Established 1914
Volume XVII, Number 19
12th Waxing of Kason 1371 ME
Tuesday, 5 May, 2009

Senior General Than Shwe addresses coordination meeting of Special Projects Implementation Committee 1/2009

State will render necessary assistance to what the private sector cannot afford to do

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May—The Special Projects Implementation Committee held its 1/2009 coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), here, this afternoon. Chairman of Special Projects Implementation Committee Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gave necessary guidance. Also present at the meeting were Vice-Chairman of Special Projects Implementation Committee Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, members of Special Projects Implementation Committee (See page 8)

The agriculture sector accounts for 40 percent of the nation’s GDP while the industrial sector accounts for only 20 percent. So the industrial sector needs to be further developed.

The agriculture sector accounts for 40 percent of the nation’s GDP while the industrial sector accounts for only 20 percent. So the industrial sector needs to be further developed.

Chairman of Special Projects Implementation Committee Chairman of the SPDC Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe gives guidance at the coordination meeting (1/2009) of the SPIC.—MNA

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

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

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation
The Myanmar ICT Exhibition (2009) was held at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township from 1 to 3 May.

Information and communication technologies play a major role in the development of a nation. Nowadays, the nations developed in high technologies are trying to interfere in the domestic affairs of the ones with less technological development.

For a nation in the present-day world to be able to stand long on its own strength, it needs to have human resources well versed in modern science and technology.

Holding ICT exhibitions will enable the people to keep in touch with the latest information technologies and products. They offer the people a chance to learn about new technologies. Moreover, they will make the youth become more interested in technologies, especially in information technology.

Myanmar ICT exhibitions will enable the people to learn about modern technologies developing with the passage of time and contribute towards national development.

Apply ICT for national development

The Myanmar ICT Exhibition (2009) was held at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township from 1 to 3 May.

Information and communication technologies play a major role in the development of a nation. Nowadays, the nations developed in high technologies are trying to interfere in the domestic affairs of the ones with less technological development.

For a nation in the present-day world to be able to stand long on its own strength, it needs to have human resources well versed in modern science and technology.

Holding ICT exhibitions will enable the people to keep in touch with the latest information technologies and products. They offer the people a chance to learn about new technologies. Moreover, they will make the youth become more interested in technologies, especially in information technology.

Myanmar ICT exhibitions will enable the people to learn about modern technologies developing with the passage of time and contribute towards national development.

A & I Minister participates in 65th Session of ESCAP

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May—A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo had participated in the 65th Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific-ESCAP held at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, from 23 to 29 April.

The delegations from 48 member nations of the ESCAP also attended the meeting.

The senior officials’ meeting of the ESCAP was held from 23 to 26 April and the ministerial meeting, from 27 to 29 April.

The 65th Session of the ESCAP was opened with opening remarks by Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva and Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission of the UN, and discussed matters on cooperation between Myanmar and the ESCAP in the development of the agricultural sector of Myanmar and food security in the region.

The Myanmar delegation arrived back here on 30 April.—MNA

Functions of communication stations inspected

YANGON, 4 May—Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw visited Kawhmu Exchange yesterday.

After hearing the reports of engineers, the minister attended to the needs.

The minister inspected construction of the new building and the microwave tower of Kungyangon Auto-exchange and new Auto-exchange of Dedaye in Ayeyawady Division.

At International Underground Cable Station in Pyapon, the minister inspected the control room of the auto-exchange and CDMA-450 mobile system control room. He fulfilled the requirements of trunk call and mobile system.

Later, the minister looked into functions of Kyaiklat International Underground Cable Station.—MNA

PBANRDA Ministry conducts training courses

YANGON, 4 May—Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the Management Course Nos. 31/32, the Advanced Domestic Science Course Nos. 31/32, the Advanced Domestic Science Course Nos. 31/32, the Clerical Course Nos. 60/61 at the Management Course Nos. 21 and the Clerical Course Nos. 31/32, the Advanced Domestic Science Course Nos. 31/32, the Clerical Course Nos. 60/61 at the central training school of Education and Training Department in Dagon Myothit (North) Township.

A total of 200 trainees are attending the training courses that will last 12 weeks.

PBANRDA Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe speaking at opening ceremony of training course.—MNA
Fears of Yemen turning into another Afghanistan

San’a (Yemen), 4 May — The cave tucked in the remote Saudi mountains near the Yemeni border was clearly a way station for Islamic militants, Saudi police say, pointing to the stock of guns and ammunition, nooks for holding hostages and cameras for filming them. It even had buckets of sugar, rice and flour, as well as boxes of charcoal, candles, pasta and beans — supplies for a long stay by al-Qaeda fighters moving across the border to prepare attacks in the kingdom.

The discovery in early April reinforced a growing fear in Saudi Arabia: that Yemen could become another Afghanistan right on its doorstep, an out-of-control state where al-Qaeda runs free and exports violence into its neighbour.

The United States shares the Saudis’ fear. Gen David Petraeus, head of the US Central Command, told Congress in April that the weakness of Yemen’s government provides al-Qaeda a safe haven and that terror groups could “threaten Yemen’s neighbours, especially Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.”

Int’l troops kill civilian, wounds two more in W Afghanistan

KABUL, 4 May — One Afghan civilian was killed and two others sustained injuries as they came under fire from international troops in west Afghanistan Sunday morning, police said.

“This morning a civilian car from Farah was heading to Herat Province but was fired upon by the international troops on the road linking airport to Gazar district, as a result a 12-year-old girl was killed,” Abdul Rauf Ahmadi, police in western region, told Xinhua.

Two more persons including one woman sustained injuries in the incident, he further said.

However he did not disclose troops of which country were behind the attack, adding investigation has begun into the case.

