog said in a report Monday.

The group Telefono Antiplagio found more than 16,000 cases of people being scammed by sorcerers and healers since 2000.

The group said the number is higher than in the past.

Nearly 25 percent of people said they have been scammed by sorcerers and healers since 2000.

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Every day, 33,000 people see sorcerers or astrologers in Italy, the study found.

The top reason for seeing a sorcerer is to soothe a broken heart (46 percent), followed by health problems (25 percent), violence (22 percent) and trouble at work (seven percent).

Bus rider finds 19th century checks, old tools

Some 19th century checks and old rusted tools were left months ago at a bus stop in Longmont, and police say no one has come forward to claim them.

The Regional Transportation District turned over the unusual items to police in March after a rider said she found them at a bus stop in Longmont. The items include handwritten checks from 1884 mounted on mat boards, as if they’d been on display.

The rider also found two rusty handtools. Longmont police said no one has claimed the antiques or reported them stolen. They said that unclaimed items are usually auctioned after 60 days, but that they’re publicizing the finds in hopes someone will claim them.

If no one does, they’ll go to the Longmont Museum & Cultural Center.
Waso begins Buddhist Lent

Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Waso the fourth month of Myanmar calendar ushers in the peak period of heavy rain. There is a Myanmar rhymed couplet ‘ဉာဏီကော်သွိကျွေး’ [I shall stay in this monastery during the three months of cultivating season—lent. There are two alternative Wa or lent. Purima Wa [First lent] covers three solid months—from the first waning moon day of Waso to the fullmoon day of Thadingyu [October]. Piyasima Wa [Second lent] begins on the first waning moon day of Wakhaung and ends on the fullmoon day of Tazaungmon [November]. Monks may choose either of these two alternative lents. Monks usually choose Purima Wa.

In the evening or at night of the first waning moon day of Waso, monks of the same residing monastery assemble in the spacious hall facing the shrine of Buddha Images. After paying homage to the Buddha, the abbot monk describes to the assembly the boundaries of the monastery and precincts, within which the residing monks are obliged to stay during lent. Starting with the most senior monk in the assembly [seniority in ordained years] every monk by turn, recites the following Wa vow in Pali. ‘tinghammin vihare imam temasam vassam attah’ [I shall stay in this monastery during the three months of cultivating season—lent.]

On the second day of Waso lent, the monks receive their monthly alms food. After the monks have had their meal, the abbot monk, in his turn, makes a formal request for the dispensation of this month’s precepts, to allow the monks to be free from all penalties for any unintentional harm caused during the month.

By the end of the month, all monks have to appear before the abbot monk for the religious examination of the previous month Nayon. If unavoidable circumstances require a residing monk to stay away from his residing monastery during lent, he can make a formal request for the dispensation of the duties of lent during his absence. If he fails to make this request and stay away from his residing monastery, he commits breach of Wa vow and he suffers ‘Wa Kyio’ which means losing the priestly character in consequence of a breach of monastic discipline and Wa vow. But there is hardly a case of Wa Kyio because monks strictly observe vinaya disciplines.

Lent period of three months provides monks fulltime religious learning and, observance of religious practices. In Pariyatti monasteries, teaching and learning of Tipitaka and all appertaining religious literature are intensively carried out by teacher and pupil monks, preparing for religious examinations. At meditation centres, instructor monks guide their pupils in correct ways of meditation. Material needs of teacher and pupil monks especially alms food are donated by generous lay devotees and public.

Myanmar rhymed couplet ‘ဉာဏီကော်သွိကျွေး’ [I shall stay in this monastery during the three months of cultivating season—lent.]

Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt
Tasks of Uppatasanti Pagoda to Pagoda...
(from page 1)

for growing more trees in the precinct of the pagoda in the rainy season.

He stressed the need to display religious affairs, the documents related to the pagoda, the Buddhological works and scale models of the famous pagodas across the nation at the museum of Uppatasanti Pagoda for the public obeisance. Moreover, the Secretary-1 called for growing more shady trees and flowery plants in the precinct of the pagoda and nurturing them.

The commander reported on duties assigned to the pagoda board of trustees and formation of the office staff, implementation of their tasks, visits of pilgrims, availability of cash donations and holding of religious ceremonies at the pagoda.

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Maj-Gen Nyan Tun of the Ministry of Defence, Managing Director U Soe Win of the News and Periodicals Enterprise on behalf of the Minister for Information and Director-General U San Lwin of Forest Department on behalf of the Minister for Forestry reported on construction of the pagoda, maintenance tasks, compilation of the pagoda history, religious affairs and greening of the pagoda precinct.

