Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Poland

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Lech Kaczynski, President of the Republic of Poland, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Poland which falls on 3 May 2009.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein felicitates Polish counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 3 May—General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Donald Tusk, Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Poland which falls on 3 May 2009.—MNA

Pyaingchaung Dam irrigating 4000 acres of summer paddy, 1000 acres of summer sesame in Kyauktaw Township

Recently, I made a trip to Kyauktaw Township of Rakhine State for observing the efforts for boosting production of agricultural produce by growing 4000 acres of summer paddy and 1000 acres of summer sesame with the use of irrigation water from Pyaingchaung Dam.

Together with Staff Officer U Khin Maung Htwe of Sittway, Daw Maylikha Soe, Daw Zar Phyu Win, cameramen U Kyaw Min Thiha and U Kyaw Min Htwe of MRTV-4, I visited Pyaingchaung Dam, 12 miles west of Kyauktaw.

On the way to the dam, we saw the irrigated farmlands along both sides and ploughing with the use of machinery and cattle.

At DY-2 drain of the project, I had an interview with Rakhine State Manager U Kyaw Myint of Myanma Agriculture Service and Head of Rakhine State Agricultural Mechanization Department U Than Tun who were discharging duties at the agricultural mechanization forward camp (temporary).

Head of Rakhine State AMD U Than Tun explained, “In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, efforts are being made for changing the conventional farming to mechanized farming system with momentum for boosting production of agricultural produce. Use of tractors and power-tillers were demonstrated for completion of the cultivation tasks in a short time to the local farmers for enabling them to understand the advantage of using the farming equipment. Moreover, the necessary farming equipment will be distributed to the local farmers.”

The government had spent K 4460 million on construction of Pyaingchaung Dam in 2002-2003 financial year for uplifting the livelihoods of the local farmers.

(Nay Pyi Taw, 3 May)
Use infrastructural buildings in a systematic way for their durability

The inauguration of Yaypone Bridge on Yangon-Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei-Myek-Kawthoung Road took place at the pavilion near the bridge on 27 April.

It is one of the important bridges in Taninthayi Division. Such fine transport facilities reflect the art of engineering of the nation, high technological skills and innovations of Myanmar engineers, and cohesion and hard work of national people.

The newly-opened bridge is conducive to transporting raw materials and finished goods of the agro-based industries, fisheries and cottage industries of Taninthayi Division at low costs in Dawei District.

Moreover, the bridge has paved the way for rapid development in the education, health and social sectors.

Among the above-180-foot long bridges, Yaypone Bridge is the 224th one in the nation and the ninth one in Taninthayi Division.

Due to the transport facility, Kawthoung of Taninthayi Division is now easily accessible by car from the interior regions. So, the people can travel from and to Kawthoung with convenience in a short time.

Hence, the people are duty-bound to use infrastructural buildings in a systematic way such as roads, bridges, dams and sluice gates the government has constructed for national development and to help maintain them for their durability.
Three US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 2 May—Two marines and a sailor were killed in fighting with militants in Iraq’s western province of Anbar which once was a stronghold of Sunni militants the US military said on Friday.

The incident occurred on Thursday while the soldiers’ unit was conducting combat operations against “enemy forces” in an area in the province, the military said in a statement without providing more details.

The names of the deceased soldiers were being withheld pending notification of next of kin, it added.

Anbar Province has been relatively calm after Sunni tribes and anti-US militants groups turn up against al-Qaeda in Iraq network, cooperating with the US troops and Iraqi security forces.

Rifts emerged between predominantly Sunni militants groups and the al-Qaeda in Iraq organization after the latter adopted a hardline Islam and excercised indiscriminate killings against both Shiite and Sunni Muslim communities.—Internet

Three Americans, two NATO troops killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 2 May—Three Americans and two other international troops were killed Friday in an attack in eastern Afghanistan, officials said.

Militants attacked Afghan and international forces Friday with rocket-propelled grenades and guns, NATO forces said in a statement. The troops called in air support, forcing the militants to withdraw. They are being pursued, the statement said.

Col Greg Julian, a spokesman for US Forces in Afghanistan, confirmed that three of the dead service members were Americans. The nationalities of the other two were not immediately known because NATO typically waits for countries to release such information.—Internet

UN extends mandate of force in southern Sudan

UNITED NATIONS, 2 May—The Security Council has extended the UN mandate for southern Sudan by a year, and called for strict implementation of an agreement between Khartoum and southern rebels the UN force is in charge of overseeing.

In a resolution adopted by unanimity, the Council stressed “its firm commitment to the cause of peace and stability throughout Sudan and the region, noting the importance of the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).”

The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), which has some 10,000 troops, was deployed to help oversee the implementation of the CPA, signed in January 2005 between Khartoum and the Sudan’s People Liberation Movement/Army (SPLAM/A).—Internet

April deadliest month for US in Iraq in 7 months

BAGHDAD, 2 May—The US death toll for April rose to 18, the military said on Friday, making it the deadliest in seven months for American forces in Iraq.

The sharp increase from the previous month came as a series of bombings also pushed Iraqi deaths to their highest level this year.

In the latest violence, a suicide bomber blew himself up at a restaurant on the reservoir of Iraq’s largest dam near the northern city of Mosul. At least five people were killed and 10 wounded, according to US and Iraqi officials.

The spike in attacks has raised concerns that militants are stepping up their efforts to re-ignite sectarian bloodshed as well as questions about the readiness of the Iraqi forces to take over responsibility for their own security as US troops begin to withdraw.

US military spokesman Maj Gen David Perkins blamed the recent bombings on al-Qaeda in Iraq, saying the terror network is making a push to regain influence, particularly in Baghdad.

“We have had some increase in the number of these high-profile attacks, but nowhere near what we were seeing a year or a year and half ago,” he said Friday in a briefing for reporters.—Internet

Suicide bomber struck Mosul, six killed

BAGHDAD, 2 May—Six people were killed and eight others wounded in a suicide bomb explosion in northern Iraqi city of Mosul, a local police source told Xinhua.

A suicide bomber detonated himself in a local restaurant in Mosul, 25 kilometres north of Baghdad, killing six people and wounding eight others, a local police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The restaurant was severely damaged, and victims were taken immediately to local hospitals for treatment, he added.

A series of deadly bombings struck Iraqi cities recently, raising fears that Iraq could again go back to earlier stages of chaos and bloodshed.

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET

INTERNET
Venezuela’s Chavez condemns US report on terrorism

CARACAS, 2 May—President Hugo Chavez on Friday condemned a US report that alleges Venezuela fails to cooperate in fighting terrorism and called on President Barack Obama to end the decades-long trade embargo against Cuba.

Two weeks after Chavez and Obama exchanged smiles and handshakes at a summit in Trinidad and Tobago, the Venezuelan leader called the report “one more slander” that brings into question Obama’s pledges of change. “In the name of the Venezuelan people, I reject this new aggression by the US empire,” Chavez said.

The US State Department’s 2008 Country Reports on Terrorism criticized Chavez’s “ideological sympathy” for leftist rebel groups in Colombia, saying it “limits Venezuelan cooperation with Colombia in combating terrorism.” The report issued Thursday also accused the Venezuelan government of failing to systematically police its border with Colombia.

Chavez dismissed the report “as part of a broader strategy to undermine the Venezuelan government.”

“Obama wants change by ending the embargo against Cuba. If Obama doesn’t knock down the savage blockade against the Cuban people, it’s all a lie. Everything would be a big farce,” Chavez said.

US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Friday acknowledged growing pressure from other Western Hemisphere nations to lift the US freeze on relations with Cuba, but added that Obama would like to see some “reciprocity” from Cuba’s leadership after it lifted travel and financial restrictions on Americans with Cuban relatives.