Meantime, Abdul Hakim, the grandfather of the ill-fated girl said they were going to attend a wedding party in Herat when soldiers from two armored personnel carriers opened fire and caused the tragedy.

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 607

WASHINGTON, 4 May — As of Friday, 1 May, 2009, at least 607 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department.

Of those, the military reports 447 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 67 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, there were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen.

There were also four CIA officer deaths and one civilian military death.

Explosion kills mayor, four guards in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 4 May — Mohammad Rahim, the mayor of Mehtarlam city, capital of eastern Afghan province of Laghman, was killed along with his four guards in an explosion on Monday, an official said.

BAGHDAD, 4 May — A car bomb exploded Monday near the Oil Ministry in Baghdad, killing one police officer and wounding three others, according to Iraqi police and hospital officials.

Iraq rules out extension of US withdrawal dates

Baghdad, 4 May — Iraq will not extend withdrawal deadlines for US troops set out in a bilateral accord, ending months of speculation about whether US combat troops would stay beyond June in bases in the restive northern city of Mosul.

Government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said Iraq was committed to adhering to the withdrawal schedule in the pact, which took effect on 1 January, including the requirement to withdraw US combat troops from towns and cities by the end of June and a full withdrawal by the end of 2011.

“These dates cannot be extended and this is consistent with the transfer and handover of responsibility to Iraqi security forces,” Dabbagh said in a statement.

Violence has dropped sharply in Iraq, but suicide bombs and other attacks continue to rock the northern city of Mosul, seen as a final stronghold for Sunni Islamist al Qaeda and other militant groups.

The ongoing violence in the city, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, had prompted speculation that Iraq might grant a waiver for US combat troops to stay in urban bases in Mosul.

Afghan forces detain suspected Taliban commander

KABUL, 4 May — Afghan forces backed by the US-led Coalition forces detained a suspected Taliban commander in an operation in eastern Afghan province of Kunar Saturday night to disrupt an improvised explosive device (IED) network, said a Coalition statement issued here on Sunday. “The combined force detained one individual suspected to be a Taliban commander in Marawara district, responsible for facilitating the movement of IEDs into the area,” it said.

Forces did not fire any shots during the operation, it added. Coalition and Afghan troops launched a large scale operation against Taliban militants in eastern Afghanistan after the killing of three US soldiers and two NATO troops during militants assaults last on Friday.

Nineteen militants, according to Coalition forces, have been eliminated during operations in Kunar Province since 1 May.

Conflicts and violence have left 5,000 people dead in 2008 while Taliban militants have vowed to intensify their activities mostly in the shape of roadside bombing and suicide attacks as the United States has announced reinforcement of 17,000 troops into the war- torn country before the summer of 2009.”
China denies discriminating against Mexicans

BEIJING, 4 May—China denied discriminating against Mexicans with its strict flu-control measures, but quarantined travelers from Mexico questioned aggressive Chinese steps that have caused a diplomatic spat.

“The relevant measures are not directed at Mexican citizens and are not discriminatory,” foreign ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu said in a statement posted on the ministry’s website.

The statement came a day after Mexican diplomats complained bitterly to China, saying their countrymen had been placed under a seven-day quarantine despite showing no signs of swine flu.

The H1N1 virus, or swine flu, epidemic has killed a reported 23 people worldwide, 22 of those in Mexico, where the virus is believed to have originated.

A Mexican embassy official told AFP on Monday there were nearly 70 Mexicans quarantined across China, including in Beijing, Shanghai and the southern city of Guangzhou.

Some had travelled to China aboard the same flight that carried an infected Mexican man—Asia’s first confirmed swine flu case—who is now in a Hong Kong hospital.

Fiat eyes new company with GM Europe, Chrysler

ROME, 4 May—Fiat Group SpA confirmed Sunday that it is in talks to buy most of General Motors Corp.’s European operations, taking another step toward creating a global automotive powerhouse.

Fiat also said it is evaluating the possible spinoff of its auto business to form the core of a new company.

Fiat Group Automobiles includes the Fiat, Alfa Romeo and Ferrari brands. In addition, Fiat is in the process of acquiring US automaker Chrysler LLC without putting up any cash.

The new auto company, which according to Fiat would have $105 billion in annual revenue, would put the Italian automaker in markets where it has little or no presence, including North America, traditionally the largest market in the world.

“They’re going to be a global powerhouse, I guess. Who would have thought?” asked Erich Merkle, an independent auto industry analyst in Grand Rapids, Mich.

“They seem to be on a buying binge right now, looking for cheap and distressed assets like Chrysler and Opel.”

Storms rumble across Southeast; Miss woman killed

ATLANTA, 4 May—Authorities say severe storms that rolled across the Southeast killed one person, knocked out power to thousands and caused property damage in at least three states.

A coroner says a 46-year-old Laurel, Mississippi, woman was killed when a tree fell on her while she was standing outside her home Sunday in the southeastern part of the state. Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi reported minor property damage.

Emergency officials say a tornado touched down near Crossville, Tenn., about 60 miles west of Knoxville. And authorities in Alabama and Georgia say several funnel clouds were spotted.

The storms also knocked out power to about 10,000 customers around the Atlanta-metro area. Most had been restored by 10 pm. About 6,000 Alabama customers were in the dark for awhile. —Internet

Storm kills 11 in India’s West Bengal state

KOLKATA, 4 May—At least 11 people were killed and 25 injured when a tropical storm swept through a large portion of India’s West Bengal state, officials said on Monday.

The 10-minute storm carried winds of over 80 kilometres (50 miles) an hour through the state, destroying thousands of mud huts, uprooting electricity and telephone poles and damaging paddy fields and mango crops.

Five people, including three children, were killed after lightning struck their mud hut in Malda, about 360km north of the state capital, Kolkata.

