Established 1914

Volume XVII, Number 87                                           6th Waning of Waso 1371 ME                     Sunday, 12 July, 2009

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, 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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends tree growing ceremony for greening of Bago mountain range, inspects regional development

YANGON, 11 July—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint, heard reports on tasks of forest conservation presented by the director of Yangon Division Forest Department and officials at Central Forest Development Training Division in Hmawby Township this morning.

They attended the ceremony to grow teak saplings at Magari forest reserve in Taikkyi Township for greening Bago mountain range.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and officials presented teak saplings to departmental personnel and members of social organizations.

They planted teak saplings and viewed participation of the departmental personnel and members of social organizations in the teak growing ceremony.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected teak plantation.

At the hall of the forest reserve, officials reported on establishment of teak plantations in Yangon Division. After giving necessary instructions, Lt-Gen Myint Swe looked into growing of tapioca plants among the teak plantations.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence looks into growing of tapioca plants among teak plantations in Magari forest reserve, Taikkyi Township.—MNA

Lt-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence inspects regional development work in Pakokku District

NAY PYI TAW, 11 July—Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence met chairmen and members of Chin State, District and Township Peace and Development Councils at the local battalion hall of Mindat Township, Chin State, on 6 July morning.

First, Lt-Gen Tha Aye, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe, Chairman of Chin State PDC Brig-Gen Hon Ngai, met officers and other ranks and their families at local battalion and presented gifts and medical equipment to them. Next, they inspected crops plantations of the battalion and production of tea at Mindat tea factory.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye also inspected mythun breeding camp No 1 of U Htan Hone, condition of Mindat-Kyaunkhtu-Pauk-Pakokku road section and monsoon paddy plantations at mile post No 86.

After visiting Kyaunkhtu People’s Hospital, Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspected road condition and bridges along Mindat-Kyaunkhtu-Pauk-Pakokku road and paddy and sesame plantations on both sides. He also looked into crops plantation and pig farm of farmer U Mya Yang, ploughing tasks and sesame plantation. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Tha Aye visited Win Thuza Shop of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Pauk and inspected arrangements being made for beautifying Tatma mountain region on Pauk-Pakokku road.

Later, Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspected the projects of Chaungmagy Bridge No 1 and Chaungmagy Bridge No 2 by car.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence inspects construction site of Chaungmagy Bridge. MNA
High-yield strains, extensive land reclamation essential for boosting agricultural production

Today, food security has become the major challenge for the world people. To get sufficient food every day and to ensure safe food irrespective of region are essential for everyone. So, all the agricultural countries try hard to boost their agricultural production.

In Myanmar, the majority of the people live on agricultural farming. The more extensively crops are grown the greater size of agricultural produce the country will be able to produce and export. So far, the nation’s total paddy sown acreage stands at more than 19 million, and paddy output, more than 1500 million baskets. The paddy supply well exceeds the domestic demand, thus benefiting paddy farmers. Here emphasis is to be placed on high-yield strains and boosting production of crops in exporting marketable crops including rice. In addition, it is needed to ensure harmonious combination of agricultural methods: enriching the soils, using sufficient fertilizers, and applying post-harvest technology.

This monosoon paddy season, the majority of the farmers come to choose classified paddy seeds of high-yield and suitable quality strains. Now, State-owned research farms are providing Hsinthweat strain paddy seeds for the townships in the western part of Bago Division, and Yar Kyaw and Hmawby-3 strain paddy seeds for Kayan and Thongwa townships. So, the local farmers, on their part, have to try their best to meet the requirements and meet bumper harvest of paddy.

Now, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is working hard to achieve the goal of boosting paddy production, ensuring domestic safety of edible oil crops, and exporting beans and pulses and crops for industrial raw materials on a wider scale. Simultaneously, it is attending to the needs for extensive reclamation of vacant lands, and supply of adequate irrigation water, organizing farmers to place more reliance on agricultural machinery, and disseminating agricultural knowledge.

Today, the government is improving the agricultural infrastructures, and therefore, farmers in response have to choose high-yield quality paddy strains, apply agricultural methods and machinery effectively, and grow other crops increasingly for boosting production of crops.
California universities, colleges cut classes to save costs

LOUISIANA, 11 July — California State University (CSU), with 23 campuses, has announced that most will not accept student applications for the 2010 spring semester. The decision means that about 35,000 students will be affected, mostly foreign students.

According to an announcement made by the office of the chancellor on Thursday, campuses on the quarter system also stopped accepting applications for the 2010 winter quarter on 6 July.

A press release by CSU said the reductions were part of an overall strategy to address an unprecedented budget reduction of $84 million dollars for 2009 and 2010. The CSU board of trustees will also consider an overall plan to address student fees, enrollment and employee furloughs at its 21 July meeting.

Chancellor Charles Reed has called for a hike in fees starting this fall as part of the university’s efforts to ease the budget deficit.

The increase is estimated to be 15 percent to 20 percent. In May, the CSU announced a 10 percent hike in tuition fees.

The university said it expects federal aid will cover the increase in fees for about 187,000 students.

Nigerian rebels blow up Chevron pipeline

LAGOS, 11 July — Nigerian militants on Friday claimed to have blown up for a second time a recently repaired oil pipeline operated by US petroleum giant Chevron.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), the country’s most prominent armed group, said it destroyed the pipe around 1900 GMT on Friday. The pipeline was first hit in May.

“Our fighters revisited the recently repaired Chevron pipeline linking Alero creek through Abiteye to the Chevron export terminal in Delta state and destroyed it again,” it said.

Nigeria’s main rebel group which claims to be fighting for a greater share of the oil wealth to go to locals, said it originally destroyed the pipeline in southern Nigeria on 24 May in response to a military offensive.

Tropical Storm Carlos forms far off Mexico coast

MEXICO CITY, 11 July — Tropical Storm Carlos has strengthened far off Mexico’s Pacific coast on Friday and is expected to reach hurricane strength on Saturday as it moves farther out to sea.

The US National Hurricane Centre in Miami says Carlos — which had been a depression — now has maximum sustained winds near 50 mph (85 kph) and was expected to continue moving west or west-northwest.

The US National Hurricane Centre in Miami says Carlos — which had been a depression — now has maximum sustained winds near 50 mph (85 kph) and was expected to continue moving west or west-northwest.

At 8 pm PDT, the storm was about 925 miles (1,485 kilometers) south-southwest of the tip of the Baja California peninsula. It was moving west at about 14 mph (22 kph), out to sea.

Eight British troops die in Afghan war in 24 hours

LONDON, 11 July — Britain said on Friday eight soldiers had been killed in Afghanistan, its worst death toll in a 24-hour period, and Prime Minister Gordon Brown said troops faced a “very hard summer” battling insurgents.

Five troops on foot patrol were killed by two blasts, the highest death toll in a single attack.

Britain has now lost 184 soldiers in Afghanistan since it joined the US-led invasion in 2001, more than the 179 deaths during its campaign in Iraq that began in 2003.

Fifteen soldiers, including four officers, have been killed in the past 10 days in the fight against Taliban militants.

The heavy losses threaten to damage British public support for the deployment in Afghanistan and further hurt Brown’s already poor opinion poll ratings ahead of a British parliamentary election due by mid-2010.