After giving necessary instructions, the Secretary-1 gave concluding remarks.

After the meeting, the Secretary-1 inspected sample paintings of famous pagodas from States and Divisions and sample reliefs on 10 Jataka stories to be installed in the cave of the pagoda.

In-charge Head of Public Relations and Information Department of Yangon City Development Committee U Hla Myint Swe and responsible persons of Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiason submitted the reports on decoration works. — MNA

Stationery, cash provided to basic education schools in Myaing Tsp

YANGON, 5 July—Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Maj-Gen Thein Tun on 3 July attended the computer, stationery and cash to the funds and the third cash donation for Gaunggwe-Thanatyn Road Section at the hall in Myaing.

He presented one set of computer, 200 dozens of exercise books and stationery and K500,000 to Myaing Basic Education High School, 40 dozens of exercise books and stationery and K200,000 to Myaing BEMS and 21 dozens of exercise books and K 200,000 for BEPSs.

The deputy minister and family and friends donated 200 bags of cement and K 5.5 million for the road construction.

Yesterday, the deputy minister donated K 700,000 to the funds of three schools in Wayinchanu Village. The tract and Kunlat Village and 46 dozens of exercise books and stationery to Wayinchanu Village Post-Primary School and 37 dozens of exercise books and stationery to Kunlat Village BEPS. — MNA

Sales of mobile phone directory on 15 July

YANGON, 5 July—A ceremony to introduce Yellow Mobile software for Yangon and themyanmardirectory.com to be used on the Internet and in mobile phones was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road, yesterday afternoon.

Executive Director U Soe Paing of Novel Light Media Ltd explained production of mobile phone directory software and matters related to 10 years old Myanmar Industrial and Commercial Directory.

U Htoo Myint Naung of Technomation Studios further explained use of Yellow Mobile software and replied to the queries raised by those present.

Yellow Mobile software includes address and telephone numbers of hospitals and government offices (Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw), township offices of Yangon, foreign embassies and UN agencies, UMFCCI, hotels and businesses in alphabetical order.

Yellow Mobile can be browsed on themyanmardirectory.com. Mobile phone users can upgrade the Yellow Mobile Directory through themyanmardirectory.com. While chatting, G-Talk user can apply Yellow Mobile.

The software of Yellow Mobile is available at mobile phone shops in Yangon and Mandalay starting from 15 July. For more information related to Yellow Mobile, themyanmardirectory.com and advertisement, may contact Novel Light Media Co Ltd at 134 on 40 Street in Kyauktada Township. Tel: 391186 and 252232.—MNA
New building of Myawady Bank…

(from page 16)


Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min waving to passangers at new Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station.—MNA

Running of trains commences…

(from page 16)

Arrangements have been made to ply the buses of Tawwin, Shwe Myodaw, Ahmanthit and Taungnyo-Moeswe bus lines and Nay Pyi Taw taxies along their respective routes centring at new Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station for the convenience of passengers.

To mark the runs of trains from the new railway station, the Ministry of Rail Transportation held the rainy season tree growing ceremony for 2009 in front of the railway station this morning.

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and wife Dr. Daw Wai Wai Tha, the deputy ministers and departmental heads planted star-flower saplings.

Staff of the ministry today grew 3517 saplings of various tree species.

A train departs from new Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station.—MNA

Taxies at new Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station to ensure smooth travel of passangers. MNA
The skies were clear and fine on the morning of the Fullmoon Day of Waso, and as of every year we went to pay our respects, pray and offer our Waso robes to the Shan monastery at 9th mile on the Yangon-Pyay highway. The small Shan village across the road has a long history of over a hundred years. The beginnings of the village and the monastery are inscribed on a small marble plaque embedded on a brick platform on the grounds in front of the old monastery building which was partially burnt during the Second World War. The writing on the plaque in Shan simply describes the dates of the building of the monastery and the beginnings of the village. The majority of the inhabitants of the village are Shan, speaking the main dialect of the language of Shan land west of the Thanwin river. Their ancestors who built the village were part of a peripatetic group wandering in search of a permanent home, and since they had now found it had firmly embedded themselves. The present inhabitants still speak the old language, but time, environment and education has transformed them wholly into the surrounding Myanmar society.