Filipinos freed by Somali pirates return home

MANILA, 2 May—Twenty-free Philippine sailors abducted more than five months ago by Somali pirates returned home Saturday for an emotional reunion with their families.

Looking haggard but relieved, and led by their captain Abelardo Pacheco, the crew of the Philippine-flagged MT Stolt Strength was reunited with their families at Manila’s international airport.

The vessel and its crew were released on 21 April, ending a 162-day ordeal during which Pacheco said they survived on prayer and constantly feared for their lives.

“Daily life was always a combination of fear and helplessness, hopelessness. It was the most negative feeling one could experience,” said a teary-eyed Pacheco, 62, a veteran of the seas with 41 years’ sailing experience.

He said “there were many attempts” made against the crew’s lives as representatives of their vessel’s owner, Sagana Shipping, negotiated a ransom. The amount eventually paid was not disclosed.

He said the pirates had threatened to shoot them if they tried to escape and that there were times he had to put himself between his crew and the gunmen.—INTERNET

Three injured in Hong Kong helicopter crash

HONG KONG, 2 May—A helicopter hit a bus while landing on the Hong Kong Kai Tak airport here on Friday, injuring three.

The small private helicopter crashed sideways onto the parked tour bus while coming in to land at the former Kai Tak airport in Kowloon.

The pilot, a passenger and the driver of the bus were taken to hospital with what was reported to be minor injuries.

The rear part of the helicopter was bent, and the front of the bus was extensively damaged.

Hong Kong Aviation Club said that two people were on board the helicopter and an investigation on the crash was being conducted.—INTERNET

Indian exports dive 33 pct in March

NEW DELHI, 2 May—India’s exports slid by a third in March, their sixth straight monthly fall, figures showed Friday, as the global financial slump gouged demand in the country’s main US and European markets. Exports fell 33.3 percent to 11.5 billion dollars in March from 17.25 billion dollars in the same month a year earlier, according to government data.

Imports slid by 34 percent to 15.56 billion dollars, reflecting a tumble in world oil prices and falling demand in a faltering domestic economy. For the fiscal year to 31 March, 2009, exports grew by just 3.4 percent to 168.70 billion dollars, just short of a reduced government target of 170 billion dollars, while imports climbed 14.3 percent to 287.8 billion dollars.—INTERNET

Chrysler to close five more plants; court case begins

NEW YORK, 2 May—Attorneys for Chrysler LLC said the company will file a motion by Saturday to sell substantially all of its assets to Italian automaker Fiat Group SpA, but that won’t include eight plants, including five that the automaker revealed it will shutter by the end of next year. While Chrysler faced its first hearing Friday in Manhattan bankruptcy court, court documents showed the ailing automaker plans to close plants in Michigan, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin that employ about 4,800 people. Chrysler said they will be offered jobs at other plants.—INTERNET

US auto sales fall 34 percent in April

CHICAGO, 2 May—Bad news at Chrysler and General Motors took a bite out of US auto sales that fell 34 percent in April as consumers shied away from dealerships amid growing economic uncertainty.

The news of Chrysler’s bankruptcy on Thursday came too late in the month to have a major impact on sales. But school closings as a result of swine flu and the media’s focus on the ongoing problems in the automotive industry had “a little bit of a CNN effect” on overall industry sales, said Ford analyst George Pipas.—INTERNET

U S Marines search Afghans for weapons during a patrol at a village in the Golestan district of Farah province, on 1 May, 2009.—INTERNET

A cloud of “quelea-quelea” birds near in the interior Niger delta. Conservationists in Botswana fear that a pesticide used by the government to prevent pest birds ravaging commercial crops could kill other species, including the spectacular Kori bustard.—INTERNET
Nations unveil pavilions as 2010 fair nears

BEIJING, 2 May — Several foreign countries participating in the Shanghai 2010 World Expo celebrated the one-year countdown to the event Friday by unveiling their pavilion designs, starting pavilion construction or organizing other special activities.

Chile unveiled its pavilion design after the country’s president, Michelle Bachelet, announced that the South American nation would build an independent display. Chile is the only country from that continent to commit to its own pavilion, which will be named “the Seed of the New City” and cover 2,000 square meters.

The pavilion will be composed of several cylinders in silver and brown merging with one another and featuring a roof garden, according to an artist’s rendition released yesterday.

Austria began construction of its pavilion yesterday afternoon. The structure, also about 2,000 square meters in size, will take visitors on a journey through urban landscapes. It will display Austria’s natural scenery and landmark buildings such as Vienna City Hall under the theme “Feel the Harmony.”

France’s Expo team said yesterday in Shanghai that it will hold “dream” weddings for 2010 couples around the world during the event, and online applications started yesterday.—Xinhua

US factory orders drop 0.9% in March

WASHINGTON, 2 May — New orders for manufactured goods to US factories fell by 0.9 percent in March, steeper than the 0.6 percent drop economists had predicted, the Commerce Department said on Friday.

The larger-than-expected fall followed a 0.7 percent rise in February. Orders for durable goods, big-ticket items expected to last at least three years such as computers, cars and machinery, declined 0.8 percent in March after having gained 1.6 percent in the previous month.

Demand for transportation equipment, which accounts for more than a quarter of total durable goods demand, decreased 1.2 percent, compared with a 2.4 percent increase in February. Excluding volatile transportation products, overall factory orders would have declined 0.9 percent after having risen 0.5 percent in the prior month.

Orders for nondurable goods, including food, paper products, petroleum and coal products, also dropped 1.0 percent in March, following a 0.2 percent dip in the prior month.

In March, shipments of manufactured products tumbled 1.2 percent, an eighth consecutive decline. It marked the longest stretch of decreases on records going back to 1992.

US manufacturers have been battered by the global financial crisis and economic recession as demand has shrunk both in the United States and in their major overseas markets.—Xinhua

Canada to provide aid for farmers

OTTAWA, 2 May — Canada will provide 1 billion Canadian dollars ($840 million US dollars) to farmers in a bid to help them better deal with the difficult times of the current recession, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said on Friday.

The money will be provided in loans over the next five years to farmers finding it difficult to borrow money, Harper said visiting a farm in Saskatchewan, an agricultural province.

Current programs will be adapted to enable farmers who cannot get loan to get the aid, Harper said, adding the proposed changes include increasing the amount of guaranteed credit available to farmers and expanding the criteria for the programme so that new farmers will also be able to access this credit.

Changes will also be made so that young people can more easily take over the family farm, he said.

The drop of the number of farmers is a “huge concern” for Canada, experts have said.—Xinhua

Asian economies to make solid progress in financial co-op in ADB annual meeting

BANGKOK, 2 May — Amid the backdrop of deepening global economic slowdown, more than 3,500 participants gathered here Saturday for the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The meeting is expected to draw a great deal of world’s attention, given ADB’s role as a key financing institution devoted to boosting economy and reducing poverty in the Asia and Pacific region.

Under the current global economic circumstances, cooperation in financial areas assumes ever more significance and urgency.

Highly dependent on exports, developing Asian countries have been hit hard by foreign demand slump as the United States, the European Union and Japan have successively entered recessions.

In May 2007, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China, Japan and South Korea (ASEAN+3) introduced the Chiang Mai Initiative, a bilateral currency swap arrangement to help countries tackle a possible foreign capital flow shortage. The initiative was later upgraded to the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM), a regional foreign reserve pool. Now the ASEAN+3 countries have agreed to inject 120 billion US dollars into the reserve pool, or the CMIM, in case of a financial crisis.—Xinhua

China suspends flights from Mexico

BEIJING, 2 May — With a case of influenza A/H1N1 confirmed in a flight coming from Mexico, the Chinese government has decided to suspend flights from Mexico to Shanghai in east China, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

China has notified the Mexican government and airline companies about the decision, sources from the ministry said. When the flights will be resumed depends on the situation of the pandemic control.