Most newspapers led their early Saturday editions with reports of the losses, with the right-leaning Daily Mail urging Brown to “back our troops — or pull them out.”

“We cannot go on as we are, watching the bravest and best of their generation dying at the rate of more than one a day… for an ill-defined cause and with inadequate backup,” it said.

Hundreds evacuated from 747 at Phoenix airport

PHOENIX, 11 July — Hundreds of passengers aboard a British Airways Boeing 747 preparing to depart for London from the Phoenix airport were forced to use slides to evacuate the jet on Friday night after fumes filled the cabin.

No serious injuries were reported among the 298 passengers and 18 crew when the incident occurred at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport at about 8 pm Arizona time (11 pm EDT), Phoenix Fire Department Capt Shelly Jamison said.

About 15 people who were on board Flight 288 were evaluated for minor scrapes and bruises, but only one person was taken to a hospital with shoulder pain.

Two killed in small plane crash in western Canada

VANCOUVER, 11 July — All two people aboard a small plane died on Thursday night when it crashed on approach to the international airport of Canadian western city of Vancouver, local media reported.

The twin-engine cargo plane was flying from Victoria, about 90km southwest of Vancouver, when it went down at 10:15 pm local time (0515 GMT), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said. The victims were believed to be the pilot and co-pilot.

No one on the ground was hurt, the RCMP said.

Witnesses said the plane was behind an Air Canada Airbus on landing approach when it swerved and then nose-dived into a parking lot.

Investigators were expected to examine whether the small plane was affected by the wake of the larger aircraft in front of it, reports said.
G-8 is not enough: Calls for larger, recast group

L’AQUILA, 11 July—For all the smiles and upbeat talk, the just-ended Group of Eight summit showed how unwieldy the forum has become, run by Cold War-vintage powers while relegating the world’s fastest growing economies—China, India and Brazil—to observers. It also showed just how sharp the divisions are between old-world and new-world viewpoints.

The meeting fell short of expectations on many counts, from climate control to trade. The global economic crisis weighed heavily on everyone and complicated efforts to find consensus, resulting in avoiding or putting off some major decisions. Members appeared divided on how soon to roll back stimulus packages, although they agreed now was not the time to start.

G-8 leaders themselves are quick to point out the shortcomings of a three-decade-old exclusive club in dealing with 21st century problems.—Internet

Oil settles below $60 on demand pessimism

NEW YORK, 11 July—Oil prices settled below 60 US dollars a barrel on Friday as investors were still pessimistic about the demand in the second half of 2009.

Light, sweet crude for August delivery dropped to an intra-day low of 58.72 dollars a barrel before rebounding to settle at 59.89 dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, ending the week with a 10 percent drop.

The oil prices were pressured by the latest monthly report from the International Energy Agency (IEA) in which the Paris-based organization said signs of a strong rally in global economic growth and oil demand were fading. The IEA predicted the oil demand for 2009 would shrink 2.9 percent, unchanged from its previous forecast, however, the organization added that there could be a 1.7 percent rebound in demand next year.—Internet

General Motors to cut 300 jobs in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 11 July—President of General Motors Mexico (GMM) Grace Liebleim announced on Friday that the company will in the coming days lay off 12 percent of the workers that do not belong to the union.

Around 300 of the 3,300 workers the GMM employs will lose their jobs, said GMM Director of Public and Governmental Relations Mauricio Kuri at a press conference.

In the United States, the company cut some 4,000 workers while in Canada, it cut 800.

Liebleim said that after being saved from the bankruptcy, the company redesigned its future plans, making them more profitable and competitive with long term viability.

In Mexico, the automotive sector has been one of the most affected by the global financial crisis.

In the May report of the Mexican Association of Industry (AMIA), during the first month of the year, it registered a 30.6 percent drop in car sales in the country, down from 432,883 to 399,316.—Internet

Schools, businesses close in Argentina for flu

BUENOS AIRES, 11 July—Millions of Argentines stayed home from work, churches in Bolivia canceled Mass and Ecuador announced its first fatalities from swine flu on Friday, as the virus continues its spread during the South American winter season.

Businesses including banks, exchange houses, courts and even the stock exchange were shuttered for 24 hours across Argentina. Combined with Thursday’s Independence Day holiday, Argentines effectively got a four-day weekend during which many stayed home and avoided contact with strangers.

President Cristina Fernandez decreed a day off for federal public employees, and a number of regional governments also observed the break—including Buenos Aires Province, home to nearly two-fifths of the country’s population.

The goal was to “avoid public gatherings,” provincial Health Minister Claudio Zin said, and lessen the person-to-person spread of the virus blamed for 86 deaths so far in the country. At least 2,677 cases of swine flu have been confirmed.—Internet

World leaders take fresh approach on global hunger

L’AQUILA, 11 July—Leaders of rich and developing countries launched a new approach to global hunger on Friday, saying they wanted to spend $20 billion on seeds, fertilizers, tools and other aid for small farmers over the next three years so poor nations could feed themselves.

The initiative announced at the end of a Group of Eight summit marked a new emphasis on helping farmers in the developing world boost production over the long term, moving away from an emphasis on emergency food aid for people suffering from drought and famine.

“We believe that the purpose of aid must be to create the conditions where it’s no longer needed—to help people become self-sufficient, provide for their families, and lift their standards of living,” President Barack Obama said.

The promised aid was $5 billion higher than originally expected, and the United Nations and anti-poverty groups welcomed the deal. But they stressed that it was important to see how much would actually be delivered from newly allocated funds and not moved from other development projects.—Internet

Ships ending search for Air France black boxes

RIO DE JANEIRO, 11 July—Two ships using US listening devices to search for the black boxes of Air France Flight 447 were ending their hunt on Friday, an American commander said.

A French nuclear submarine, however, will continue to look.

US Air Force Col Willie Berges, the Brazil-based commander of American military forces supporting the effort, said one ship towing a US Navy listening device had already stopped searching.

“The last ship will be departing the search area today,” Berges said. He didn’t know what time the final ship would leave the search area.

Flight 447 crashed into the Atlantic Ocean, more than 900 miles (1,450 kilometers) off Brazil’s northeastern coast, on 1 June. All 228 people aboard died. Investigators have said without the black boxes, it may be impossible to know what caused the crash.

Berges said the ships, which have been searching for the cockpit voice and flight data recorders since 15 June, had “no success — nothing was tracked.”—Internet

File photo released by Brazil’s Navy, pieces of debris of the Air France Flight 447 are seen on the Brazil’s Navy ship Caboclo, at the port of Recife, Brazil.—INTERNET
China to become leader in green technologies

ROME, 11 July—China is set to become a global leader in the implementation of environmental-friendly policies and green technologies to tackle climate change, an Italian expert told Xinhua in a recent interview.

For Stefano Pogutz, an environmental management professor at Bocconi University in Milan, China’s green-policies investment plans are greater than those carried-out in the United States and in many other industrialized countries. “What China is doing to tackle global warming is impressive considering the density of Chinese population and the rapid economic growth model China is following,” Pogutz said.

Climate change is at the core of the G8 summit held in L’Aquila from Wednesday to Friday. Talks had focused on the need to forge a new post-Kyoto agreement and to increase research and investments in the green economy.