The Fullmoon Day of Waso is the seasons greeting to the beginning of the Buddhist lent and is one of the holiest days in Buddhism. The Lenten period starts from the Fullmoon Day of Waso and lasts until the Fullmoon Day of Thadingyut. The pilgrims flocking the grounds of the monastery are from the village and various parts of Yangon, many of them in traditional Shan dress. On such a holy day even the young have put aside their jean pants and blouses, the boys for the bBagy “pinne” Shan trousers and jackets, and the girls for Inle longyis and Myanmar dresses. Everyone is carrying an offering, various kinds of food and edibles, wax candles, medicinal drugs and other necessities to sustain the monks during their long months of meditation and prayer that marks the lenten time. An air of quietness surrounds the whole place despite the large crowd of people talking and greeting each other for this is also a social event. There are no loudspeakers broadcasting music to spoil the mood. From some far off corner of the spacious monastery grounds there is a faint sound of a Shan “ohzi” drum.

All these sights and sounds bring back to me far away memories of my younger years, growing up in the small town of Kehsi Mersam in the middle of Shan State. There, the Fullmoon Day of Waso is celebrated in much more austere and stricter way than it is today. I remember our whole family locking up the house and going to the monastery to offer our respects and offer morsels to the monks. Villagers gather flowers from the woods and forests, and the “Waso flower” as it is called is offered to the monastery altar and pagodas. Waso candles offered on the Fullmoon Day were made from bees wax and they were all hand made. It seemed as if the whole town had come. Everyone moved into the monastery to reverently deposit their offerings in front of the seated monks. The head of the monastery raised his hand and began his sermon. The whole crowd listened in hushed silence to his sermon on the significance and holiness of Waso, and when it ended every one went down on their knees to pay their respects. After that the crowd would break up, the elders to keep their Sabbath and meditate, and the youngsters to wander around the many small pagodas that seemed to fill the monastery grounds.

In those days elderly persons went to the monastery on the eve of the Fullmoon Day to go and sleep at the rest houses in the monastery compound which could accommodate all the fasting devotees, passers by and travellers. They would stay there for about a week while some stayed the whole Lenten period. The elders who stayed the whole Lenten period at the monastery usually served the monks at their meals. It was a daily routine for the householders to cook and bring the food for the monks and the elders. For those who came from distant villages, the abbot of the monastery took care of all their necessities. The elders usually brought their grandchil- dren to the monastery to stay with them simply to give of the children religious education and to get used to religi- on and social behavior. During the whole week, apart from their prayers, the elders would discuss religious discourses and talk about Jataka tales. As for the children they had a good time since they could play in the monastery compound and the abbot distributed surplus edible things to them. It is sort of a religious indoctrina- tion for the children. They could learn at least how to fold their hands in worship and prayer, and how to pay respect to the monks. They learned the basic principles in the usage of religious language and monastic customs. It is a way of gradually and unconsciously teach- ing the children in their early ages in the Shan villages.

During the Lenten time children were not allowed to make loud noises near the meditation places, and they were warned not to disturb the fasting devotees.

From that day and for three days after hunters pledge to keep away from the forests and their hunt- ing, and fishermen refrain from fishing in the moun- tain streams.

There is an air of calm silence in the villages and mothers try their best to keep their babies from crying lest it disturbs meditating elders. In those days there were little or no motor cars or trucks to spoil the silence, and needless to say there were no loudspeak- ers. At night candles were lit in most of the pagodas, but not in the fashion of a candle light display but in pure reverence offer the lamps and lanterns to the Buddha.

One day while offering alms food to the head of the monastery I asked the abbot to explain to me the origin and beginnings of the Lenten or the “Waso” period. He said it is specially sacred because in the following days after Lord Buddha’s first teachings the monks remained totally in the monasteries in Magadha, reciting and explaining to all the sacred law and urging them to follow the path leading to Nirbanna.

Another characteristic of the Waso period as far as I remember was the Novitiation ceremony at the monastery. The whole village celebrated it as a community celebration. In our villages it is the cus- tom and tradition for the young boys who had come of age to undergo this ceremony and they don the yellow robe for the whole period in the monastery. In a way the young gain experience of commune life and living with others. Under the strict eyes of the abbot and the monks they learn the basic Buddhist scriptures to follow the true path of a good Buddhist. The boys are no strangers to the monastery because since they learnt to speak they had been there before to learn, to read and write.

My annual visit to the monastery this year of Woso time has rekindled all these old memories. We paid our respects to the abbot and left the beautiful surroundings. The Fullmoon Day of Waso will always be remembered in my heart.