As to the Chinese passengers who had planned to fly to Shanghai from the city of Mexico on 3 May, the Chinese government is considering to send a chartered plane to get them back.

The government of China’s Hong Kong Special Administrative Region reported the first confirmed case of influenza A/H1N1 in the city on Friday. The case involved a Mexican who arrived in Hong Kong by air via Shanghai on Thursday.

Pupils wearing Beijing Opera costumes applaud for their classmates’ performance in Nanjing, east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 30 April, 2009. Local pupils gave performances here on Thursday celebrating the Labour Day.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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More than 400 schools closed, 161 US flu cases

WASHINGTON, 2 May — President Barack Obama voiced hope Friday that the swine flu virus will run its course “like ordinary flus” as officials reported more than two dozen new cases and scores more schools shut down.

The government issued new guidance for schools with confirmed cases, saying they should close for at least 14 days because children can be contagious for seven to 10 days from when they get sick. That means parents can expect to have children at home for longer than previously thought.

The Education Department said that more than 400 schools had closed, affecting about 245,000 children in 18 states. That was about 100 more schools reported closed than reported on Thursday.

Major US airlines, meanwhile, announced plans to curtail flights into flu-ravaged Mexico.

“I’m optimistic that we’re going to be able to manage this effectively,” Obama told reporters as he received an update from his Cabinet on the federal response to the health emergency. At the same time, he emphasized that the federal government is preparing as if the worst is still to come so that it won’t be caught flat-footed.—INTERNET

Fidel Castro says US wants Cuba to act like slave

HAVANA, 2 May—Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro on Thursday derided US steps toward improving relations with the Communist island, saying the United States wants Cuba to act like a slave willing to “accept again the whip and the yoke”.

The 82-year-old Castro, writing in a column published on the Internet, said “the adversary should never be under the illusion that Cuba will surrender”. President Barack Obama has said he wants to recast US-Cuban relations that have been hostile for 50 years, but insists on maintaining a US trade embargo imposed against the island since 1962 to use as leverage for Cuban change. —MNA/Reuter

Nine school girls drown in sea in western India

NEW DELHI, 2 May—Nine school girls Friday drowned in the sea in Junagadh District in the western Indian state of Gujarat, a senior Indian police official said. “All the nine school girls were on a picnic when they went to take a bath in the sea in Chowrad. The waves took them by surprise and all drowned. Their bodies have been recovered and sent for post-mortem,” the official said on condition of anonymity. The Gujarat state government has ordered a probe into the incident.

The Indian state of Gujarat, a senior Indian police official said on condition of anonymity. The Gujarat state government has ordered a probe into the incident. —MNA/Xinhua

FAO to use name of “influenza A/H1N1” instead of swine flu

ROME, 2 May—Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations said on Thursday it agreed to use the name of “influenza A/H1N1” instead of “swine flu”. FAO Chief Veterinary Officer Joseph Domeche said FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) agreed to no longer refer to “swine flu” but instead to “Influenza A/H1N1”.

“Given current facts and scientific understanding, consumption of pig meat does not bring any increased risk to the consumer,” the FAO official said. “Stepping up swine influenza control measures in pigs, in the absence of the A/H1N1 virus, such as control of movements and culling, is not justified,” said Domecnech. —MNA/Xinhua

One-eyed, 3-legged alligator found on Fla beach

It sounds more like something out of a freak show: a one-eyed, 3-legged alligator. The gator was captured Thursday morning in Seacrest Beach by Walton County officials. The animal was less than five feet long and had somehow found its way to the beach. A family visiting from Chicago called it the perfect day at the beach. They learned how to tell apart an alligator from a crocodile.

The rare gator was taken to a safe location and returned without harm to the wild.

The Federal Horticultural Exhibition (BUGA) has opened in the northeastern German city of Schwerin. The official mascot “Fiete” is expected to welcome around two million visitors to this year’s event.

Ark man digging in garden unearthed cannonball

Officials say a Fort Smith man digging in his garden unearthed a Civil War-era cannonball that’s possibly still explo- sive. The unidentified man was tending to his garden at his home when he found the rusted, 4-inch-diameter iron ball. Bill Black, the park superintendent of the Fort Smith National Historic Site, said the cannonball appears to be a cannon that’s about 145 years old. Fort Smith Fire Department officials plan to shoot at the cannonball with a shaped charge, which will either detonate the round, break it open or put a hole in it. Black said he hopes to keep the remnants at the Fort Smith National Historic Site. There were a number of Civil War engagements in and around Fort Smith, including the Battle of Massard Prairie.

Pregnant woman tries to rob bank, gets call

Police are looking for a pregnant woman they say tried to rob a North Carolina bank at gunpoint but left empty-handed after answering her cell phone. Fayetteville police spokeswoman Teresa Chance said on Wednesday the woman had a handgun and demanded money when she entered a Carter Bank & Trust branch at 9:43 am Tuesday. But she got distracted when her cell phone rang. Police said she began talking to the caller and left the bank without taking any money. No one was hurt.

Chance said investigators talked to a teller who heard the woman but aren’t releasing details.

Police said the woman is in her late 20s to early 30s. She wore a dark, knee-length skirt and had a multicolored scarf or bandanna on her head.

Museumgoers love Tutankhamun. The latest city to host a travelling exhibit of artifacts linked to the Egyptian pharaoh is Munich. Visitors can walk through a three-dimensional replica of Tutankhamun’s burial site, where more than 1,000 artifacts are on display.
Pyaingchaung Dam irrigating 4000 acres of summer paddy, 1000 acres of summer sesame in Kyauktaw Township

Article: Reporter Singu Soe Win; Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)

The plan under way to cultivate 4,000 acres of summer paddy and 1,000 acres of summer sesame with the use of irrigation water of Pyaingchaung Dam and 150 acres of summer paddy with the use of water from Zeechaung Dam in Kyaukpyu Township of Rakhine State. Four tractors and six power-tillers of the Agricultural Mechanization Department will be stationed in Pyaingchaung project area and in Zeechaung area for ploughing the farmlands.

When the news crew of the Myanmar Daily arrived at the Pyaingchaung Dam, Head of Rakhine State AMD, explains “Use of tractors and power-tillers are being demonstrated to the local farmers and the necessary farming equipment will be distributed to them”.

Staff Officer U Aung Kyi Soe says Pyaingchaung Dam will contribute to growing 4000 acres of summer paddy and 1000 acres of summer sesame.

U Than Tun, Head of Rakhine State AMD, explains “Use of tractors and power-tillers are being demonstrated to the local farmers and the necessary farming equipment will be distributed to them”.

Staff Officer U Aung Kyi Soe of Construction (3) of Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation took the news crew to the briefing hall of Pyaingchaung Dam. Staff Officer U Myint Than explained, “The government had spent K 4460 million on construction of Pyaingchaung Dam in 2002-2003 financial year for uplifting the livelihoods of the local farmers. The dam has 625 acres of water surface and can store 25,025 acre feet of water at the highest level. Now, the dam had been completed. The dam has the 116 feet long earthen embankment. The dam has 190 inches of rainfall annually and a total of 29,985 acre feet of water flows into the dam. Its main canal is eight miles long and the tributary canal, 13 miles. There are 163 canal structures.”

Next, he conducted us round the dam by boat.

On return from the dam, Staff Officer U Aung Kyi Soe pointed us to construction of the drains and thriving summer paddy plantations.