The results of the G8 summit on climate change should pave the way to the United Nations meeting in Copenhagen in December, which aims at sealing a global deal to limit greenhouse gas emissions. According to the UN-climate change framework agreement and the Kyoto protocol, China is not subject to mandatory emission cuts of CO2.

Abbas says no preconditions on talks with Hamas

RAMALLAH, 11 July—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Friday stated he doesn’t have preconditions on Egyptian-brokered national Palestinian talks.

“The interests of the Palestinian people are considered more than the factions, persons and the narrow interests,” the official news agency, Wafa, quoted Abbas as saying.

He made the remarks during a meeting with Egyptian envoys who are visiting the West Bank to prepare for launching what Cairo hopes to be the final round of the inter-Palestinian reconciliation dialogue.

The dialogue aims at reconciling Abbas’s Fatah party and Islamic Hamas movement which routed pro-Abbas forces and took over the Gaza Strip in June 2007.

Large fire breaks out in central London, no casualties reported

LONDON, 11 July—More than 100 firefighters and 25 fire engines are tackling a large fire in the basement of a four-story building in central London with no immediate casualties reported. London fire brigade said on Friday, the fire broke out from a basement of a building in Dean Street in the fashionable Soho district at around 2 pm local time and about 75 percent of the building was destroyed.

Many people have been evacuated from the building. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Two ambulances have been seen inside the corridor and no casualties have been reported.

Two boats collide off Macao coast, no injury reported

MACAO, 11 July—A fishing boat Friday collided with a sampan, a kind of small boat, on a channel between Macao Special Administrative Region and Zhuhai, a southern coastal city of the Chinese mainland, but people on board the two boats were not injured, according to the SAR’s Port Authority.

The sampan, which was used in Macao to transport people through waterway, lost its power while sailing through the channel this morning, and was later hit by the fishing boat, registered in Zhuhai, the Authority said in a press release.

A woman and two children on board the sampan fell off the boat when the accident occurred, but they were all saved and were not injured, according to the Authority.

US town struck by seventh minor quake in a month

HOUSTON, 11 July—A town in the US state of Texas was struck on Friday by a minor earthquake, which is the seventh tremor to hit the town in a month, according to officials with the US Geological Survey.

The tremor, with a magnitude of 2.0, hit Cleburne, a small town southwest of Dallas, early Friday morning. No damage or casualties were reported. Before early June this year, the town had never been hit by an earthquake, according to the local media. Experts differ on the cause of the recent string of quakes around the town. Some attributed them to a natural fault that runs through north Texas, while some wonder whether natural gas drilling in the area could be the reason.

Visitors talk about an equipment on display during the 6th Asian Wind Energy Exhibition in Beijing, capital of China, recently.

All items from Xinhua News Agency

US Continental Airlines granted antitrust immunity

HOUSTON, 11 July—The US Transportation Department said Friday it has approved antitrust immunity for US carrier Continental Airlines to work closely with its Star Alliance partners on international service.

The department announced the final approval of the requests made last year by Houston-based Continental and nine members of the Star Alliance, confirming that the move would not hurt competition.

“I believe that the department’s decision will benefit customers, enhance competition, and preserve jobs in the airline industry,” Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said in a statement. Continental, the world’s fifth largest airline, announced last year that it was pulling out of Skyteam Alliance, the world’s second largest airline group after Star Alliance, to join Star. Continental and nine Star Alliance members applied for antitrust immunity that would protect them from potential lawsuits on competition groups.
Singapore adjusts anti-flu measures while cases continue to rise in Asia

HONG KONG, 11 July — Singapore’s Health Ministry announced on Friday new measures to combat influenza H1N1, as infected cases continued to rise in the Asian region.

Singapore’s Health Ministry said that temperature screening in bid to prevent the spread of Influenza A/H1N1 at local borders will be discontinued with effect from this Saturday.

The Health Ministry said in a statement that as Influenza A/H1N1 has become endemic among global communities, and with localized community spread in Singapore, temperature screening at borders is now less useful than before there was local community spread.

Researchers to simulate massive quake

MIKI, 11 July — The largest earthquake simulation ever performed on a wood building could yield data on how to protect homes and apartments, US and Japanese engineers said.

Researchers from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, are to participate in a two-week project to simulate the force of an earthquake so strong it might occur once every 2,500 years, Rensselar Professor Michael Symans said.

Results from sensing equipment and cameras should yield data that will allow researchers to develop computer models of mid-rise wood buildings, Symans said.

“Right now, wood can’t compete with steel and concrete as building materials for mid-rise buildings, partly because we don’t have a good understanding of how taller wood-framed structures will perform in a strong earthquake,” he said.

Israeli archaeologists discover ancient quarry

Israeli archaeologists have uncovered an ancient quarry where they believe King Herod extracted stones for the construction of the Jewish Temple 2,000 years ago, the Israel Antiquities Authority said. The archaeologists believe that the 1,000-square-foot (100-square-metre) quarry was part of a much larger network of quarries used by Herod in the city.

The biggest stones extracted from the quarry would have measured three yards (metres) long, two yards (metres) across, and two yards (metres) high.

The archaeologists said the size of the stones indicates they could have been used in the construction of the Temple compound, including the Western Wall, a retaining wall that remains intact and is a Jewish shrine.

“The dimensions of the stones that were produced in the quarry that was revealed are suitable for the Temple walls,” said Ofer Sion, the dig’s director.

File photo shows a digital meter is illuminated outside of the nuclear reactor at the Atomic Energy Canada Limited plant in Chalk River.

Hamas responded positively to Israeli offers over Shalit

GAZA, 11 July — The Islamic Hamas movement on Friday said it had dealt positively with Israeli offers to exchange prisoners but the Jewish state obstructed the deal.

Though Israel did not respond optimistically to Hamas proposals, the Islamic movement “was very constructive regarding the Israeli suggestions,” said Mahmoud Zahar, a Gaza-based member of Hamas politics.

He declined to elaborate on the Israeli offers to secure the release of Gilad Shalit, a soldier Hamas has been holding since 2006, in exchange for a number of Palestinian and Arab prisoners.

Hamas demands Israel to release more than 1,000 prisoners and sent a list of 450 names, saying these names are not subject to negotiations. Israel has reservations on many of the names.

Crocodile fossil found in Brazil

A 90-million-year-old fossil of an unknown species of crocodile that inhabited Brazil’s southeast region in unusual environmental conditions has been unveiled by researchers in Rio de Janeiro.

Brazilian paleontologists presented a fossil of an unknown species of a prehistoric crocodile, which roamed Brazil’s southeastern region some 90 million years ago.

Ismar Carvalho, paleontologist said, “This species of Aramidillosuchus is only found in the inland region of Sao Paulo state and this has been a surprise, especially because we are used to finding crocodiles in hot and humid areas, but in this case these are crocodiles who lived in hot, arid and dry regions.”

New tiny monkey subspecies discovered in Amazon forest

Researchers announced that they had discovered a new subspecies of monkey in a remote part of Amazon rain forest in Brazil.