(As narrated to me by my mother)

Vietnamese communist party major meeting

HANOI, 5 July—The Communist Party of Vietnam’s (CPV) 10th Central Committee closed the 10th plenum here on Saturday, the Vietnamese Government website reported. Nong Duc Manh, General Secretary of the CPV Central Committee delivered a speech at the close of the week-long meeting.

Manh said during the years of implementing Vietnam’s socio-economic development strategy for 2001-2010, Vietnam has made full use of opportunities, overcome many difficulties and made significant achievements.

Manh said Vietnam drew out many lessons during this period and the most vital one was to place importance on the sustainability of development.


Manh said that the Political Bureau of the CPV Central Committee would give instructions on organizing the 11th Party Congress, slated for 2011.

MOGADISHU, 5 July—At least 23 Somalis, mostly civilians, were killed and more than fifty wounded in Mogadishu on Saturday in the latest clash between government troops and insurgents, medics said.

“As of now, I can tell you that 23 died and more than fifty injuries were dropped at the hospital.”

Ali Muse, a government spokesman told Reuters.

The attack brings the death toll to over 70 killed since Wednesday as government troops try to drive insurgents out of their Mogadishu bases. African Union peacekeepers (AMISOM) have warned hardline Islamist insurgents who have been advancing on Somali Government positions to back down or face retaliation.

“There is a limit, when they (insurgents) cross that line we shall engage them immediately,” Major-General Francis Okello, AMISOM’s commander, told Reuters. “That is in our mandate, and we are carefully watching them.”

The 4,300 Ugandan and Burundian troops have been confined to their bases and are limited to protecting key sites such as the presidential palace, airport and seaport.

MNA/Reuters
Canadian police probe sixth gas pipeline bombing

VANCOUVER, 5 July  
—An explosion damaged a natural gas pipeline in northeast British Columbia on Saturday, the sixth attack on an energy facility in that area of the Canadian province in recent months.

The explosion about 8 kilometres south of the community of Dawson Creek, British Columbia, caused a leak but no injuries and was heard by crews repairing wellhead equipment damaged in a bombing on Wednesday, police said.

“The elements of this incident thus far, are consistent with the previous blast sites and the RCMP considers this latest bombing linked to those incidents,” the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said in a statement.

Pipeline owner EnCana Corp said 12-inch (30-centimetre) diameter line carried “sour” gas that contains hydrogen sulphide and can be deadly if breathed, but none had been detected by monitoring equipment and there was no threat to the public.

The incident caused pressure in the line to drop, which activated emergency valves that immediately shut down the pipeline and stopped the leak, the company said.

The bombings that began in early October have all targeted EnCana natural gas facilities near Dawson Creek and Tomsklake, British Columbia. None of the attacks have caused injuries but have produced small gas leaks.

Investigators believe the saboteur is a resident of the area and that the incidents are linked to a letter sent to media before the first blast warning EnCana to stop drilling for natural gas in the area.—MNA/Reuters

New weapons in fight against TB?

SAN DIEGO (CALIFORNIA), 5 July—Extreme drug-resistant tuberculosis might someday meet its match in two drugs now used to treat Parkinson’s disease, suggests a new study.

Researchers, led by a team from the University of California, San Diego, reported in the July 3 issue of PLoS Computational Biology that commercially available entacapone and tolcapone have the potential to treat the difficult-to-kill strain of TB.

The discovery was made after a computational analysis that found the chemical structure of the two Parkinson’s drugs might work to thwart the TB enzyme InhA, which previous research had determined to be a prime target in treating the disease. A subsequent lab experiment found that the active ingredient in the two drugs inhibited the M. tuberculosis bacterium without being deadly to its host cells.

Five die in Philippines bombing

COTABATO CITY (PHILIPPINES), 5 July—Five people have been killed and at least 34 injured in a bomb attack outside a Catholic church in the southern Philippines.

A single suspect left a home-made bomb outside the Immaculate Conception cathedral in Cotabato city which exploded just as the congregation was leaving after early morning mass.

The church was not heavily damaged but a restaurant across the street appeared to have absorbed much of the impact, witnesses said.

Ordnance experts searched for clues among blood-splattered debris on the road outside the church.

Police said four soldiers, were killed at the scene, while another died of his injuries in hospital.