While we were in Rakhine State, Chairman of Rakhine State PDC Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and members of the Agricultural Coordination Committees met with local farmers at the hall of left main canal at the dam. In his instructions, the commander said that a total of 468 bags of urea fertilizer—K 27,000 for one bag—will be sold to the farmers, and 172 bags of other fertilizer—K 1100 per bag—will be sold. Super Bio-Supreme Natural Fertilizer Production will distribute 80 bags of fertilizer to the farmers free of charge. A total of 310 bags of natural fertilizer will be sold and the price of fertilizer will be K 10,800 per bag. The costs for the fertilizer are to be paid in the harvesting season. The Rakhine State PDC will disburse K 39,600 for one acre of farmland to the farmers and Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, K 8000 for one acre. Personnel of MAS will provide cultivation techniques to the farmers and the local farmers are also to try hard in their farming work, he said.

Local farmers are enjoying the genuine goodwill of the officials.

Nowadays, Pyaingchaung Dam irrigating triple cropping of the farmlands is sure to contribute to the uplift of livelihoods of the local farmers.

Staff Officer U Aung Kyi Soe says Pyaingchaung Dam will contribute to growing 4000 acres of summer paddy and 1000 acres of summer sesame.

The workers of AMD will carry out the ploughing task with the use of 20 tractors of the department and power-tillers of local farmers and regiments and units with the assistance of local authorities, commanding officers of regiments and units and local farmers.

Chairman of Sittway District Peace and Development Council U Aye Thaung and Chairman of Township PDC U Sittway District Peace and Development Bank, K 59,600 for one acre of farmland to the farmers and Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, K 8000 for one acre. Personnel of MAS will provide cultivation techniques to the farmers and the local farmers are also to try hard in their farming work, he said.

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Local farmers are enjoying the genuine goodwill of the officials.

Nowadays, Pyaingchaung Dam irrigating triple cropping of the farmlands is sure to contribute to the uplift of livelihoods of the local farmers.
YANGON, 2 May—In commemoration of the 63rd Anniversary Fire Services Day of Yangon Division Fire Brigade, rescue and fire extinguishing demonstration was held at Pyay Garden Condominium on Pyay Road, Sangyoung Township here this morning. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint watched the demonstration.

Also present were the deputy commander, the director-general of the Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, senior military officers, officials of the Fire Services Department and guests.

First, members of Division Fire Brigade showed their rescue and fire extinguishing skills.

Later, the commander and party inspected firefighting equipment and life-saving equipment, made an honorary speech and presented cash awards to the fire brigade members. —MNA

YANGON, 2 May—Course No. 2/2009 for Staff Officers Proficiency Course and On-job Training Course No. 1/2009 for Management Staff Grade-II under Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Immigration and Population were opened at the training school of General Administration Department in Mingaladon Township today.

The mayor and party visited the construction project site of Nyaungbintha-Kanyindaing road in Pyu Township.

The commander heard a report on progress of road presented by the Director of Division Development Affairs Committee and gave necessary instructions.

NAY PYI TAW, 2 May—Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and party viewed tarmacking of 25th Street in Aungmyethazan Township and construction of Mandalay circular road on 27 April.

The mayor and party looked into nurturing of shady trees and flowery plants at the public park near Mandalay Kandawgyi Lake and nurturing of flowery plants at the nursery on Mandalay circular road.

Minister for Home Affairs and for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Oo delivered an address.

A total of 60 trainees are attending the Course No. 2/2009 for Staff Officers Proficiency Course and 38 trainees at On-job Training Course No. 1/2009 for Management Staff Grade-II.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 May—Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min heard reports on the plans for growing teak plants yearly presented by officials at the private teak plantation establishment project near Yangon-Mandalay Expressway on 26 April. The commander inspected the nursery and land preparation for growing of teak plants in Aingdonkun forest reserve.

On 27 April, the commander and party visited the construction project site of Nyaungbintha-Kanyindaing road in Pyu Township.

The commander heard a report on progress of road presented by the Director of Division Development Affairs Committee and gave necessary instructions.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo addresses the opening of Course No. 2/2009 for Staff Officers Proficiency Course and On-job Training Course No. 1/2009 for Management Staff Grade-II.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 May—Members of Fire Services Department (headquarters) of the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement, Fire Services Department (Nay Pyi Taw), the Central Fire Services Training School and members of auxiliary fire brigades of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon and Nay Pyi Taw Lewe donated blood and carried out sanitation tasks at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed) and at Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana General Hospital this morning.

Director U Min Myint Swe of Nay Pyi Taw FSD explained the purposes of blood donation and sanitation work and Medical Superintendent Dr Thaung Tin Tun the benefits of blood donation. Next, the director and the superintendent viewed the blood donation and sanitation work.

Similar work was done at Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana GH.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo addresses the opening of Course No. 2/2009 for Staff Officers Proficiency Course and On-job Training Course No. 1/2009 for Management Staff Grade-II.—MNA

Preparation for growing teak plantations inspected

Blood donated, sanitation work done to hail 63rd Anniversary Fire Services Day

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The Second best time is now.
1. Swine flu in humans: Swine flu has been detected in the people in Mexico, the US, Canada and New Zealand from 17 April to date. A total of 160 persons were killed in the infection of virus.

2. Symptoms in swine: The symptoms of the swine flu are sudden illness, mopping, coughing, runny nose, sneezing, difficult breathing, red eyes, inflammation, loss appetite. These symptoms can also be found in normal coughing and other sickness due to the weather changes.

3. Points to be followed in prevention against swine flu
   (a) If found symptoms of sickness in pigs, they are to be kept in quarantine, and inform the LBVD.
   (b) Take care of bio security in the farm where a large number of pigs are raised.
   (c) Wash hands and legs clean after cleaning the pigsty.
   (d) Use face masks and gloves when handling the unhealthy pigs.
   (e) Ban the sale of unhealthy pigs in the markets.
   (f) Do not raise the pigs of unknown origin, especially those smuggled from other country.
   (g) If pork is cooked at 70°C and above, there will be no infection.

4. Prevention of swine flu: There is no case of swine flu in Myanmar. It is necessary for pig breeders and those who keep pigs on commercial scale and seller to participate in the preventive measures against the disease in cooperation with Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation, Development Committees and local authorities.

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Warning on global human flu

1. Swine flu in humans: Swine flu has been detected in the people in Mexico, the US, Canada and New Zealand from 17 April to date. A total of 160 persons were killed in the infection of virus.

2. The flu is caused by a new virus. It is mixed with four genes and can spread quickly. Now there are cases of such flu in some countries. Regarding the disease, the World Health Organization announced that it is international public health State of emergency. The Ministry of Health is undertaking preventive measures against transmitting to humans through avian flu. In some countries there was an outbreak of swine flu among the people. The Ministry of Health is carrying out the tasks to fight against the disease.

3. The symptoms of swine flu are body heat, runny nose, coughing, aching, headache, lethargy, difficult breathing. They are like the symptoms of other diseases. If these symptoms appear, do not go to crowded public places such as worksites and schools. Take a rest at home. Make contact with the nearest health centres. Go to the hospital when one has high fever, long coughing, difficult breathing and lethargy. If the disease is serious, go to the hospital immediately. Wear surgical masks in order not to spread the disease.

4. It is found that the disease spread from people to people. Like SARS, it can become a pandemic. Therefore, the people are requested to keep the following points.
   (a) Using handkerchief when coughing
   (b) Using handkerchief when coughing
   (c) Washing the hands with soap properly
   (d) Eating nutritious food
   (e) Taking exercises
   (f) Breathing fresh air

5. In order to prevent flu infection, those who take care of the people infected with flu, wear surgical masks.

6. The Ministry of Health has made arrangements for prevention of the spread of such flu from other countries. News and information will be announced in time and the people are requested to follow the notice of the ministry.