The monkey is mostly gray and dark brown in colour and is related to the saddleback tamarin monkeys, with a distinctly mottled “saddle.” It was named the Mura’s saddleback tamarin after the Mura Indian tribe of the Purus and Madeira river basins where it was found.

It weighs less than a pound (213 grams) and is 9 inches (240 millimeters) tall with a foot-long (320 millimeter) tail. The small monkey was first seen by scientists on a 2007 expedition into the state of Amazonas in northwestern Brazil.

“This newly described monkey shows that even today there are major wildlife discoveries to be made,” said Thierry Huber, head author of a study confirming the new discovery.

“This discovery should serve as a wake-up call that there is still so much to learn from the world’s wild places, yet humans continue to threaten these areas with destruction,” Rohe said.
**Maintenance of roads in Shan State (North) continues**

NAY PYI TAW, 11 July—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected maintenance of road sections and bridges along Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay-PyinOoLwin-Kyaumke Road on 9 July.

At the hall of Kyaumke District Senior Engineer’s Office, Superintending Engineer U Sai Kyaw Moe of Shan State (North) reported on condition of Kyaumke-Mongngawt-Namhsam Road, Hsipaw-Panlon-Namhsam Road and other roads in Shan State (North).

The minister gave instructions on upgrading of Kyaumke-Mongngawt-Namhsam Road to the tarred road.

On 9 July, the minister looked into maintenance of road sections and bridges on Kyaumke-Mongngawt-Namhsam Road and met with staff at Mongngawt Public Works.

The Superintending Engineer reported on condition of Kyaumke-Mongngawt road section, Mongngawt-Namhsam road section, Mongngawt-Momeik road section, and Namhsam-Panlon-Lashio road section and future tasks.

After attending to the needs, the minister inspected construction task at Mongngawt-Namhsam road section.

The minister viewed maintenance of Namhsam-Panlon-Manso-Lashio Road.—MNA

**UNFPA resident representative calls on Health Minister**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint received Mr Mohamed Abdel Ahad, resident representative of UNFPA, at the ministry here this morning.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Dr Paing Soe, director-general, the deputy director-general (Public Health) and officials concerned.—MNA

**Over 1290 eye patients receive free medical treatment, 279 undergoing eye surgery**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July—Out of 1293 eye patients in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District, 279 are receiving eye surgery free at the 200-bed hospital in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana from 7to 10 July.

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint comforted the patients at the hospital yesterday and provided cash assistance to 56 patients who have received eye surgery.

The programme for providing free treatment to eye patients is jointly conducted by Ministry of Health and Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District Peace and Development Council.

At the ceremony to commence the programme held at the hospital yesterday, wellwishers donated cash to the programme and the commander, the minister and officials concerned accepted K 300,000 donated by the Nay Pyi Taw Commander and battalions and regiments under the command, K 10 million by Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District Peace and Development Council, over K 3.1 million donated by Sky Wing Co Ltd, Nay Chi Pwint Co and government officials.—MNA

**Mandalay Mayor inspects Strand Road**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 July—Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Cde-Gen Phone Zaw Han inspected major repair of Strand Road of Mandalay, proper drainage tasks in Chinnyaetharze construction of overflow drain in Pyitgyitayon Township, and proper flow of water at Parantaw Creek on 3 July morning.

**Nay Pyi Taw commander attends tree-planting ceremony**

NAY PYI TAW, 11 July—Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin attended monsoon tree-planting ceremony at Taungnyo station on 4 July morning.

After the commander had extended greetings, he gave away saplings of wind breaking tree and firewood plants. He planted trees and viewed the plantations of participants.

Next, the commander and party inspected the construction of Ngalite Bridge in Minkone Village.——MNA

**Education Minister visits universities, colleges, schools in Bago Div**

NAY PYI TAW, 11 July—Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein arrived at Ywale Basic Education High School (Branch) in Kanyuntkwin, Phyu Township yesterday morning and met with the township education officer and the school heads of regional high schools.

They reported on education matters of the township and the minister fulfilled the requirements and inspected the lab, language classroom, computer room and classrooms.

At the meeting hall, the minister met members of Kanyuntkwin Region Education Promotion Committee, departmental officials, members of social organizations and members of school boards of trustees and teachers.

After hearing reports, the minister made a speech and provided assistance to the students of the school.

The minister met parents of parent-teacher association, school board of trustees and teachers at Nyaungbintha BEHS and furnished the needs.

In the afternoon, the minister visited Taungoo College, Taungoo No 1 BEHS and Taungoo Education College.—MNA

**Cash assistance provided to children of YCDC staff**

YANGON, 11 July—Yangon City Development Committee provided cash and exercise books for children of the staff in conjunction with the ceremony to honour the distinction winners at the hall of the YCDC yesterday afternoon.

Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin gave a speech and Joint Secretary U Kyaw Soe gave cash assistance and exercise books to the students.

Next, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Joint-Secretary U Kyaw Soe and committee member U Hla Aye presented prizes to the distinction winners.—MNA
Myanmar implementing five-year National Plan of Action based on five technical strategies to prevent human trafficking from every nook and corners working hand in hand with neighbouring countries

Myanmar women have equal rights with men in political, economic, administration, judicial and social spheres under law

World Population Day 2009 observed in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 11 July—A ceremony to mark the World Population Day 2009 was observed at the hall of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, here, this morning, with an address by Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Oo.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Swe, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, deputy ministers, departmental heads, representatives of social organizations, ambassadors of foreign embassies to Myanmar and embassy officials, resident representatives of UN agencies, responsible persons of INGOs, staff of the Ministry of Immigration and Population, prize winners in the contests to mark the World Population Day 2009 and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo said : The World Population Day is commemorated on 11th July every year by nations all over the world to build better awareness of population issues and their relation to development. Myanmar attaches great importance to the World Population Day commemorative ceremony, and it has been holding this ceremony consecutively for 20 times, including this to underline our commitment to the goals, objectives and activities of the United Nations.

The theme of the World Population Day this year is “Protecting marginalized populations from the global economic crisis”. Although the task of poverty reduction and increasing health status of people has fairly progressed by the nations all over the world, the global financial crisis is threatening us. It is necessary to keep the momentum going in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals linked to health and social economic outcomes in the area of children, mothers, HIV/AIDS, gender and poverty. In these times of austerity and economic downturn, investing in social areas will gain high economic and social returns with minimum investment. The World Population Day of this year is urging the countries for stronger programmes, policies and partnership with WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF.

Healthy and educated people are the primary resources when the State is developing all sectors aiming to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation. The national economic benefits are also linked to health, education, job opportunities and gender equality for women. Education is one of the factors influencing the reproductive health of individuals and couples and it is also one of the most important factors for poverty eradication and enhancing the status of life.

Under the National Education Policy, the Ministry of Education is endeavouring to implement compulsory and free primary education in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Rights of the Child (CRC), the Myanmar Child Law, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a World Fit for Children (WFFC) and various regional plans of action have been adopted and being implemented.

Since Myanmar has long porous borders with a number of neighbouring countries, illegal migration of workers becomes a reality. One of the major problems due to irregular migration is human trafficking.

In this context, Myanmar ratified and became a party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNCTOC) and its protocols, ratified the COMMIT MoU of the Greater Mekong Sub-region as a member. The Anti-Trafficking in Person Law was enacted in 2005. Myanmar has laid down a five-year National Plan of Action based on five technical strategies to prevent human trafficking from every nook and corners and to work hand in hand with neighbouring countries.