Suicide attack kills 32 militants in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 5 July—A militants, riding an explosive-laden car, blew it up in Paktika Province east of Afghanistan Saturday morning, killing one foreign soldier and injuring another Afghan trooper, spokesman of provincial administration Hamidullah Zhawak said.

“Taliban insurgents carried out this attack next to headquarters of Zirok District at 6:30 a.m. local time (0200 GMT) killing one soldier of the US-led forces and injuring another Afghan trooper,” Zhawak told Xinhua.

The incident triggered heavy fighting in the area, during which 32 suspected insurgents were killed. Following the blast, a group of Taliban militants, the spokesman added, raided the district headquarters when National Security Forces came for support and encountered the rebels.

Moreover, Zhawak said Gunships of US-led forces, which were also called in, pounded militants killing 32 on the spot. “Eight more insurgents have been detained,” he stressed.—MNA/Xinhua

Teen loses hair in attack

ELANORA (AUSTRALIA), 5 July—A teenage boy lost hair and part of an eyebrow after another youth set his head on fire at Elanora, says the victim’s mother.

The Currumbin Waters woman contacted The Bulletin during the week to express her concern over the incident which happened near The Pines shopping centre on Monday night.She said her son had been at a bus stop when another teenager held a lighter to the 14-year-old’s hair.

The woman, who would not be named, said the flames briefly engulfed her son’s head.The incident was reported to police and the child protection unit is investigating.—Internet
**Yemen airline cancels route after Comoros crash**

**Sanaa, 5 July** — Yemenia Airways is canceling all its flights between Yemen and the Comoros Islands after this week’s crash on the same route, the airline said on Saturday.

One more flight between Sanaa and Moroni is scheduled for Sunday, but all flights on the route are canceled after that, Yemenia said.

A Yemenia Airways Airbus 310 went down early Tuesday, carrying 142 passengers and 11 crew members. It originated in Yemen’s capital, Sanaa, and went down just miles from Comoros’ capital, Moroni. One person, 13-year-old French girl Bahia Basari, survived for hours in the Indian Ocean clinging to the debris of the downed plane. She arrived home in France on Thursday, where she was reunited with her father.

She is the only known survivor from the crash, which killed her mother.

The Airbus 310 plane tried to land at the airport in Moroni, then made a U-turn before it crashed. Comoros Vice President Idir Nadhoim said.

The Comoros Islands are between the east African country of Tanzania and the island nation of Madagascar.

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**Strong quake rocks Panama City**

**Panama City, 5 July** — A strong earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter Scale rocked the Panama City at 1:49 am local time Saturday (0649 GMT), but there are no reports of casualties so far. The temblor happened at midnight when most habitants were sleeping and lasted around 50 seconds. The buildings shook heavily and windows rattled. People wearing nightclothes rushed into streets, and cars on the road stopped moving.

The epicentre was located only 95 kilometres northeast of the capital city with a depth of 43.1 kilometres, said the US Geological Survey (USGS) on its website. The USGS published a preliminary report eight minutes after the quake happened, but changed its magnitude from 6.4 to 6.02 minutes later.

On 8 May, an earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter Scale shook the Panamanian province of Chiriqui, which borders Costa Rica. The tremor was also felt in the Panamanian provinces of Veraguas and Bocas del Toro and in Costa Rica, according to the Instituto of Geo-Science from the University of Panama.

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**World’s largest underwater observatory project launched**

**Vancover, 5 July** — The world’s largest and most advanced underwater observatory project was launched Friday in a ceremony at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada, media reported.

The 100-million-dollar Neptune Canada project will make it possible for life beneath the oceans to go live on the Internet, giving people an unprecedented experience. Led by the University of Victoria (UVic), it will provide 25 years of long-term monitoring of ocean events as they occur. “At a time when our understanding of the oceans is clearly becoming more essential than ever, Neptune Canada will play a leadership role in advancing our knowledge of the oceans in ways not previously possible,” Dr. David Turpin, UVic president, said in a statement.

The underwater observatory is consisted of five 13-tonne modular-like structures, which will be lowered down to the seafloor off the west coast of Vancouver Island, where they will be connected to 800 kilometers of fibre-optic cable winding its way over the sea floor.

The modules contain hundreds of observation instruments that will send real-time data and allow researchers around the world to conduct deep-sea experiments.

At depths of up to 2.6 kilometres, the module-like nodes will supply power and two-way communications. Much of the project’s infrastructure was developed by Canadian company Alcatel-Lucent, a global transmission provider known for developing submarine cable networks.
Swiss develop new form of knee surgery

BERN, 5 July—A Swiss medical team says its technique for treating torn anterior cruciate ligaments in the knee provides quicker healing and more stability.