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The Government of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department

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Epson Printers on display at Myanmar ICT Exhibition for 2009

YANGON, 2 May—Myanmar ICT Exhibition for 2009 is being held at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road here from 1 to 3 May. The Client Focus Technology Group Co Ltd put on display Epson TX700W Printer capable of producing photos by the wireless system, T30 Printer, TX200 Printer and TX400 Printer for office use at the exhibition. A printer can be used as scanner, printer and copier.

Epson R230 and Epson R290 Printers that are the six-colour photo printers are on sale at reasonable prices. Those who want to buy the item are to contact Client Focus Technology Group Co Ltd, No.5, Building-4, Aungzeya Housing, corner of Ahlon and Strand Roads, Ahlon Township, Yangon (Tel 213247 or 0986 10868).—MNA

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Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department

Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries

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A health staff screening passengers at Yangon International Airport to halt outbreak of swine flu in Myanmar.—MNA

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Epson Printers on display at Myanmar ICT Exhibition.

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Epson Printers on display at Myanmar ICT Exhibition.

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Epson Printers on display at Myanmar ICT Exhibition.
F&R Minister supervises regional development task

NAV PNI TAW, 2 May—Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun attended the stake driving ceremony for construction of new building at Basic Education Post-Primary School in Nyaungchaing Village-tract of Kyaukpadaung Township yesterday.

Wellwisher U Thaung Thein, Chairman of ACE Construction Co, donated K 20 million for the new building to officials.

The minister presented books for the village library to townswelders.

Engineers of Ministry of Industry-2 demonstrated use of bio-battery. The minister fulfilled the requirements of regional development.

At the office of Township Peace and Development Council, the minister attended the ceremony to donate bio-battery for the villages and cement bags for regional development.—MNA

Industry-1 Minister attends annual meetings of Taungtha and Myothit Township Associations (Yangon)

YANGON, 2 May—The 25th annual meeting of Taungtha Township Association (Yangon) was held in conjunction with prize presentation ceremony at Sethmu Dhammayon on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here this morning.

Chairman Dr Khin Maung Swe of the association and Patron of the association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung delivered addresses.

Next, the minister and wife Daw Khin Khin Yi and family and 30 wellwishers presented cash prizes to outstanding students who passed the matriculation examination for 2008 with flying colours.

Then cash donations for the funds of the association followed.

Afterwards, annual reports of executive committee and financial statement were read out and approved.

Then the fifth annual general meeting of Myothit Township Association (Yangon) followed in conjunction with prize presentation ceremony.

Honorary Patron of the association Minister U Aung Thaung made a speech. Next, the minister, executives and wellwishers presented prizes to outstanding students.

Responsible persons read out the annual report of the executive committee of the association and financial statement and sought the approval of those present. —MNA

Developing cottage industries in Chaungzon Township

(from page 16)

In Ywalut region, there are about 80 persons who are engaged in the tobacco pipes industries. Indeed, Ywalut region and tobacco pipes can not be separated in their images. Like the tobacco pipe production industry, the walking stick industry is another popular cottage industry.

We saw the masterpiece work of walking sticks made of wood.

Some walking sticks are decorated at the handles with 10 designs of birds, dragons, tigers and other animals.

With regard to production process of a walking stick, U Thaung Thein, owner of A-1 Walking Stick Industry, explained, “The walking sticks are made of Yinkhat wood (Gardenia coronaria). First and foremost, the wooden stick, over one inch diameter and one foot long, is to be cut. Afterwards, the beautiful designs are to be created at the raw products. After that, the industry can produce 15 raw walking sticks and 10 finished walking sticks daily. The cottage industry is over 40 years old.”

According to U Thaung Thein, the walking sticks of Ywalut region can penetrate into the international personal goods markets. Actually, the consumers at home and from abroad value tobacco pipes and walking sticks, the famous products of Ywalut region in Chaungzon Township of Mon State.

“Manufacturing of tobacco pipes is an industry of our family.”
U Aung Thaung, Tobacco Pipe Industry

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Translation: TTA Myanma Alin, 24-4-2009
Myanmars by nature love growing and nurturing trees. They know well the ecology and the interrelation between human and trees. There are not many countries in the world that love and conserve natural forests, and one of them is Myanmar.

Myanmar earns foreign exchange most from oil and timber, except rice. Now, the country exports meat, fish, prawn, beans and crops on a wider scale, thus enjoying development more than ever.

I had never been to a timber extraction camp in a forest far from human housings before. At the invitation of Assistant General Manager U Aung Then of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise (Ayeyawady Division), I recently paid a visit to the villages beside creeks where there are sawmills in Pathein and Ngapadow townships.

Pathein is about 120 miles from Yangon. It took us for over four hours to drive from Pathein to the timber extraction camp along the earth road that goes downhill and uphill in many sites. On our way back, we took a motorboat, spending about seven hours. I think the site is about 80 miles southwest of Pathein. No one except the staff from the Myanma Timber Enterprise and their families lives there. It is also the site, through which those pilgrims on their way to the Mawtinsung Pagoda have to pass by car.

I had ever heard of Kanni, Myinkakwin and Myittaya then. I gave literary talks at the timber extraction camp at the invitation of U Aung Then. I have made friends with him for about 10 years and at that time he was the factory manager of Phado sawmill in Kyaukdaiga Township. In response to his wishes, I provided him with assistance to open a library at Phado timber extraction camp. After he had built a separate building with publications, set up a trust fund, and appointed a library staff member, he requested me to attend and open the library and give literary talks. Together with writer Ledwintha Saw Chit and cartoonist Maung Wonna, I gave talks at Phado timber extraction camp. Since then, literary talks have been held at Phado timber extraction camp annually. Due to his encouragement, the library has proved successful.

It’s U Aung Then’s desire that his subordinates do not live and die poor. He is sensitive to their requirements in the education and health care, and encourages them to read in order that they will be able to broaden their horizons. It is because if they have gained a lot of knowledge, at least they will be able to distinguish between good and bad. There is a saying that goes "Wisdom moulds the longevity of life". Many of the people are naïve without much knowledge about health care and use chemical dyes to make foods and snacks and similar people consume such foods to the detriment of their health.

We need to read a lot to gain knowledge. U Aung Then established a library and formed community learning centres to enhance the intellectual power of his subordinates and their family members. As a result, his colleagues have become more competent and polite and united, and boosted extraction of timber. And many of their children are outstanding in their studies.

We gave literary talks at No (115) Sawmill in Kanni Village, and No (117) Sawmill in Myinkakwin Village, Pathein Township on 13 March 2009. It was at about 5.30 pm when we finished our literary talks in Kanni Village. And we started our literary talks at No (117) Sawmill at 8 o’clock sharp.

I have a great deal of compassion for sawmill workers and their families on the grounds that they have to live in the forests. They could not follow all our lines if what we were talking to them was all literature.

On 14 March 2009, we left Myinkakwin Village by boat for Myittaya that is about 70 to 80 miles from Pathein. We arrived at No (125) Sawmill, Myittaya. Our literary talks began at 8 pm.

Local people are honest and frank. They made positive comments on our talks. They had never been in the habit of reading, but from that time on, they have cultivated a good habit of reading.

The purpose of our trip was to help rural folks cultivate a good habit of reading. And we have to do a lot to nurture and train them. It is not easy to hold talks for about four hours in a row, attracting the attention of the audience. In that regard, practice, experience and goodwill alone are not enough. Giving literary talks is indeed, quite an art. We will have to work hard to become well-versed in giving literary talks.