“Four others were electrocuted as live wire from uprooted electric poles dropped on them in villages on the outskirts of Kolkata,” said West Bengal relief minister Mortaza Hossain. Two people were killed by lightning in Canning, a town 40km south of Kolkata.

Twenty-five people were hospitalised with severe injuries after they were hit by uprooted trees, Hossain added. —Internet

Storms leave 20 dead in Philippines

MANILA, 4 May—Flooding and landslides triggered by heavy rains have left 20 people dead in the eastern Philippines, officials said.

Storms lashed the eastern Bicol region and the southern fringe of Luzon island at the weekend, displacing nearly 50,000 people in five provinces, the Civil Defence Office said.

Samsung launches first LED TV in India

NEW DELHI, 4 May—South Korean consumer electronics major Samsung has showcased itself as the innovator in the Indian TV industry by launching the first LED High Definition TVs in the country.

“Samsung is the first organization to introduce the LED TVs in India. The organization had earlier launched LCD TVs and Plasma TVs. Light Emitting Diode (LED) is an updated version of LCD screens which offers standard quality picture,” a company release said Monday.

The new LED TVs are more energy efficient and environment friendly. The Samsung authorities also announced that LED TV’s reduce energy consumption by over 40 percent. Samsung India launched three LED HD TV Series - Series 6 (40-inch), Series 7 (40-inch), and Series 8 (55-inch).

“The use of LED technology enables Samsung’s LED TVs to be 70 percent slimmer and consumes less than 40 per cent of the power consumed by conventional LCD TVs,” it said.

The LED 6 series is priced between 125,000 and 145,000 rupees, while the 7 series is priced between 140,000 rupees and 180,000 rupees and both are currently available in the market. The 8 series will be available from late this month and is priced at 350,000 rupees. —Internet

Samsung launches first LED TV in India

NEW DELHI, 4 May—South Korean consumer electronics major Samsung has showcased itself as the innovator in the Indian TV industry by launching the first LED High Definition TVs in the country.

“Samsung is the first organization to introduce the LED TVs in India. The organization had earlier launched LCD TVs and Plasma TVs. Light Emitting Diode (LED) is an updated version of LCD screens which offers standard quality picture,” a company release said Monday.

The new LED TVs are more energy efficient and environment friendly. The Samsung authorities also announced that LED TV’s reduce energy consumption by over 40 percent. Samsung India launched three LED HD TV Series - Series 6 (40-inch), Series 7 (40-inch), and Series 8 (55-inch).

“The use of LED technology enables Samsung’s LED TVs to be 70 percent slimmer and consumes less than 40 per cent of the power consumed by conventional LCD TVs,” it said.

The LED 6 series is priced between 125,000 and 145,000 rupees, while the 7 series is priced between 140,000 rupees and 180,000 rupees and both are currently available in the market. The 8 series will be available from late this month and is priced at 350,000 rupees. —Internet

China denies discriminating against Mexicans

BEIJING, 4 May—China denied discriminating against Mexicans with its strict flu-control measures, but quarantined travelers from Mexico questioned aggressive Chinese steps that have caused a diplomatic spat.

“The relevant measures are not directed at Mexican citizens and are not discriminatory,” foreign ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu said in a statement posted on the ministry’s website.

The statement came a day after Mexican diplomats complained bitterly to China, saying their countrymen had been placed under a seven-day quarantine despite showing no signs of swine flu.

The H1N1 virus, or swine flu, epidemic has killed a reported 23 people worldwide, 22 of those in Mexico, where the virus is believed to have originated.

A Mexican embassy official told AFP on Monday there were nearly 70 Mexicans quarantined across China, including in Beijing, Shanghai and the southern city of Guangzhou.

Some had travelled to China aboard the same flight that carried an infected Mexican man—Asia’s first confirmed swine flu case—who is now in a Hong Kong hospital. —Internet
Chinese listed companies net profit up 450% in Q1

BEIJING, 4 May—The combined net profit of all the 1,624 listed companies in the Chinese mainland hit 203.8 billion yuan (about 30 billion US dollars) in the first quarter, up 450.39 percent from the last quarter in 2008, reports from the country’s two main exchanges showed Monday.

Among them, 1,186 companies reported gains, taking up 73.03 percent of the total. The number of companies suffering losses increased nearly 200 compared with the same period last year to 436. The total net profit in the first three months dropped 25.81 percent year on year.

“The quarter-on-quarter profit surge showed production began to stabilize in the first three months after taking the major blow from the global financial crisis in the fourth quarter last year,” said Qin Xiaobin, chief analyst with Beijing-based Galaxy Securities.

Vietnam’s retail sales, services up 21.5% in first four months

HANOI, 4 May—Vietnam’s retail sales and services in the first four months this year went up 21.5 percent over the same period last year to 360.4 trillion Vietnam dong (21.2 billion US dollars), according to the General Statistics Office of Vietnam on Monday. Of which, trading experienced an increase of 22.2 percent to 166.6 billion US dollars, hotels and restaurants up 18.4 percent to 2.4 billion US dollars, tourism up 21.5 percent to 223 million US dollars, and services up 16.3 percent to 2 billion US dollars, said the office.

The increase in the country’s retail sales and services in this period was attributed to the ongoing positive impacts of the government’s timely stimulus package on investment and consumption, said Le Dinh An, director of the National Center of Information and Socio-Economic Forecast under the Ministry of Planning and Investment cited by the Vietnam Investment Review as saying.

An also forecast that Vietnam is likely to see the purchasing power in the coming months further increasing partially because of the higher monthly salary decided by the government taking effect since 1 May this year.