A torn anterior cruciate ligament, or ACL, most often is treated by grafting a tendon from another part of the body. Replacement tendons, however, are never as good as the original ACL, which acts like an antenna and collects information about where the knee is about to move, Dr Stefan Eggli of Bern University Hospital said.

Eggli’s technique involves helping the patient’s own ACL grow back by stabilizing the knee with a spring that is placed inside a small screw in the shinbone.

The mechanism stabilizes the torn ligament at the proper position for it to heal, the hospital said in a release Saturday.

“You can still move around and walk normally and with this implant the knee is not unstable anymore,” Eggli explained.

Healing of the ACL is boosted by clotting some of the patient’s blood and placing it around the injured ACL, he said.—Internet

One in six adults admit urinating in pool

ATLANTA, 5 July—Seventeen percent of U.S. adults say they have urinated in a pool, but 78 percent think their fellow swimmers have urinated in pool, a survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows.

According to the CDC, people urinating in a pool can cause diarrhea, respiratory illness and ear and skin infections.

The CDC urges pool users:

— Change diapers in a bathroom or a diaper-changing area and poolside.

— Take kids on bathroom breaks and check diapers often.

— Shower with soap before swimming and wash your hands after using the toilet or changing diapers.

— Take kids on bathroom breaks and check diapers often.

— Change diapers in a bathroom or a diaper-changing area and poolside.

The survey was conducted from April 30-May 3 among a national sample of 1,000 US adults. The margin of error is plus/minus 3.1 percentage points.

Bone marrow stem cells may help heart

SAN FRANCISCO, 5 July—US researchers, in a study in mice, found bone marrow stem cells improve cardiac function.

Study author Dr Yerem Yeghiazarians of the University of California, San Francisco, and colleagues administered three different groups of mice with bone marrow cells, bone marrow cell extract, or saline for the control group.

The injections were administered three days after a heart attack. At day 28, both the bone marrow cell group and the extract group had significantly smaller heart damage than the control group.

The extract derived from bone marrow cells helped decrease the formation of scar tissue and improved cardiac pumping capacity. Both the cell and cell extract therapies resulted in the presence of more blood vessels and less cardiac cell death — apoptosis — than no therapy.

“Peer-reviewed medical literature is controversial as to whether bone marrow cells differentiate into cardiomyocytes, or cardiac muscle cells, but there is general agreement that stem cell therapy with these cells results in some level of functional improvement after a heart attack,” Yeghiazarians said in a statement.—Internet

Compound may help diabetic retinopathy

OKLAHOMA CITY, 5 July—US researchers say a new, natural compound may stop diabetic retinopathy — a leading cause of blindness.

Project investigator Jay Ma of the Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center and Dean A McGee Eye Institute said when the researchers delivered the new compound to cells using nanoparticle technology, the treatment stopped leakage, blocked inflammation and kept unwanted blood vessels from growing in research models.

“There is no good treatment for retinopathy, which is why we are so excited about this work,” Ma said in a statement.

“This opens an entirely new area for pharmaceutical companies to target,” the discovery of the compound’s function in inflammation and blood vessel formation related to eye disease means scientists can develop new therapies — such as eye drops — to stop diabetic retinopathy, Ma said.—Internet

A/H1N1 flu cases in Beijing school rise to 29

BEIJING, 5 July—A primary school in Beijing confirmed seven more A/H1N1 flu cases Saturday, including six students and one teacher, the municipal public health bureau said.

As of 10pm Saturday, 28 students and one teacher at the Nanhua Zhongyuan Primary School in Chaoyang District are all in stable condition, according to the bureau. The school reported seven cases Wednesday, 10 Thursday and five Friday. The mass infection was caused by a housekeeping servant, Fang Lajuying, director of the municipal health bureau, said late Thursday.—Internet

Malaysia’s flu A/H1N1 cases rise to 326

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 July—The total number of flu A/H1N1 cases in Malaysia rose to 326 on Saturday as the authorities reported 35 new confirmed cases on the day.

The Malaysian Health Ministry said that 11 of the 35 new cases were local transmitted cases, the highest number of such cases reported in a single day in the country.