Translation: MS
**Invitation to Tender**

**Sr No** | **Description** | **Qty** | **Issuing Date** | **Closing Date**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
1 | Rail For Agitator (KS) | 34 Nos | 30.4.2009 | 15.6.2009
2 | 15 Tons Ore Car Spares (FE) | 11 Items | 30.4.2009 | 15.6.2009
3 | Spares Parts For Electric Locomotive (FE) | 1 Lot | 30.4.2009 | 15.6.2009
4 | Fire Fighting Camera With Moniton For Kiln (FE) | 2 Sets | 30.4.2009 | 15.6.2009
5 | Power Capacitor of Indoor Sub Station (FE) | 2 Items | 30.4.2009 | 15.6.2009
6 | Reno: of Outdoor Sub Station Transformer No. 3 (FE) | 1 Lot | 30.4.2009 | 15.6.2009
7 | Main Rectifier For Electric Locomotive (FE) | 1 Set | 30.4.2009 | 15.6.2009
8 | Electrical Instrument For Main Plant Production (FE) | 2 Items | 30.4.2009 | 15.6.2009
9 | Liquid Resistor For Exhaust Fan Motor (FE) | 1 Set | 30.4.2009 | 15.6.2009
10 | Work Shop Machinery (FE) | 10 Items | 30.4.2009 | 15.6.2009
11 | Gyrotronic Crusher (FE) | 3 Items | 30.4.2009 | 15.6.2009
14 | Reno: of Sodium Silicate Furnace (FE) | 2 Sets | 30.4.2009 | 15.6.2009
15 | Fibre AT (FE) | 600 M/T | 30.4.2009 | 15.6.2009
16 | Felt (FE) | 22 Roll | 30.4.2009 | 22.6.2009
17 | Steel Wire Mesh (FE) | 2 Items | 30.4.2009 | 22.6.2009
18 | Dump Truck (FE) | 9 Unit | 30.4.2009 | 22.6.2009
19 | Bulldozer (FE) | 2 Unit | 30.4.2009 | 22.6.2009
20 | Hydraulic Crawler Drill (FE) | 2 Unit | 30.4.2009 | 22.6.2009
21 | Hydraulic Excavator (FE) | 2 Unit | 30.4.2009 | 22.6.2009

Tender forms and documents are available at the Procurement Department, Myanma Ceramic Enterprise, Ministry of Industry, No. 41, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours. Tender will be accepted only from Bidder who purchased Tender Documents officially. (For further details, contact telephone number: 067 308298).

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**Boogie birdie: Animals shown to ‘dance’ to music**

**NEW YORK, 2 May—** They wouldn’t blow away the competition on “Dancing with the Stars,” but it turns out that some birds got rhythm. After studying a cockatoo that grooves to the Backstreet Boys and about 1,000 YouTube videos, scientists say they’ve documented for the first time that some animals “dance” to a musical beat. The results support a theory for why the human brain is wired for dancing.

In lab studies of two parrots and close review of the YouTube videos, scientists looked for signs that animals were actually feeling the beat of music they heard. The verdict: Some parrots did, and maybe an occasional elephant. But researchers found no evidence of that for dogs and cats, despite long exposure to people and music, nor for chimps, our closest living relatives.

**NASA to begin layoffs as shuttle retirement nears**

CAPE CANAVERAL, 2 May—The US space agency NASA plans to eliminate 900 manufacturing jobs as the space shuttle fleet is retired, NASA officials said on Thursday. The first 160 layoff notices go out on Friday, primarily to contractors producing the space shuttle fuel tanks outside New Orleans and the shuttle solid rocket boosters in Utah.

The prime contractors for those components are Lockheed Martin Corp and ATK Thiokol. “This is the first significant loss of manufacturing capability,” shuttle programme manager John Shannon told reporters. The three-ship shuttle fleet is due to be retired after eight more flights to finish building and equipping the International Space Station and a final servicing call to the Hubble Space Telescope.

Managers on Thursday settled on a 11 May launch date for shuttle Atlantis’ 11-day mission to Hubble. Liftoff is set for 201 pm EDT (1801 GMT) from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. NASA officials said that they were monitoring the nationwide alert over the new swine flu, or influenza A (H1N1) flu virus, but so far the disease was not affecting any of its operations. “We’re not doing anything special at this point,” said NASA’s associate administrator for space operations Bill Gerstenmaier.

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**Unique Roman glass dish found at London grave site**

LONDON, 2 May—Archaeologists have unearthed a Roman glass bowl, thought to be a unique find in the Western Roman Empire, at an ancient cemetery beyond the walls of the old city of London.

The “millefiori” dish is believed to date from around the 2nd to 3rd century AD, is a mosaic of hundreds of indented blue petals with white bordering. “For it to have survived intact is amazing,” said Jenny Hall, curator of the Roman collection at the Museum of London. “We are still checking out whether there are similar examples surviving in the eastern part of the empire, in ancient Alexandria for example, but it’s the only one in the West,” she told reporters.

Archaeologists said the dish was covered bright red when it was first pulled from the earth, as the intricate design was imbedded in opaque red glass. The bright vermillion colour has slowly disappeared since excavation as the water-saturated glass dried out. The moisture had preserved the original colouring, but some of the pigment is still distinguishable around the rim.

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**Snowball, a medium sulfur-crested Eleonora cockatoo, dances to the Backstreet Boys song ‘Everybody (Backstreet’s Back)’ in the Scherrerville, Ind., home of Irena Schulz. Researchers have documented for the first time that some animals “dance” to a musical beat.**

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**GENES may affect complications after heart surgery**

WASHINGTON, 2 May—Testing for a gene variant that increases the risk of shock and kidney complications after heart surgery could help guide post-surgery treatment, say Australian and German researchers.

Currently, there are no effective medications to prevent these complications after heart surgery, according to background information in a news release from the American Society of Nephrology. When shock occurs, people are often given norepinephrine to stimulate their blood vessels and normalize their blood pressure, but not everyone metabolizes norepinephrine efficiently.

The reason for this variation in response to norepinephrine is believed to be based in the biological pathways that metabolize the drug and involve an enzyme called catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT). — Internet

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**Liz Goodman, Museum of London conservator, is seen with a Roman Millefiori bowl.**

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**MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION MYANNA RAILWAYS**

**INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER**

1. Sealed Tender is invited for supply of the following in Euro:
   - Tender No Description Quantity
   - 15C(T)/MR(E) Rail Gang Car 10-Nos

2. Closing Date/Time: 26.6.2009 (Friday) (12:00) Hours

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**The space shuttle Atlantis (L) sits on launch pad 39BA and the space shuttle Endeavour (R) sits on launch pad 39B at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 17 April, 2009.**

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**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 3 May, 2009**

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**India reports three suspected H1N1 cases**

NEW DELHI, 2 May—Three passengers, two flying in from Chicago and one from London, have been quarantined by the Indian authorities at New Delhi’s Ram Manohar Lohia hospital for classical symptoms of A/H1N1 flu infection, reported the local newspaper Times of India electronic edition Saturday.

All three were suffering from cough, cold, fever and upper respiratory infection, said the report. Doctors at the Indira Gandhi International Airport sent Paramjit Kaur and Jagjiivaan Singh, who flew in from London, to the hospital, said the report. Paramjit has been suffering with fever for the past 5 days while Jagjiivaan has had fever, sore throat and upper respiratory diseases for the past 12 days.—INTERNET

**France confirms first H1N1 flu cases, 34 suspects**

PARIS, 2 May—France confirmed two A/H1N1 flu human infections and is monitoring a third case, investigating 34 more possible cases, Health Minister Roselyne Bachelot announced on Friday.