Iran estimates some 20,000 infected with HIV/AIDS

TEHERAN, 4 May—Iran’s health officials have reported that some 20,000 people have been identified as infected with HIV/AIDS in the country, the semi-official ISNA news agency reported on Sunday. “According to the most recent estimates of the health ministry, 19,435 people have been identified as infected with HIV/AIDS in the country by 21 March, 2009, the beginning of Iran’s new year,” said the report.

On the basis of this estimation, which has been collected by medical science universities and medical and health services, the infected cases account for 93.3 percent among men and 6.7 percent among women. Quoting the studies of health ministry, ISNA said that 40.2 percent of the victims are among the group with the age between 25 and 34. The most common transmission cases since the introduction of the disease into the country were 69.6 percent, 8.2 percent, 1.3 percent and 0.6 percent by means of shared injection needles, sexual contacts, blood products and mother-to-child respectively, while 20.3 percent of the transmission means were reported as unknown.

18 soldiers, one civilian die in Venezuela air crash

CARACAS, 4 May—Some 18 soldiers and one civilian died on Sunday when a Venezuelan army helicopter crashed as it patrolled the border with Colombia, in the south-western state of Tachira.

The accident was reported by President Hugo Chavez, during his regular Sunday broadcast, “Aló Presidente,” during which he also expressed his condolences for the tragedy.

The crash took place around noon in Tachira settlement of Alto de Rubio. The helicopter had the registration number MI 35 EV 08114.

Despite violence, life in Baghdad returns to normality

BAGHDAD, 4 May—The latest wave of violence in Baghdad apparently failed to stop people of the historical city of Baghdad from telling the tales of Arabian Nights. The city’s restaurants and coffee shops insist to bring back the old days as the city has historically ever known.

As many areas in Baghdad have dusted themselves off, many new others are being built as hopes for prosperous new life in the country is strongly rising, said Abdullah al-Amiedi, as he was standing among some exhausted workers who were building his new restaurant in the Jamia district in western Baghdad.

Amiedi, 55, has returned to Baghdad a few months ago after he fled the country during sectarian bloodshed that engulfed the Iraqi cities in 2006.

“I believe this time that peace is true and the good days are coming, so I am planning to make this place a romantic that families in the neighborhood can resort to spend nice and calm evenings, like the ones they used to get in the past,” Amiedi said.

All items from Xinhua News Agency
French forces detain 11 suspected pirates

Nairobi, 4 May — A French naval vessel intercepted 11 suspected pirates traveling off the Somali coast on Sunday in two assault vessels and a so-called “mothership” loaded withKalashnikovs and rocket launchers, the French Defence Ministry said.

It was the French ship’s third pirate interdiction in a month. France has been the most aggressive in pursuing pirates out of more than a dozen nations patrolling shipping routes in the Gulf of Aden.

A 24 Dec, 2005, photo of the Adriana leaving port in Santos, Brazil. A NATO spokesman said on 2 May, 2009, that Somali pirates have hijacked the British-owned cargo ship crewed by Ukrainians.—Internet

Another three suspected pirates were detained on Saturday by the Seychelles coast guard, which had warned that the French warship Nivose after European officials decided there was not enough evidence to hold them.

French Defence Ministry spokesman Christophe Prazuck said the 11 new suspects were intercepted on Sunday morning about 900 kilometres (560 miles) off Somalia’s coast. They had been traveling with a private mothership — a larger vessel often used to patrol low speed boats hundreds of miles (kilometres) out to sea and resupply them in open water. Prazuck said it was still unclear what France would do with the new suspects.

Meanwhile, the three suspects arrested by the Seychelles coast guard vessel the Andromache were expected on Sunday evening in port in the islands that depend heavily on tourism, according to Brigitte Ashung at the Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation.

Retiree mistanken listed as dead

An Australian man said a hospital error after his recent illness led authorities to list him as dead and cancel his pension payments.

Clive Norton, 71, of Ballarat, said workers at Centrelink, the Commonwealth Service Delivery Agency, told him they had no pension check for him because records indicated he had died on 8 April, the Melbourne Herald Sun reported on Friday.

Norton said he was later told the error resulted from Ballarat Health Services Base Hospital mistakenly informing Centrelink of his demise after his recent three-day hospitalization for pneumonia. He said Centrelink even sent his wife a check for funeral costs.

“I can’t believe the hospital made a mistake like that,” Norton said. Andrew Rowe, chief executive of Ballarat Health Services, said he met with Norton to apologize in person.

“Ballarat Health Services has expressed its deepest regret to Mr Norton,” he said. “We have undertaken a review of the reporting system and implemented all necessary changes to ensure this does not occur again.”

Chicago sets Shakespeare talking day

Chicagoans take heed, be wary how you place your words this on Thursday, for the mayor declared it “Talk Like Shakespeare Day” to mark the bard’s 445th birthday. Mayor Richard Daley said the event is designed for the city’s inhabitants “to bring the spoken words of Shakespeare into their daily lives,” the Chicago Tribune reported on Monday.

To assist with the event, the Chicago Shakespeare Theater has created TalkLikeShakespeare.org to give participants a crash course in the playwright’s lingo, including replacing “you” with “thou” and the importance of rhyming couples. Schools in the Chicago area have also jumped on the “Talk Like Shakespeare” bandwagon, with many classes scheduled to engage in Shakespeare-themed games and activities.

Rainy days boost brain power

Australian researchers say rain and gloom may be good or the brain by improving the ability to remember.

A team from the University of New South Wales School of Psychology questioned shoppers at a Sydney store over a 2-month period. They fed people better grades that those who were happy, showed students who were sad received better grades than those who were happy, the newspaper said.

Japanese train runs without driver

An empty train with no one at the controls rolled about 5 miles at Tsu, Japan, Sunday night before staff caught up with it, officials said.