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Myanmar implementing five-year ...  
(from page 8)

Regarding the development of border areas and national races, the border areas and national races development plan was adopted and the Central Committee and Work Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races were formed in order to systematically implement the plan. Two Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree Colleges were established with the aim of turning out the human resources for the border areas and producing qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia.

During the financial crisis, it is important to increase social investment for women all over the world. In the context of Myanmar, women enjoy equal rights as men. Myanmar has no significant gender disparity. They have equal rights with men in political, economic, administrative, judicial and social spheres under the law.

In Myanmar, there are many pioneer organizations headed by women. The womenfolk has become a greater national force in nation building task. The State values and honours the spiritual ability and fine traditions of womenfolk.

The Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation (MWAF) has been standing as national mechanism for development of women’s lives. The federation is joining hands with the ministries concerned and NGOs to carry out the tasks of preventing violence against women and prevention from human smuggling and human trafficking and rehabilitation and regeneration.

Myanmar will be enthusiastically cooperating with the nations of the world in order to achieve the ICPD-PoA and MGDs and particularly to the cause of universal access to reproductive health.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge with thanks the important role played by the United Nations agencies like the UNFPA, WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP as well as the international NGOs and national NGOs such as MWAF, MMCWA and MNA towards achieving universal access to reproductive health in the country.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Excellencies and distinguished guests, and to all concerned, for making this commemoration of the World Population Day a success. Let us all aspire with the noble aim to promote the quality of life of individuals and families and at the same time protecting marginalized populations from the global economic crisis thus creating a better, healthier and happier world.

Resident Representative Mr Mohamed Abdel Ahad of UNFPA read out the message sent by UNFPA Executive Director Ms Thoraya Obaid.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo presented first, second and third prizes to the winners in the colour photo contest to mark the World Population Day.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Brig-Gen Win Sein, Director-General U Maung Myint of Population Department and Director-General U Maung Maung Than of Immigration and National Registration Department awarded winners in the article, poster and essay contests.

After the ceremony, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo and party posed for documentary photo together with the prize winners and visited the photo show to mark the World Population Day.—MNA

Myanmar will be enthusiastically cooperating with the nations of the world in order to achieve the ICPD-PoA and MGDs and particularly to the cause of universal access to reproductive health.

MoU on establishing friendly city ties between Nanning and Yangon signed  
YANGON, 11 July—The MoU signing ceremony for establishment of friendship city relationship between Nanning City of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China and Yangon of the Union of Myanmar was held at Sedona Hotel, here, this morning.

First, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Mayor of Nanning City Mr Huang Fangfang exchanged extended greetings.

The Nanning Mayor and Vice-Mayor of Yangon Col Maung Pa signed the MoU and exchanged notes.

The two mayors exchanged the gifts to mark the MoU signing ceremony. Also present on the occasion were YCDC members and heads of department, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the People’s Congress of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and the Party Secretary of the Guangxi Communist Party of China (CPC) Mr Guo Shengkum, members of the Chinese delegation, Chargé d’Affaires ai of the Chinese Embassy Mr Wang Zongying and officials, vice-presidents of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and officials.

Yesterday evening, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin received the delegation led by the Nanning City Mayor at Hotel Yangon at 8th-Mile Junction and discussed friendly relations between the two cities.

Next, the Mayor of Yangon hosted a dinner to the Chinese delegation at the same venue.

This morning, the Chinese delegation paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda. In the evening, President of UMFFCCI U Win Myint hosted a dinner to the Chinese delegation at Sedona Hotel.—MNA

Sibin Thayar Yay Bank Ltd holds AGM  
U Khin Latt read out an annual report of the board and annual accounts and the Chairman of auditor committee U Than Kyaw Htoo annual audit.

Afterwards, the state/division share-holders reported matters related to banking services and the meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the minister.

BEHS-2 Kamayut holds prize-awarding ceremony  
YANGON, 11 July — Annual meeting of Parent-Teacher Association and prize-awarding ceremony for 2008-2009 academic year of No 2 Kamayut Basic Education High School was held at Teza hall of the school this morning.

Township Education Officer U Ohn Thwin, Headmistress Daw May Hla Ye, patron and executives of Parent-Teacher Association, patron and executives of School Board of Trustees, parents, teachers, guests and students attended the occasion.

The headmistress, the township education officer and the patron of PTA / SBT extended greetings.

The patron of PTA presented prize to the headmistress for school administration. The headmistress awarded to six-district winners in matriculation examination 2009.

Next, the patron, executives of PTA and responsible persons gave away prizes to outstanding students.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt delivers an address at annual general meeting of Sibin Thayar Yay Bank Ltd for 2008-09 fiscal year.—MNA

Minister Col Thein Nyunt delivers an address at annual general meeting of Sibin Thayar Yay Bank Ltd for 2008-09 fiscal year.—PRANDA
Information Minister plants teak saplings at sixth week tree growing ceremony

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 July — The Ministry of Information held the sixth week monsoon tree planting ceremony 2009 at the environs of the Ministry of Information this morning.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan planted teak sapling and viewed participation of staff in the tree planting ceremony. The minister viewed land preparations at Seintalon mango plantation of Information and Public Relations Department, growing of mango saplings, thriving of perennial plants and breeding of fish at No. 38 dam and pig and duck farms.

The minister gave instructions on systematic growing of trees, nurturing the seasonal crops and perennial trees, growing of perennial and shady plants and undertaking of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks for staff welfare.

Today’s ceremony, 210 teak and 300 Seintalon mango saplings were grown at the environs of the ministry and Ministry of Information.

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw looks into regional development...

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw and party inspected mixed cropping of paddy plantations grown among rubber plantations along the road at Haithaung village.

At Kyunsu Township People’s Hospital, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw looked into the hospital and presented gifts for the patients.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw presented exercise books and stationery in meeting with officers and other ranks and their families of the local station in Taninthayi Hall.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw oversaw availability of water in the dam of the local station, oil palm nursery and pepper farmlands.

At the worksite of Kangyi’Yaypon housing project, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw heard reports presented by officials and left necessary instructions.

Mon State General Hospital in Mawlamyine

Mon State Medical Superintendent said that the hospital provides health care to the people of Thaton, Paung, Mawlamyine, Ye, Thanyuzayat, Mudon, Kyaikmaraw and Chaungzon townships in Mon State, and southern part of Hpa-an, Kya-in Seikkyi and Phayahtonzu townships in Kayin State.

He added that the hospital has come to attract greater reliance and trust from local people due to better health care with pathologists, and modern laboratory apparatuses equipped in it by the Ministry of Health, and Mon State Peace and Development Council.

Regarding an increase in the number of hospitals and health care centres in Mon State, he said that the region had got 31 hospitals if compared with only 20 in the past. Similarly, during the same period, the number of specialists increased from 18 to 36; and rural health care centres, from 53 to 60. The hospitals in the state were upgraded and medical teams made field trips down to rural areas monthly to give health care to local people, he said.