The infections by the A/H1N1 virus were detected in a 49-year-old man and a 24-year-old woman, who are being treated in northern and central Paris respectively. Another 37-year-old man is strongly suspected of being infected and is being carefully treated and monitored, said the minister. “These people are well. They have been given antiviral treatments,” she said. All three have traveled to Mexico recently, thus it is not an infection that has been passed on in France, she added.—INTERNET

**Germany confirms one more Influenza A/H1N1 case**

BERLIN, 2 May—Germany has confirmed one more Influenza A/H1N1 (swine flu) case in southern state of Bavaria, a spokesperson for the Federal Health Ministry said on Friday.

Germany has thus confirmed four Influenza A/H1N1 cases in total so far. The spokesperson said the new patient is a woman who had contacted with a previous-confirmed flu patient. All patients in the three previous-confirmed cases in Germany are tourists coming back from Mexico.—INTERNET

**S Korea reports first confirmed case of H1N1 flu**

SEOUL, 2 May—South Korea reported its first confirmed case of influenza A/H1N1 on Saturday, amid a rising alert against the deadly virus that is rapidly spreading across the globe.

The 51-year-old nun, who has been quarantined since Tuesday after returning from her recent trip to Mexico, was confirmed to be infected with the influenza, the Korea Center for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) said in a statement.

After conducting thorough tests, one of the three probable patients was found to be infected with the virus, the KCDC said.

The nun was among three probable flu patients reported this week, two of whom, a 44-year-old woman and a 55-year-old bus driver, did not travel to affected countries. The bus driver’s tests were found negative, and the results of the woman’s are not known yet, according to the KCDC.—INTERNET

**confirmed A/H1N1 flu cases rise to 141 in US**

WASHINGTON, 2 May—A total of 141 human A/H1N1 cases have been confirmed in the United States, spread across 19 states, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention reported Friday.

The only person that has so far died of the H1N1 flu virus is a Mexican toddler who was visiting relatives in Texas. The numbers of infected people have been relatively stable in the first states to confirm cases, with New York having the highest tally of 50 which has remained the same for several days.

The US Education Department said Friday that 433 schools had closed, affecting 245,000 children in 17 states. That was about 100 more schools closed than reported on Thursday.—INTERNET

**Mercury flyby unveiled active inner planet**

WASHINGTON, 2 May—The US space probe MESSENGER’s second fly-by of the planet Mercury in October 2008 revealed the solar system’s smallest planet to be far more active than previously thought, four studies said on Thursday.

The MESSENGER (MErcury Surface, Space ENvironment, GeOchemistry and Ranging) probe’s cameras took more than 1,200 images of the surface, including details of a mammoth well-preserved 692-kilometre (430-mile) impact basin that shows signs of a volcanic past. The so-called Rembrandt basin is the first such geological feature observed on Mercury where the ground is well exposed and not covered by a thick layer of volcanic ash, like most of the planet’s other features.—INTERNET

US scientists work on live A/H1N1 flu strain for new vaccine

HOUSTON, 2 May—A shipment of live A/H1N1 flu strains, or swine flu virus, arrived in a research institute in US state of Alabama on Friday where scientists will start to test new vaccines and antiviral drugs, a local official said in a statement.

Diana Noah, senior project leader at Southern Research Institute in Birmingham, Alabama, said a small amount of live A/H1N1 flu strain is now on site and will be grown in embryonic chicken eggs over the next two weeks.

The virus will then be used for laboratory tests to ensure the efficacy of new vaccines now being developed to prevent the A/H1N1 flu strain circulating throughout the United States, Noah explained, adding that his institute will also use the virus to test existing and upcoming antiviral drugs.

There are 25 staff members at Southern Research Institute. Noah said they will be working in cooperation with their counterparts in the Pulmonary Injury and Repair Center, University of Alabama at Birmingham, on several projects associated with the recent outbreak of A/H1N1 flu.

Technicians make final checks to Hubble servicing equipment in 2008 in the Payload Hazardous Servicing facility at Kennedy Space Center, Florida. NASA said Thursday it will launch its final Shuttle mission to the Hubble space telescope on 11 May, a day earlier than planned, to avoid conflicts with other scheduled missions.—INTERNET
China secures first gold in tennis worlds

YOKOHAMA, 2 May—China clean-swept semifinal berths at the mixed doubles event at the world table tennis championships here on Saturday despite bungling all of its doubles experts. China pulled three versatile players off the doubles events, deliberately making the Yokohama championships more open.

Wang Liqin, Ma Lin and Zhang Yining, who have involved in nine doubles victories in the world championships, didn’t enter a doubles competition at all, while Wang Hao, Ma Long, Guo Yue and Li Xiaoxia skipped the mixed doubles, making Hao Shuai and Chang Chenchen the highest seeded Chinese pair at fifth.

Hao/Chang edged out top-seeded Hong Kong pair Ko/ Lai Chak and Tie Yana 11-6, 11-9, 12-10, 8-11, 11-5. Theoretically, Hao/Chang had the toughest task. Ko and Tie form what in many experts’ eyes is the ideal combination, while Hao and Chang do not. The latter duo is a unit of two lefthanders while Ko is a left handed nation, while Hao and Chang do not. The latter duo is a unit of two lefthanders while Ko is a left handed penholder and Tie Yana a right-handed shake hands grip player, both are attacking topspin exponents.—Internet

Chinese players Li Ping/ Cao Zhen (L) compete during the mixed doubles quarterfinal match against compatriots Xu Xin/Fan Ying at the World Table Tennis Championships in Yokohama, Japan, on 2 May, 2009. Cao and Li won 4-0.—Internet

Defending champion Jankovic ousted at Stuttgart tennis

BERLIN, 2 May—Reigning champion Jelena Jankovic suffered a quarter-final upset at the Stuttgart’s WTA tournament on Friday as she was toppled by unseeded Italian Flavia Pennetta 2-6, 6-4 and 6-4. Pennetta only finished her second-round game against Nadia Petrova just before midnight, but relented from losing the first set to take her semifinal place. “The level of my game dropped in the second set and I started to allow my opponent to play her own game,” said Jankovic.

Third-seed Jankovic took the first set 6-2, but Pennetta started using her forehand to take the second 6-4, and stormed into a 2-0 lead in the third set. Jankovic fought back in style to go 3-2 ahead, before the Italian made her baseline game count to take the third and the match. “I am really happy to win this match today,” said the Italian after nearly two hours. “I was nervous at the start, but from the beginning of the second set I pushed a bit more and used my forehand.”—Internet

Guardiola wants to feel El Clasico pressure

MADRID, 2 May—Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola has said he wants to feel the pressure during Saturday’s ‘El Clasico’ against arch-rivals Real Madrid which will be crucial for deciding the league title. “If we want to be champions, we must win at Bernabeu. We have the possibility of taking a huge step towards the title,” he said Friday on the eve of the match at Real’s Santiago Bernabeu stadium. “I want to feel the pressure,” he added.

Mourinho dismisses ghost of Lazio past

ROME, 2 May—Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho has dismissed the significance of the club’s clash against Lazio this weekend, just short of seven years to the day since the Romans denied the nerazzurri the Serie A title.

In the 2001-02 season Inter arrived at the final day of the season on 5 May with a one-point advantage over Juventus as they sought to win their first title since 1989. They needed to beat Lazio at Rome’s Stadio Olimpico, but despite leading 1-0 and 2-1 they lost 4-2 and finished the season in third as both Juve and Roma overtook them with final day victories.

Those were the days when Inter had become the laughing stock of Italian football, the giants known as chokers who consistently flattered to deceive.—Internet

Pele plays host to Int’l Olympic Committee in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 2 May—Former soccer star and legend Pele served Friday as the guide inside the historic Maracana soccer stadium to attract the votes of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) commission for the 2016 Olympic Games in the candidate city of Rio de Janeiro.