An incorrectly applied brake was believed to have allowed the runaway JR Meisho Line train to pull away from Ieki Station on its own, the Mainichi Daily News reported on Monday. By the time Central Japan Railway Co staff found the train about half an hour later, between Isegi and Iseoi stations, it had passed through three other stations, the newspaper said.

It’s not a first for Japan. In August 2006, a train took off on its own after a driver forgot to check the wheels.

Portables toilets help pilot survive crash

Tacoma, 4 May — A pilot walked away from a crash landing in Washington state when a field full of portable toilets cushioned the impact on the ground for his small plane.

The 67-year-old pilot, whose name was not reported, had just taken off from Pierce County-Thun Field at 3:20 pm PDT Friday when his engine stopped. The Tacoma News-Tribune reported on Saturday.

He was alone in the 1982 Cessna.

“The plane took off, he got about 150 feet in the air and his engine quit running,” Ed Troyer, a spokesman for the Pierce County Sheriff’s Office, said.

“He tried to return around and come back and land, but he didn’t quite make it.”

“The plane hit a fence and landed upside down in the field next to the runway where Northwest Cascade had stored the portable toilets.

The Honey Buckets kind of cushioned things,” a Northwest Cascade worker who did not want to be named told the News-Tribune.

Eight dead, 14 missing in Philippine landslide

Manila, 4 May — The side of a hill gave way above a village in the Philippines on Saturday, killing eight people and leaving rescuers searching for four others, authorities said.

The landslide struck the village near Magallanes, Sorsogon, as the region was hit by tropical depression “Dante,” The Philippine Star reported.

The newspaper said initial reports from emergency officials were that 11 houses, three classrooms and a health centre were struck by the mud.

The storm forced the evacuation of an estimated 15,000 people in the Bicol region to safer areas.

Japanese train runs without driver

An empty train with no one at the controls rolled about 5 miles at Tsu, Japan, Sunday night before staff caught up with it, officials said.

An incorrectly applied brake was believed to have allowed the runaway JR Meisho Line train to pull away from Ieki Station on its own, the Mainichi Daily News reported on Monday. By the time Central Japan Railway Co staff found the train about half an hour later, between Isegi and Iseoi stations, it had passed through three other stations, the newspaper said.

It’s not a first for Japan. In August 2006, a train took off on its own after a driver forgot to check the wheels.

Eight dead, 14 missing in Philippine landslide

Manila, 4 May — The side of a hill gave way above a village in the Philippines on Saturday, killing eight people and leaving rescuers searching for four others, authorities said.

The landslide struck the village near Magallanes, Sorsogon, as the region was hit by tropical depression “Dante,” The Philippine Star reported.

The newspaper said initial reports from emergency officials were that 11 houses, three classrooms and a health centre were struck by the mud.

The storm forced the evacuation of an estimated 15,000 people in the Bicol region to safer areas.
Silt dredged at Thanlyetsoon

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 May—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe on 28 April inspected dredging of silt at the water course near Thanlyetsoon. Managing Director U Thein Htay of Myanmar Port Authority reported on arrival and departure of ocean liners at Yangon Port, dredging of silt and depth of water in the river, salvage of sunken pontoons and reinstallation of the pontoons at the jetties. The minister instructed officials to dredge silt to have at least 13.6 feet depth of water, supervise efficient use of fuel, pay attention to worksite safety, maintain the watercrafts and machinery, continue dredging of silt at jetties and water courses and carry out sanitation task at the ports. MNA

Minister receives Thai guests

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 May—Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min receives Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Energy of Thailand (MOEN) Dr Pornchai Rujiprapa, Acting Managing Director of Mr Prutichai Chonglertvanichkul of EGAT International Company Ltd and General Manager Mr Zhang Goulai of Sinohydro Corporation Limited at his office, here on 1 May. Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Myo Myint, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry and officials. Their meeting focused on cooperation in implementation of Hatgyi hydropower project. MNA

Forestry Minister performs regional development tasks in Thandwe, Yanbye, Kyaukpyu Tsps

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 May—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung on 27 April visited Internal Sales and Saw Mill Division No. (68) in Thandwe. The minister inspected 50-acre mangrove plantation and mangrove forest at Wunbike forest reserve in Yanbye Township. Next, the minister inspected Sane Village Basic Education Primary School and progress in construction of spillway of Laukpeik dam in Kyaukpyu Township. The minister also looked into newly-built school building (annex) for Kyaukynauk village Basic Education Post Primary School and progress in repair of school building for Mingpyin village Basic Education High School. On 28 April, the minister oversaw progress in repair of Ngalapwa Village Basic Education Post Primary School, progress of construction of village library and lake and gymnasium for Basic Education High School No. (3) in the township. MNA

Mayor inspects municipal works

Yangon, 4 May—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected progress in upgrading Chantha, Aungmyay, Thawda, Thiri and Kyang streets in Mingala Taungnyunt township yesterday morning. After looking into progress in building the lecture halls of Mingala Taungnyunt township No 5 Basic Education High School and upgrading the concrete road, the mayor attended to the needs. MNA

Construction Deputy Minister inspects roads and bridges

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 May—Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe on 26 April inspected Daungnaychaung Bridge on Yangon-Pyay-Magway-Mandalay Highway and proceded to the construction planning special group-11 on Gangaw-Kalay Road and heard reports presented by Sagaing Division Senior Engineer U Kyaw Lin and Deputy Senior Engineer U Saw Win Naing on progress of work, upgrading of Gangaw-Kalay Road and fulfilled the requirements. Afterwards, he looked into construction of Phaungku Bridge on Kalay-Kyikson Road, roads and bridges on Kalay-Tamu and construction of Tawa Bridge at the entrance to Tamu and gave necessary instructions. MNA

Coord meeting on prevention against swine flu held

Yangon, 4 May—A coordination meeting on prevention against Swine Flu was held at Yangon Division Health Department this afternoon. Dr Hla Myint, head of Health Department, explained measures against prevention of Swine Flu in Yangon Division. Dr Soe Lwin Nyen, director-general of Health Department, discussed health screening at airports, seaports, and border gates to prevent the virus from entering the country, preventive measures to be taken in respective townships, supply of medicines and the attendees also participated in the discussion. MNA
Senior General Than Shwe addresses coordination...