The medical superintendent clarified that the hospital had been facilitated with more equipment including dental X-ray machine, Allegra X-13R Centrifuge brand serum testing machine, Ultrasound machine, modern laboratory apparatuses, a child ward worth 200 million kyats to improve the health care.

Observing the wards, medical equipment and medical store, we got to the blood centre. Pathologist Dr Sandar Myaing told Kyemon Daily that blood was essential for human beings, and emphasized the importance of ensuring safe blood. She said, “We need regular blood donors to get safe blood. So, we keep in touch with the social organizations in the state to get safe blood whenever needed.”

During the visit to Mon State, we noticed that all local people had easy access to better health care, and enjoyed better health standard thanks to the modern medical facilities.

Dr Nyan Zaw, Medical Superintendent, Mawlamyine General Hospital.

Dr Sandar Myaing, Pathologist.

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Dr Nyan Zaw, Medical Superintendent, Mawlamyine General Hospital.

Dr Sandar Myaing, Pathologist.

Translation: MS Kyemon: 9-7-2009
Japan has tried to destroy secret nuke documents

Tokyo, 11 July—Japanese Foreign Ministry bureaucrats had ordered the destruction of copies of a 1960 secret nuclear agreement between Japan and the United States just before the information disclosure law took effect in 2001, The Asahi Shimbun reported Saturday.

The order covered related documents, including a memo explaining the secret pact that was passed down to successive administrative vice foreign ministers, the newspaper quoted former officials as saying.

The secret agreement allows US warships carrying nuclear weapons to call at ports in Japan and US aircraft armed with nuclear warheads to pass through Japanese airspace without prior consultation with the Japanese Government. The pact creates a loophole in Japan’s three non-nuclear principles of not producing, possessing or allowing nuclear weapons to be brought into Japan.

The Japanese government has continually denied the existence of the secret pact, but US documents and statements from former US and Japanese diplomats strongly suggest otherwise.—MNA/Xinhua

Man with gun near Obama home sentenced to 5 yrs in prison

Chicago, 11 July—A 31-year-old man accused of carrying a handgun outside the South Side home of US President Barack Obama last year was sentenced on Friday to five years in prison, local media reported.

Onahri Sengstacke, grandson of former Chicago Defender publisher John Sengstacke, was convicted last month sentenced on Friday to five years in prison.

In September last year, Sengstacke was arrested after he repeatedly tried to pass security barriers near Obama’s Kenwood neighbourhood home on the southern side of Chicago, saying he wanted to talk to the then-US senator about a job.

Police found a handgun and a bulletproof vest in Sengstacke’s car, but authorities said he never made threatening statements toward Obama.—MNA/Xinhua

Singaporeans becoming more concerned about health

Singapore, 11 July—Singaporeans are becoming more conc-erned about their health, followed by economy and job security, according to a survey conducted by Swiss food and beverage giant Nestlé. According to reports from TV broadcaster Channel NewsAsia on Friday, about 300 Singaporeans were polled by Nestlé.

Health was in the third spot in the last study conducted in 2007, with economy ranked first, followed by job security.

Some 75 percent of the population now tend to seek out the Healthier Choice symbol when buying food, as opposed to 49 percent two years back. Food products carrying this symbol mean the products are healthier, and are generally lower in fat, saturated fat and sodium, or higher in dietary fibre and calcium.

It is insisted by Singapore’s Health Promotion Board and is intended to help people make informed food choices at the supermarket or shops.—MNA/Xinhua

Solar eclipse set for July 22 in HK

Hong Kong, 11 July—The largest solar eclipse visible in Hong Kong since 1958 will take place July 22, the Hong Kong Observatory said Friday.

If it is fine, the eclipse will be visible as a partial one in Hong Kong from 8:15 am to 10:46 am, with the maximum eclipse occurring at 9:26 am when 75 per cent of the sun’s diameter will be blocked by the moon, said the observatory.

As the sun’s elevation is high, the eclipse will be visible in most places with an unobstructed view to the east. However, to avoid eye damage, the observatory warns people not to look directly at the sun or through telescopes.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian students win int’l software competition

Jakarta, 11 July—Indonesian students from Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) won a Microsoft international computer software competition held in Cairo, Egypt, the Detik.com news portal reported on Friday.

The students who joined Big Bang team brushed aside Brazilian team to seize the championship in mobile device category competed in the Imagine Cup 2009 competition.

The Indonesia students brought their originally-created software that detects malaria patient, codenamed MOSES (Malaria Observation System and Endemic Surveillance).

The software that brought a championship to Indonesian team is able to diagnose and analyze a person from the possibility of being infected by Malaria disease quickly.

The competition’s judging panel learned that the software will be very useful as a medical solution for people who reside in remote areas in getting a quick and correct medical treatment.—MNA/Xinhua

Eight killed in floods in SW China’s Sichuan Province

Beijing, 11 July—Heavy rains and floods have killed eight people in southwestern China’s Sichuan Province, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said here Saturday.

The floods have toppled more than 10,100 houses and damaged more than 29,000 in the province, which experienced continuous rainfall from July 3, the ministry said.

At least 12 cities and 43 counties in Sichuan were affected by the floods, and 99,000 people had been relocated, it said.

The figures might still rise, the ministry warned, as rainfalls continued in the northeastern part of Sichuan.—Xinhua
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (297)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (297) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.7.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will be at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2569088/378316/376797

One dead at Pamplona; first going death since '95

PAMPLONA, 11 July—For a bull, this one was on the smallish side, at just over a ton. And its name, Capuchino, sounded harmless enough, like coffee with frothy milk.

But of the things that can go wrong when hordes of humans sprint with thundering beasts at Spain’s most storied festival, the light brown bull did one of the most dangerous on Friday, straying down deep in places where large earthquakes have happened in the past,” said Robert Nadeau, a research seismologist at the University of California, Berkeley.

Seismic activity in the central part of the fault has increased in the years since the magnitude 6.5 San Simeon quake in 2003 and the magnitude 6.0 Parkfield quake in 2004, Nadeau and his team said in a study published on Friday in the journal Science.

Unusually strong tremors preceded the Parkfield quake three weeks before it struck, leading scientists to believe such tremors could provide an early warning signal to a big quake, said Greg Beroza, a seismologist at Stanford University.

Earthquakes usually generate clear seismic waves with sharp onsets, while tremors vibrate quietly and can continue for days.—Internet

Deep tremors may foretell quake

WASHINGTON, 11 July — The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the blood-thinning drug Effient (prasugrel) to reduce the risk of blood clots from forming in patients who undergo angioplasty, a common procedure to unblock a clogged coronary artery. During an angioplasty, a balloon is used to open the artery that has been narrowed by atherosclerotic plaque. Often, a tiny wire mesh scaffold (stent) is inserted into the blood vessel to help keep the artery open after the procedure. Platelets in the blood can clump around the procedure site, causing clots that can lead to heart attack, stroke, and death. Effient was studied in a 13,608-patient trial comparing it to the blood-thinning drug Plavix (clopidogrel), in patients with a threatened heart attack or an actual heart attack who were about to undergo angioplasty.