Juggling, passing balls and even signing memorabilia, the ambassador to Rio’s Olympic candidacy showed the inspectors around the stadium’s facilities. Pele sat down and had an in-depth conversion with the president of the commission and ex-athlete of the Moroccan team of Nawal El Moutawakel.—Internet

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Shelves
2 Subsequently
3 Gibe
4 Queue
6 Ghetto
10 Unsophisticated
12 Ignited
14 Image
15 Lazy
18 Tibetan ox
21 Learning
23 Blamed
25 Treble
26 Combine
27 Lees
28 Scanty

DOWN

1 Hidden
2 Distrusted
3 Completely
4 Lignt sledge
5 Vagrant
6 Soften
7 Upset
13 Alcoholic solution of drug
15 Agave
16 Enduring
17 Shut
19 Stuffing material
20 Stick
22 Indian coin
24 Go by

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

(2-5-2009)

Chelsea 3 – 1 Fulham
Manchester City 3 – 1 Blackburn
Middlesbrough 0 – 2 Man Utd
Portsmouth 0 – 3 Arsenal
Stoke City 0 – 1 West Ham Utd
Tottenham 1 – 0 WBA
Wigan Athletic 0 – 0 Bolton

Portsmouth’s Jermaine Pennant (R) challenges Arsenal’s Andrey Arshavin (L) as Danny Murphy challenges during their English Premier League soccer match at Fratton Park in Portsmouth on 2 May, 2009.—INTERNET

Chelsea’s Nicolas Anelka (C) scores past Fulham’s goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer (L) as Danny Murphy challenges during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London on 2 May, 2009.—INTERNET

Brazilian soccer legend Pele (L) plays with International Olympic Committee (IOC) member Nawal El Moutawakel during an inspection visit at Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on 1 May, 2009.—INTERNET
Heat wave claims 78 lives in eastern India

NEW DELHI, 2 May — The heat wave and soaring temperature since late April are believed to have claimed 78 lives in the eastern Indian state of Orissa, but government is yet to confirm the figure at local hospitals sources said on Saturday. However, officials in the State Revenue Control Room in Bhubaneshwar, the state capital of Orissa, put the official figure of heat wave-caused deaths at 18, though they admitted an overall number of 78 deaths in last week due to various reasons.

“Twenty-four cases of reported deaths were due to other reasons. Reports are awaited in other cases of death due to suspected sunstroke,” a State Revenue Control Room official told Xinhua on phone. The local weather bureau had earlier warned the state government that the heat wave condition was likely to prevail for at least 48 hours in interior parts of the entire state in late April...

INTERNET

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring areas

WEATHER

Saturday, 2 May, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan, Chin States and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Kachin and Shan States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Sago and Ayejawady Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above May average temperatures in Magway and anf annyi Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Minbu (43°C), Kalaywa, Mohnwa, Mvyinjung, Nyaungyi, Chaung and M magway (42°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Homalin (0.75) inch, Mmisht (0.63)inch and Bhamo (0.59) inch.

Maximum temperature on 1-5-2009 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 2-5-2009 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 2-5-2009 was 63%.

Total sunshine hours on 1-5-2009 was (10.5) hrs approx. Rainfall on 2-5-2009 was (Nil) at M magayal, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (1.14) inches at M magingal, (2.01) inches at Kaba-Aye and (5.28) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (21:30) hours MST on 3-5-2009.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 3-May 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Kachin, Chin, States and Sagaing Division, isolated in Shan, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayejawady and Taninthayi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Districts. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continued isolated rain or thundershowers in the extreme Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 3-5-2009: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-5-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-5-2009: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).
10th Waxing of Kason 1371 ME

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Sunday, 3 May, 2009

Developing cottage industries in Chaungzon Township

From a running boat, we saw a series of small houses. The place surrounded by water body is an island called Chaungzon Township. In the past, the town was named Balukyun in the history. Ywalut of Balukyun was famous as the cottage industries had developed in the region. Many cottage industries were established in the region with own creation on a self-reliant basis. To observe the development of cottage industries there, we went on a trip through Chaungzon Township, 199 miles from Yangon, located in Mawlamyine District, Mon State. We proceeded to Ywalut Village from the Chaungzon Jetty by car of Township General Administration Department. The tobacco pipes, a popular product known as Made in Ywalut, is in high demand in the market up to now. We saw various designs and colourful tobacco pipes.

In an interview, owner of BI Tobacco Pipe Industry U Aung Than said, “This is our family business and we have run it for more than one hundred years. To make a tobacco pipe, we collect raw material woods namely Pyinma (Lagerstroemia speciosa), Yinhtat (Gardenia coronaria), jungle Gangaw (Mesua ferrea), teak and gum-kinlo of Nay Pyi Taw Pyimannya. First, we cut the timber to become 3.5 inches long and 1.5 inches wide wood blocks. Such wood blocks are proper sizes for manufacturing two bowls each of tobacco pipes. After that, the wood blocks are to be made as the bowl of tobacco pipe with the use of machine. Moreover, the finished goods of the bowl of tobacco pipes are to be produced with the use of a file. In manufacturing the pipe of the bowl, rubber, sulphur and chemicals are to be ground by machine and then, the combined material is to be moulded. After that, the raw products are to be finished with the use of files. Finally, the bowl can be fixed to the pipe to become a tobacco pipe. Next, the finished goods are to be polished and placed in the brezing air.” He continued to say, “The designs of tobacco pipes are created by us as well as according to the orders of the buyers. Our industry produces 200 to 1500 tobacco pipes daily. Generally, Denmark and Japan place order for the products. Every three months, we export 10 to 15 dozens of tobacco pipes to these countries. In the domestic market, we send the products to Toungoo, Nay Pyi Taw Pyimannya, Mandalay, Meiktila and Rakhine.”

Scientists discover ‘dancing’ algae

SCIENCE DAILY, 2 May — Scientists at the Cambridge University have discovered that freshwater algae can form stable groupings in which they dance around each other, miraculously held together by the fluid flows they create.

The researchers studied the multicellular organism Volvox, which consists of approximately 1,000 cells arranged on the surface of a spherical matrix about half a millimetre in diameter. Each of the surface cells has two hair-like appendages known as flagella, whose beating propels the colony through the fluid and simultaneously makes them spin about an axis. — Internet

Man United forge ahead against Boro

MIDDLESBROUGH, 2 May — Manchester United extended their lead at the top of the Premier League to a commanding six points as goals from Ryan Giggs and Park Ji-Sung sealed a comfortable 2-0 win away to Middlesbrough.

Giggs struck his fourth goal of the season before the break here at the Riverside Stadium on Saturday to help double United’s points advantage over title rivals Liverpool, who host Newcastle on Sunday.

And South Korea international Park deservedly doubled their advantage early in the second-half as reigning champions United, seeking to equal Liverpool’s record of 18 English titles, strolled to a fifth consecutive league victory.

United couldn’t have asked for an easier warm-up for Tuesday’s Champions League semi-final trip to Arsenal, where they defend a single-goal first-leg lead, as they showed little sign of fatigue despite clocking up their 60th game of a season that could yet see them win four trophies. — Internet

Tobacco pipes being polished.

1st ISD Women’s Football Tournament commences

YANGON, 2 May — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint this afternoon delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the 1st Inter-State/Division Women’s Football Tournament at Padetha Sports Ground in South Okkalapa Township.

Yangon Division played against Shan State (South) in the opener. A total of 12 teams are competing in the tournament. — MNA

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Freshwater algae called Volvox can form stable groupings in which they dance around each other, research-ers have found.