(from page 1)

Committee member of SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Secretary of Special Projects Implementation Committee Secretary-1 of SPDC General Thula Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, members of SPIC members of SPDC Lie Gen Tin Aye, the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and senior military officers, the ministers, the deputy ministers, heads of departments and officials.

Director-General of the Office of the State Peace and Development Council Col Kyaw Kyaw Win, also Joint-Secretary of SPIC, emceed the meeting.

At the meeting, Chairman of Special Projects Implementation Committee Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said that it was the first meeting of SPIC in 2009 and that the meeting would prioritise the projects to be implemented for the national development.

He emphasized that the State Peace and Development Council, as a government undertaking all responsibilities of the nation, has the duty to work for national development and will have to constantly strive for it whatever difficulties and hardships might arise.

He also pointed out that the people had begun enjoying the fruits of development thanks to the successful implementation of the special projects.

Continuing to say that, due to remarkable progress in the agricultural sector, the nation had not only self-sufficiency but also surplus in food, that the annual output of paddy was a little more than 600 million baskets when the SPDC started to assume responsibilities of the State, that it was about 1,600 million baskets now and that there was no need to worry about food even when the nation’s population reached 100 million.

He made it clear that efforts are being made to produce 2,000 million baskets of paddy yearly and to increase the yield of long-staple cotton and various kinds of beans and pulses.

The agriculture sector accounts for 40 percent of the nation’s GDP while the industrial sector accounts for only 20 percent. So the industrial sector needs to be further developed. A modern developed nation will emerge only when the industrial sector has been developed and the nation transformed into an industrialized one.

The State has established 18 industrial zones so as to improve the private industrial zone. Although there has been progress to a certain extent, it is found that the whole industrial sector still needs to be developed.

Therefore, it is necessary to encourage the private industrial sector to develop significantly. To do so, there are measures to be taken by the State and the private sectors. The State will render necessary assistance to what the private sector cannot afford to do. Arrangements are also being made for development of electricity and energy sectors to help promote all the industries. At the same time, the education sector is being promoted to produce human resources skilled in industrial technologies.

Being able to fulfill all requirements in a harmonious way will surely develop the industrial sector significantly.

It is also important for all ministries to actively cooperate with the State in the drive for transforming the nation into an industrialized one. The project plans to be submitted to today’s meeting are the ones that will contribute to the development of the country.

Afterwards, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo reported on facts about the dams to be built by the Ministry, They are Sipadon Dam project, Bodhitahtang Dam Project, Pwekauk Dam Project, Taikkyo Dam project, project for construction of dyke circling Paiksi-Mayan dyke to prevent seawater, Pintauk Dam Project and Nampapaung Dam Project.

Out of the dam projects to be implemented by the Irrigation Department, Sipadon Dam on Sipadon Creek near Aima Village in Taze Township, Sagaing Division, is the first project. On completion, the earthen type dam will irrigate about 10,000 acres of farmland and will contribute to the greening of the region.

The second project is Bodhitahtang Dam project located on Yehtwatchaung Creek near Khattakan Village in Monywa Township, Sagaing Division. The project is irrigating about 100 acres of farmland and contributing to the greening of the region. The project has been completed in the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Pwekauk Dam Project located on Gaialung Creek in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, is the third project of the ministry. Upon completion, it will supply drinking water to PyinOoLwin Myothit and Yadanaung Myothit. A small-scale hydro power station will be constructed at the dam.

(See page 9)
Senior General Than Shwe addresses coordination...
(from page 8)

The fourth project is Taukpyo Dam Project. The earthen type dam was constructed on Taukpyo Creek in NayPyiTaw Pyimmana Township to irrigate 300 acres of farmland. The project was completed in the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Pintauk Dam Project, the earthen type one, is the sixth project of the ministry and will be constructed on Namya Creek near Pintauk Village in Kengtung Township, Shan State. Upon completion, the project will irrigate about 200 acres of farmland in Kengtung Township and will contribute to the greening the region.

The seventh project of the ministry is Nampapaung Dam and located on Nampapaung Creek near Matmi Village in Yaksawk Township, Shan State. The dam is being implemented to irrigate about 1,000 acres of farmland and to supply water to Zawgyi Dam. A small-scale hydro power station will be constructed at the dam.

Next, Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein reported on salient points of the large-scale diesel engines (2200 HP-2700 HP) and (6200-7000 HP) production project, the 60 HP-200 HP DC Motor and Servo-motor/Synchro-motor production project, the boilers production project, the control system plant project, the industry-used advanced equipment workshop and the automotive parts manufacturing plant.

In Thagara industrial zone, as an extension of the project, more powerful large-scale diesel engine factory project will also be implemented to produce (2200 HP-2700 HP) and (6200-7000 HP) engines.

Ministry of Industry-2 will establish the 60-200 HP DC Motor and Servo-motor/Synchro-motor factory in the industrial zone for production of 100 units of DC Motor (60-200 HP) and 1000 units of Servo-motor/Synchro-motor annually.

The industrial zone will also see the boilers factory project. Upon completion, the factory will be able to produce 50 units of boilers (0.5-2.5 tons) a year.

Magway Industrial Region will see automotive parts manufacturing plant that will produce various automotive parts for 5000 automobiles a year.