The fraction of patients who had subsequent non-fatal heart attacks was reduced from 9.1 percent in patients who received Plavix to 7.0 percent in patients who received Effient. While the numbers of deaths and strokes were similar with both drugs, patients with a history of stroke were more likely to have another stroke while taking Effient. In addition, there was a greater risk of significant, sometimes fatal bleeding seen in patients who took Effient.

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Women ski jumpers remain absent from 2010 Games

OTTAWA, 11 July—Women ski jumpers will still be absent from the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games as a Canadian judge on Friday rejected a bid by female ski jumpers to compete next year.

But the judge agreed that women ski jumpers were being discriminated against.

Skijumping has been an Olympic sport since 1924. All new sports allowed into either the Summer or Winters Games must have both men’s and women’s competition.

The IOC has refused to sanction women’s ski jumping in the Games, arguing that not enough women are competing in the sport worldwide for it to qualify as an Olympic event.

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Language use may predict Alzheimer’s

Baltimore, 11 July—Alzheimer’s disease may be less likely in those who had good language skills when college age, US researchers say.

The study, published in Neurology, was based on participants in the Nun Study — an ongoing clinical study of Alzheimer’s disease risk factors in members of the School Sisters of Notre Dame congregation living in the United States. Study author Dr. Juan Troncoso of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore says essays from 14 participants written when they entered the convent in their late teens or early 20s were scored on language — on the number of ideas per 10 words — and grammar complexity.

The language scores were 20 percent higher in the women without memory problems. The grammar score did not show any difference between the two groups. “Our results show that an intellectual ability test in the early 20s may predict the likelihood of remaining cognitively normal five or six decades later, even in the presence of a large amount of Alzheimer’s disease pathology,” Troncoso says in a statement.

High insulin level linked to breast cancer

New York, 11 July—Elevated insulin levels in the blood appear to increase the risk of breast cancer in postmenopausal women, researchers in New York said.

Increased breast cancer risk for postmenopausal women previously has been linked to obesity and diabetes, researchers at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University said. Both conditions involve insulin resistance, which causes increases in circulating levels of insulin. Insulin promotes cell division and breast tumor growth in animal models, so the researchers reasoned that elevated insulin levels could contribute to breast cancer risk in women, said their study, published in the International Journal of Cancer. “Up to now, only a few studies have directly investigated whether insulin levels are associated with breast cancer risk, and those studies have yielded conflicting results,” Geoffrey Kabat, a senior epidemiologist at Einstein said.

Kabat’s team analyzed data on 5,450 women enrolled in the Women’s Health Initiative, a study investigating the influence of a number of factors on women’s health. The researchers found women in the upper third for insulin levels were more than twice as likely to develop breast cancer when compared with women in bottom third for insulin levels.—Internet

Meds cause dry mouth, researchers find

Baltimore, 11 July—Dry mouth, caused by a decrease in salivary function, afflicts about 25 percent of Americans, US researchers said.

The number of cases of dry mouth, formally known as xerostomia, has increased markedly because people are taking multiple medications, dentist Cindy Kleiman, an expert on dry mouth, said in a statement. “General dentists are seeing this trend in their offices, which is why they are trying to learn all they can about this condition,” Kleiman said. “The more they know, the better they will be at diagnosing and treating patients.”

About 91 percent of dentists say patients complaining of dry mouth are taking multiple medications, Kleiman said.

A nationwide member survey conducted by the Academy of General Dentistry shows the most common symptoms reported by patients include constant thirst and difficulty eating, swallowing or speaking.

Other symptoms include foamy or stringy saliva, irritation of the tongue, burning of the tissues inside the mouth, painful ulcerations and extreme sensitivity in one or more teeth.—Internet

Cardiac CTs good for low risk chest pain

Seattle, 11 July—Using cardiac CT scans on low risk chest pain patients can reduce costs and shorten the length of hospital stays, researchers in Seattle said.

A cardiac CT, or computed tomography, is much less expensive and time consuming than the traditional standard of care workup comprising enzyme tests, nuclear stress testing and electrocardiograms, researchers at the University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, said.

US death toll of A/H1N1 flu rises to 211

Houston, 11 July — The A/H1N1 flu death toll in the United States has reached 211, while confirmed and probable cases rose to 37,246, according to the latest statistics released by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Friday.

The CDC said that 41 more deaths have been reported in the past week, a 24 percent jump from the previous record of 170, and 3,344 new confirmed and probable cases have emerged, representing a 10-percent increase from the previous total of 3,3902 released a week ago. Since the outbreak of the H1N1 flu, the state of New York has been leading the nation with most deaths of the new flu virus. The latest CDC report shows there have been 52 deaths in the state, eight more deaths reported for the past week. Meanwhile, the state of Wisconsin continues to have most cases of the H1N1 flu.

The CDC said on its website that there have been 6,031 confirmed and probable cases in the state. However, those are "really just the tip of the iceberg," Anne Schuchat, a leading CDC expert, said last week. She and other CDC experts believe that there might be more than 1 million Americans who have been infected with H1N1 virus, though many probably had only a mild illness.

A/H1N1 flu death toll in Uruguay rises to nine

Montevideo, 11 July—Uruguayan Public Health Minister Maria Julia Munoz reported on Friday the death of two patients due to A/H1N1 flu, raising the death toll to nine in the country.

The patients were an 11-month-old male who had brain paralysis and 34-year-old male who had other diseases, Munoz said in a press conference. Munoz called the people to remain calm and said there is "scientific evidence to close the public places.”

Munoz said that there is not need to apply special measure like to extend the winter (austral) vacations for students, who will return to school on Monday.

All the fatal cases were related to other organic problems and diseases.

Thailand reports 157 new A/H1N1 flu cases

Bangkok, 11 July — Thailand has 157 more influenza A/H1N1 cases, bringing the country’s total number to 3,228, local media reported on Saturday.

Of those patients, most have recovered, 15 people died, some six people are in serious condition, the Channel 7 quoted public health ministry sources as saying. On Friday, the public health ministry has assigned permanent secretary and senior officials to inspect preventive and control measures in all regions.

The country had its first two confirmed patients on 12 May.—Internet
City give up on Eto’o

Barcelona’s Cameroon striker Samuel Eto’o

Manchester, 11 July—English Premier League club Manchester City have given up on a potential move for Barcelona’s Cameroon striker Samuel Eto’o.

Barcelona had last week appeared to accept Eto’o was on his way to Eastlands, but a contractual hitch emerged between the forward, who scored in the Champions League final win over Manchester United.

City said they have now called off any move for the 28-year-old, who is set to see out the final year of his Barcelona contract. “Samuel Eto’o is undoubtedly a fine footballer but the circumstances surrounding him were such that the deal could not be completed,” City chief executive Garry Cook told club website www.mcfc.co.uk.

Everton seal Jo loan deal

London, 11 July—Brazilian striker Jo on Friday agreed to join Everton on a season-long loan deal from Premier League rivals Manchester City.

The 22-year-old, who signed for City for 18 million pounds from CSKA Moscow last summer, spent five months on loan at Goodison Park last term and scored five times in 12 appearances.

He was expected to return to City but the arrival of Roque Santa Cruz from Blackburn has put his future at Eastlands in doubt. Everton, who will play in the Europa League this season, have also been given permission to hold talks with Sheffield United full-back Ashley Eastwood after a 4.5million-pound fee was agreed between the clubs.—Internet

American sprinter runs fastest 100m of the season

Rome, 11 July—Tyson Gay of the United States clocked season’s best of 9.77 seconds for the title of his men’s 100 meters at the Golden Gala athletics meet here on Friday.