Malaysian Health Ministry Director-General Ismail Merican said five of the locally transmitted cases were participants of the Asia-Pacific Pharmaceutical Conference held in Penang, in northwest Malaysia, from 27 to 30 June. A total of 12 participants at the Conference have been confirmed infected with the flu so far.—Internet

Macao’s flu A/H1N1 cases climb to 54

MACAO, 5 July—Macao reported seven more confirmed cases of influenza A/H1N1 on Saturday, bringing the total number of such cases to 54.

The newly confirmed cases, all imported, included three local residents who have traveled abroad recently, a resident from the Chinese mainland and three Indonesians, according to the Health Bureau.

The Indonesian patients are mother, brother and sister of an Indonesian girl who has tested positive for the virus.—Internet

Number of A/H1N1 flu cases in Bangladesh rises to 18

DHAKA, 5 July—The Bangladeshi government has confirmed two more A/H1N1 flu cases, bringing the total number to 18, leading English-language newspaper The Independent reported on Sunday.

The Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) under the Health Ministry on Saturday confirmed two people in Dhaka got the infection through their relatives, who had recently returned from Brazil and the United States, the report said.—Internet

Thailand reports 231 new A/H1N1 cases

BANGKOK, 5 July—Thailand’s Public Health Ministry on Sunday announced 231 more patients, who are confirmed to have infected with the A/H1N1 virus, bringing the country’s total number to 2,076.

Of the total new confirmed cases, 26 are domestically infected, said Deputy Minister Manit Nopamornsomb, the Thai News Agency reported. The deputy minister said 205 of the total new cases are students.—Internet
Serena Williams beats sister Venus at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, 5 July—Serena Williams kept telling herself she was facing just another foe in the Wimbledon final Saturday, just another woman who hits the ball quite hard, just another player trying to deny her a Grand Slam title. She wasn’t facing just anyone, of course. She was playing her older sister Venus. And when the latest all-Williams final finished, when Serena wrapped up a 7-6 (3), 6-2 victory for her third Wimbledon championship and 11th major title overall, she jogged to the net with her arm extended for a handshake.

Venus pulled her close for a warm embrace. "I didn’t think about Venus at all today. I just saw her as an opponent," said Serena, who also beat her sister in the 2002 and 2003 finals at the All England Club. "At one point, after the first set, I looked on the side of the court, ‘Williams, Williams.’ I couldn’t figure out which was which. That also might have been because she was facing the only other woman who can equal her power and court coverage on grass courts. Monday’s rankings will say Serena is No. 2, and Venus No. 3 — behind No. 1 Dinara Safina, a 6-1, 6-1 closer to the elder Williams in the semifinals — but it is clear who the defending champion is in the world at the moment.—Internet

Chopra have completed the signing of stricker Michael Chopra from Sunderland for a club-record fee.

Chopra, who agreed a three-year deal worth in the region of 4 million pounds (6.5 million dollars), told Cardiff’s official website: “I’m really glad it’s all sorted now and, like all the other lads, I’m excited and determined to go that extra mile to gain promotion.”

The 25-year-old is the third player to sign for Cardiff this week after the arrival of centre-backs Mark Hudson and Anthony Gerrard, while full-backs.—Internet

Moreno retains WBA bantamweight title

ISTANBUL, 5 July—Young Turkish international Nuri Sahin gave Bundesliga side Borussia Dortmund a boost on Saturday when he signed a four-year extension to his present contract.

The 20-year-old - who in 2005 became the youngest player in Bundesliga history to sign a professional contract when he signed for Borussia - said he had had numerous offers but had opted to stay with the former Champions League winners.—Internet

Federer bracing for Wimbledon comeback kid Roddick

LONDON, 5 July—Roger Federer will attempt to write a new chapter in tennis history on Sunday when he targets a record 15th Grand Slam title by beating Wimbledon comeback kid Andy Roddick.

Five-time champion Federer is playing in a seventh straight Wimbledon final, and a record 20th Grand Slam title match, where victory will take him past Pete Sampras’s mark of 14 majors he equalled with his French Open win in June.

Roddick, desperate for a second major to add to his 2003 US Open title, has been here before, losing the 2004 and 2005 All England Club finals to Federer. “I’m very proud of all the records I’ve achieved, because I never thought I would be that successful as a kid,” said Federer, who lost his five-year grip on the title to Rafael Nadal here last year.—Internet

Young Turkish international Nuri Sahin

The 20-year-old - who in 2005 became the youngest player in Bundesliga history to sign a professional contract when he signed for Borussia - said he had had numerous offers but had opted to stay with the former Champions League winners.—Internet

Dortmund boosted by Turkish tyro’s contract extension

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Woods and Kim tied for lead at Congressional

BETHESDA, 5 July — Anthony Kim finally gets a crack at Tiger Woods, and when he says he has been practicing for a moment like this all his life, Kim isn’t kidding.