The Ministry of Construction will upgrade the 51 miles and 5 furlongs long Kyonkadon-Daw Nyein-Ahmara road to a tarred one.

The 38 miles and 5 furlongs Bogale-Sethsan-Htawpaing-Ahmara road will be upgraded and on

(See page 10)
Public Works will also construct the Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo-Myothit-Magway road that will contribute to regional development and save time, for it will be only 108 miles and 4 furlongs in length. In length and on completion, it will help deliver goods and items to factories of Kyaukse Industrial Region and Yeywa Hydel Power Plant Project and save 12 miles than Kyaukse-Belin-Yeywa, road and 12 miles and 6 furlongs than Kyaukse-Mandalay-Pyinsar road.

The Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan) Project is motor-cum-rail bridge and on completion, people will be able to travel to Myitkyina and Bhamo of Kachin State and other states and divisions.

The bridge will shoulder over 4725-feet long motor road with 28 feet in width and over 7815-feet long railroad with 14 feet in width. It will also have over 4-freight wide pedestrian lane on both sides. The Thayu (Pepadon) Bridge is motor-cum-rail bridge and on completion, people from Rakhine State will be able to reach other states and divisions via Magway Division.

The bridge also is a motor-cum-rail one. With the length of 425 feet, the bridge will have 24-feet wide motor road and 14-feet wide railroad road with over 4-feet wide pedestrian lane on both sides.

Afterwards, the respective ministers from the Ministry of Electric Power No.1, the Ministry of Electric Power No. 2, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Rail Transportation reported on projects to be implemented by the ministries and the meeting came to an end.

The reports presented by the ministries at the meeting will continue to be presented.

MNA

Fish don't make noises or contort their faces to show that it hurts when hooks are pulled from their mouths, but a Purdue University researcher believes they feel that pain all the same.

OSLO, 4 May — Joseph Garner, an assistant professor of animal sciences, helped develop a test that found goldfish do feel pain, and their reactions to it are much like that of humans.

"There has been an effort by some to argue that a fish’s response to a noxious stimuli is merely a reflexive action, but that it didn’t really feel pain,” Garner said. “We wanted to see if fish responded to potentially painful stimuli in a reflexive way or a more clever way.”

Garner and Janicke Nordgreen, a doctoral student in the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science, attached small foil heaters to the goldfish and slowly increased the temperature. — Internet

Fish may actually feel pain and react to it in a reflexive way or a more clever way.

Commissioned into service on 21 March 2009, the Bago River Bridge (Kawa) helps facilitate transport of the nation.

Environmentally friendly boat wash developed in Bohuslän. Scientists from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, have collaborated with municipalities, companies and the county administrative board to develop what may be the most modern boat wash in the world, setting a new Swedish standard for environmentally friendly boat washing.

The environmentally friendly boat washing facility includes a three-compartment tank in which paint particles with heavy metals sediment. — Internet

GOTHENBURG, 4 May — Toxic anti-fouling paints from thousands of leisure craft have given rise to a serious environmental problem in the Sannäs Fjord in Bohuslän. Scientists from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, have collaborated with municipalities, companies and the county administrative board to develop what may be the most modern boat wash in the world, setting a new Swedish standard for environmentally friendly boat washing.

The archipelago in northern Bohuslän is one of the most pristine coastal areas in Sweden. There are no large industries here, the water is the purest along the western coast of Sweden, and animal life is flourishing. Despite this, scientists recently discovered that the Sannäs Fjord contains surprisingly high levels of heavy metals in the bottom sediment. — Internet

Environmentally friendly boat wash developed

The environmentally friendly boat washing facility includes a three-compartment tank in which paint particles with heavy metals sediment.

GOTHENBURG, 4 May — Toxic anti-fouling paints from thousands of leisure craft have given rise to a serious environmental problem in the Sannäs Fjord in Bohuslän. Scientists from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, have collaborated with municipalities, companies and the county administrative board to develop what may be the most modern boat wash in the world, setting a new Swedish standard for environmentally friendly boat washing.

The archipelago in northern Bohuslän is one of the most pristine coastal areas in Sweden. There are no large industries here, the water is the purest along the western coast of Sweden, and animal life is flourishing. Despite this, scientists recently discovered that the Sannäs Fjord contains surprisingly high levels of heavy metals in the bottom sediment. — Internet

GOTHENBURG, 4 May — Toxic anti-fouling paints from thousands of leisure craft have given rise to a serious environmental problem in the Sannäs Fjord in Bohuslän. Scientists from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, have collaborated with municipalities, companies and the county administrative board to develop what may be the most modern boat wash in the world, setting a new Swedish standard for environmentally friendly boat washing.

The archipelago in northern Bohuslän is one of the most pristine coastal areas in Sweden. There are no large industries here, the water is the purest along the western coast of Sweden, and animal life is flourishing. Despite this, scientists recently discovered that the Sannäs Fjord contains surprisingly high levels of heavy metals in the bottom sediment. — Internet
Development Training School of Falam enhances livelihoods of national race youth of border areas

Article: Myo Min Thein (Mayangon); Photos: Lay Nwe (Mingaladon)

"After discharging duty as principal of Training School for Development of National Race Youth of Border Areas in Tiddim five years ago, I was transferred with the same post to this training school in 2008-2009 academic year.

At the training school, all the trainees have to wake up at 5 am, to say prayers at the church at 6 am and to take physical exercises at 6.30 am daily," said the Principal. We had an interview with Ko Shein Tat, 28, who had completed the course of the training school. He said, "I completed the course from Training School for Development of National Race Youth of Border Areas of Mandalay in 2000-2001 academic year.