Gay had to equal his personal best to beat off Olympic champion Bolt’s Jamaican compatriot and former 100m world record holder Asafa Powell, who ran 9.88 for a silver medal.

Another Jamaican, Yohan Blake, came third with a time of 9.96 in the second attempt at the race after Daniel Bailey of Antigua false started. —Internet

Vieira could boost Lyon, says Boumsong

Toulouse, 11 July—Deposed French league champions Lyon could benefit from having ex-France skipper, and former Arsenal ace, Patrick Vieira in their line-up, defender Jean-Alain Boumsong said on Friday.

“He could contribute a great deal to the club and fill the gap left by the departure of Juninho,” Boumsong told reporters at Lyon’s training camp in this French Alpine resort.

“He has been captain of France and the experience and the aura he radiates could only add value to our team,” he added.

Although 33-year-old Vieira was an irregular performer last season at Inter Milan due to a thigh injury, has been linked with a move to Lyon.

However, manager Claude Puel, making it clear there are no plans to sign Vieira, said on Friday that Lyon could benefit from having ex-France skipper, and former Arsenal ace, Patrick Vieira in their line-up, defender Jean-Alain Boumsong said on Friday.

Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic returns a backhand to Juan Monaco of Argentina during their Davis Cup quarter-final match at the Ostrava’s Ces Arena. Berdych won 6-4, 2-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.—INTERNET

Germans fight back against Spain in Davis Cup

Marbella, 11 July—Germany fought back in their Davis Cup quarter-final against holders Spain on Friday, after Philipp Kohlschreiber beat Tommy Robredo in straight sets to leave the tie poised at 1-1 after the opening day.

Ninth-ranked Fernando Verdasco had drawn first blood for the hosts at the Marbella Arena in snapping past Andreas Beck 6-0, 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 6-1. But Kohlschreiber then saw off Robredo 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 as Spain suffered a setback in the absence of world number two Rafael Nadal. Verdasco will team with Feliciano Lopez in Saturday’s doubles against German Fabrice Santoro and Mischa Zverev as the Spanish try to get their noses back in front.

Internet

Santoros next faces third-seeded American Sam Querrey in the semi-finals.—Internet

Two-time defending champion Fabrice Santoro of France

Newport, 11 July—Two-time defending champion Fabrice Santoro won back-to-back matches to reach the semi-finals of the rain-hit 500,000 dollar ATP Hall of Fame Tennis Championships.

Both the second and quarter-final rounds were completed Friday due to a number of weather delays.

France’s Santoro defeated American Taylor Dent 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 in the second round before registering a 6-4, 6-2 win over countryman Nicolas Mahut later in the day on the grass courts.

Mahut cruised past American journeyman Alex Bogomolov 6-2, 6-2 in the second round.

Santoros next faces third-seeded American Sam Querrey in the semi-finals.—Internet

Berdych recovery puts Czechs ahead of Argentina

Prague, 11 July—Tomas Berdych recovered to beat Argentina’s Juan Monaco 6-4, 2-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 and give the Czech Republic a 1-0 lead in the Davis Cup quarter-final in Ostrava on Friday.

Berdych, the world number 20, took the first set from a nervous Monaco, who replaced the injured David Nalbandian in the Argentinian team.

Monaco, the world 62, then fought back in the next two sets as Berdych started to suffer a series of unforced errors and double faults. Berdych took a toilet break to gather his thoughts and returned rejuvenated, building up his confidence with an improved first serve and beating Monaco easily in the last two sets.

Internet

Internet

Croatia take 2-0 Davis Cup lead over USA

Porec, 11 July—Croatia, the 2005 champions, have opened up a 2-0 lead over the United States in their Davis Cup World Group quarter-final.

Ivo Karlovic came from two sets down to defeat James Blake and give Croatia a 1-0 lead.

Karlovic won 6-7 (5/7), 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/3), 7-5 in a match that lasted three hours and 37 minutes.

“It was a very long match and it was not easy for me. I was very nervous at the start since I was playing in front of the local crowd,” Karlovic said, the world number 27.—Internet
Fast-growing kelp invades San Francisco Bay

SAN FRANCISCO, 11 July—A fast-growing kelp from the Far East has spread along the California coast from Los Angeles to San Francisco Bay, worry marine scientists and local watchdogs.

In May, scientists for the first time found the invasive seaweed called Undaria pinnatifida clinging to docks at a yacht harbor in San Francisco Bay, fouling boat hulls and pier pilings.

“I was walking in San Francisco Marina, and that’s when I saw the kelp attached to a boat,” said Chela Zabin, a biologist at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Tiburon, Calif.

“It was 6-foot long, and there is nothing here in the bay that gets to that size,” Zabin said. “I didn’t want to believe what it was, it’s depressing.”

Before Zabin’s discovery, ocean scientists believed the northerly spread of the invasive kelp had been stopped at Monterey Bay. But last year, federal funding used to buy equipment for volunteer divers dried up, reducing the number of people working on eradication.—Internet
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Nay Pyi Taw, 11 July—Lt-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and officials left Myeik by boat yesterday morning and arrived at Kyunsu Township in Myeik District.

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw met departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townselders at the hall of the township.

First, the chairman of township PDC explained facts about the township and sectors of agriculture, education and health. The commander made a supplementary report on regional development work. Lt-Gen Khin Zaw asked about the facts of the township and gave necessary instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw and the commander presented exercise books, stationery and cash to a responsible person.

Lt-Gen Khin Zaw looks into regional development work of Kyunsu Township in Myeik District

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 July—News was released on 9 July that New Influenza A (H1N1) virus was found in a 20-year-old man who came back from a foreign country and the medical treatment was being provided to him at Weibagyi Specialist Hospital.

The patient recovered from the flu at 9 am today, and specialists are giving intensive care to him at the separate room of the hospital.

The Ministry of Health is keeping his four family members in quarantine under surveillance at their home and monitoring them along with all the 104 passengers on board the aeroplane and 122 service personnel at Yangon International Airport. Up to now, nothing unusual has been found.

Now, the Ministry of Health is taking precautionary measures against the virus in order to avert spread of New Influenza A (H1N1) at the arrival and departure areas of the nation. A total of 83,391 flight passengers were screened at the airports, 6392 passengers at the jetties, 1,830,893 people at the border checkpoints totalling 1,920,676 from 28 April to 9 July.

The government, as part of the drive for transforming the nation into a modern, developed one, is trying its utmost to improve all the infrastructures such as education, health and transport the length and breadth of the country. During our trip to Mon State, we dropped in on Mon State General Hospital in Mawlamyine to cover news about health care being provided local people in the state.

Mon State General Hospital in Mawlamyine

The newly-annexed child ward to Mon State General Hospital in Mawlamyine.

Health of patient suffering from New Influenza A (H1N1) improves

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The ministry is keeping those with fever and suspected persons at the hotels or houses. Monitoring of 4,544 people out of 12374 were completed and the remaining 7830 persons are under surveillance.