As a 10-year-old growing up in Los Angeles, in those final hours of twilight as he waited for his father to pick up from the golf course, Kim imagined he was in the final pairing with Woods and had a 10-foot putt for the victory, with the world’s No. 1 player watching.

“Man, they were going in a lot,” Kim said, laughing. He can only hope fantasy meets reality Sunday in the AT&T National.Kim kept his cool after a couple of blunders at Congressional, saving par from 84 yards with a creative chip he had been too scared to try in competition, then making birdie on the 16th that led to a 2-under 68 and his name atop the leaderboard.
Estonians sing to lift spirits amid slump

TALLINN, ESTONIA, 5 July—More than 20,000 choir singers gathered on Sunday to fill the air with positive vibes as Estonians took their minds off a crippling recession in a mass celebration of folk songs.

The power of music has lifted the Baltic country's spirits before. During five decades of Soviet occupation, Estonians found a rare outlet for celebrating their national heritage by gathering by the thousands to sing patriotic songs. The independence movement of the late 1980s was even dubbed the Singing Revolution.

Estonia is an island country in the Baltic Sea. In recent years, it has been severely battered by the economic downturn.

"When you sing, you forget your everyday problems," said 21-year-old Saale Kreen, one of the choir singers who performed at the festival's first choir concert on Saturday.

The choir concert was the high point of the festival's final day on Sunday, 6 July. Kreen was one of the first choir singers to perform at the festival's first choir concert on Saturday.

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The power of music has lifted the Baltic country's spirits amid slump.
NAY PYI TAW, 5 July—Up to 3 July, 89921 people have been infected with new influenza A(H1N1) virus and 382 died in 125 countries, announces the World Health Organization.

At 10 am today, a coordination meeting on review of preventive and control measures against A(H1N1) took place at the Public Health University in Yangon under the leadership of Infectious Disease Control Central Committee Secretary Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo.

Division, district, township and station hospitals in the states and divisions have been keeping possible outbreaks of SARS and flu-like disease under surveillance and there has been no case of global human flu. From 28 April to date, a total of 1,763,701 people had been monitored — 76,485 at Yangon International Airport, Mandalay International Airport and NyaungU Airport, 6039 at seaports and 1,681,177 at border gates. Lab tests have been carried out on suspected ones.

In Nay Pyi Taw also, officials from the health department, school heads and responsible persons from hotels coordinated surveillance measures. Till today, 34 suspected persons have been screened and there has been only one person who is infected new influenza A(H1N1). Ministry of Health has urged the public to cooperate in preventive and control measures against the global human flu.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July—A ceremony to open the new building of Myawady Bank Ltd (Pyawbwe) was held at the bank in Myinbat Ward of Pyawbwe this morning, attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Managing Director Maj-Gen Win Than of Myawady Bank Ltd, the secretary for Mandalay Division PDC, senior military officers, the deputy managing director of Myawady Bank Ltd and members of the BOD, chairman of Yamethin District and Township PDCs, social organization members and guests.

The commander and the managing director formally opened the new building. Lt-Gen Tin Aye unveiled the signboard of the bank and sprinkled scented water on it together with the commander, the minister and officials. The deputy managing director presented commemorative pennants to officials.

After having documentary photos taken, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party visited the bank office. (See page 9)

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July—Myanmar Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation launched the running of trains from new Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station, here, this morning.

At 9.10 am, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min sprinkled scented water on 8-down Nay Pyi Taw—Yangon train that is going to depart from No. 1 Platform of the railway station.

Deputy Ministers Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Pe Than, the managing director of Myanmar Railways and officials also sprinkled scented water on the train.

When the train departed, the minister and party waved to the passengers aboard the train.

With the aims of smoothly performing the schedules of trains in Nay Pyi Taw, managing the convenient travels of passengers and ensuring the smooth and speedy flow of commodities, Myanmar Railways commenced the control of all the trains except some mail and local trains at new Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station.

Tickets for Nay Pyi Taw—Yangon No. 8/32 down train and Nay Pyi Taw—Mandalay No. 25 Up train are being sold at both Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station and Pyinmana Railway Station in advance for the convenience of the passengers. (See page 9)

The newly opened Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station.—MNA