"At present, I am discharging duty as TV technician-3 at Haka Township Information and Public Relations Department. In my school days, when I went back to the native area, the relatives were proud of my life. "Now, I am a government employee." On our return to Falam, we looked forward to the glorious future of the trainees from the training school while thinking the efforts of Training School for Development of National Race Youth of Border Areas opened by the government for enabling the youth to forge the national unity and Union Sprit.

The youth who had completed the courses of the training school are walking on the right track successfully. Therefore, parents should send their offspring to attend such training schools to become the reliable new generation youth of the State.

All the trainees are to pursue education from 9 am to 11 am. The period between 11 am to 12 noon is designated as the lunch time. At 12.30 pm, the training classes resume. The classes end at 3.30 pm.

As 18 kinds of vegetables are being grown in the compound of the training school, the trainees have the opportunity to study the agriculture methods practically. Moreover, they have to attend the advanced culture course three periods on every Saturday and Sunday. Duration of each period is 50 minutes. Furthermore, two periods of lectures on Union Spirit are provided on Sundays.

During the visit to the training school, we missed the chance to meet with the trainees there because it was a holiday. We had an interview with Ko Shein Tat, 28, who had completed the course of the training school.

He said, "I completed the course from Training School for Development of National Race Youth of Border Areas of Mandalay in 2000-2001 academic year.

"At present, I am discharging duty as TV technician-3 at Haka Township Information and Public Relations Department. In my school days, when I went back to the native area, the relatives were proud of my life. "Now, I am a government employee." On our return to Falam, we looked forward to the glorious future of the trainees from the training school while thinking the efforts of Training School for Development of National Race Youth of Border Areas opened by the government for enabling the youth to forge the national unity and Union Sprit.

The youth who had completed the courses of the training school are walking on the right track successfully. Therefore, parents should send their offspring to attend such training schools to become the reliable new generation youth of the State.

On our return to Falam, we looked forward to the glorious future of the trainees from the training school while thinking the efforts of Training School for Development of National Race Youth of Border Areas opened by the government for enabling the youth to forge the national unity and Union Sprit.

The youth who had completed the courses of the training school are walking on the right track successfully. Therefore, parents should send their offspring to attend such training schools to become the reliable new generation youth of the State.

On our return to Falam, we looked forward to the glorious future of the trainees from the training school while thinking the efforts of Training School for Development of National Race Youth of Border Areas opened by the government for enabling the youth to forge the national unity and Union Sprit.

The youth who had completed the courses of the training school are walking on the right track successfully. Therefore, parents should send their offspring to attend such training schools to become the reliable new generation youth of the State.

On our return to Falam, we looked forward to the glorious future of the trainees from the training school while thinking the efforts of Training School for Development of National Race Youth of Border Areas opened by the government for enabling the youth to forge the national unity and Union Sprit.

The youth who had completed the courses of the training school are walking on the right track successfully. Therefore, parents should send their offspring to attend such training schools to become the reliable new generation youth of the State.
Claims Day Notice MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.5.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: MS Advance Containers Lines
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Claims Day Notice MV TITAN-7 VOY NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV TITAN-7 VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.5.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: MS Noble Pacific World Wide Ltd
Phone No: 256919/256916/256912

Police find 11 bodies dumped in southern Mexico
ACAPULCO, 4 May—Police say they found 11 bodies dumped around a southern Mexican state, including seven wrapped in plastic bags and thrown off a bridge. Guerrero state police say the bodies of five men and two women were found in a river between the Pacific resort town of Acapulco and the city of Cuernavaca. They were wrapped in bags and dumped off a bridge. The other four bodies were found in a 600-yard ravine in the Guerrero state town of Pictay. The bodies were all found Sunday. Police said they were too damaged to immediately determine how they were killed. Investigators did not have any suspects or possible motive for the killings.

Mexico’s warring drug cartels, however, often leave the bodies of rivals dumped in public.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Claims Day Notice MV MCP VIENNA VOY NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCP VIENNA VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.5.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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
Myanmar Port Authority
Agent for: MS Interaisa Lines
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Toxins kept out of air ending up in water?
WASHINGTON, 4 May—Federal environmental regulators, fearing US power plants have shifted from air to water for toxic discharges, are considering tougher rules, analysts said.

The Environmental Protection Agency has collected data indicating that plants in a number of states have discharged wastewater containing high levels of selenium and similar pollutants, The Washington Post reported Saturday. The high level of water pollution may come from “scrubbing” that captures toxins in smokestacks.

The toxins end up as coal ash or sludge. EPA estimates indicate about 130,000 tons of ash and sludge a year are accumulated by power plants, and the agency expects that to grow to 175,000 tons by 2015.

Internet

Flu-hit Mexico mulls reopening schools, businesses
MEXICO CITY, 4 May—Mexico decides Monday whether to reopen businesses and schools or extend a shutdown that has helped choke off the spread of swine flu but caused untold economic harm. The virus continued to spread around the world, with new cases in Europe and North and South America.

President Felipe Calderon said a nationwide shutdown and an aggressive informational campaign appeared to have helped curtail the outbreak in Mexico. His health secretary said the government is starting preparations for the return to classes and work, and plans to give safety recommendations to businesses and disinfected schools on Monday. “We have succeeded in detaining or at least slowing the spread of the virus precisely because the measures have been the correct ones,” Calderon said in an interview with state television broadcast Sunday night.

Toyota passes Ford in market share
DETROIT, 4 May — US automaker Ford Motor Co has taken over the No 2 spot in US vehicle sales market share, passing Toyota, figures show.

While Detroit rivals General Motors Corp and the now-bankrupt Chrysler LLC were accepting billions of dollars in taxpayer loans to stay afloat, Ford did not and grabbed a bigger slice of the US automotive market in April, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported on Saturday. The company logged record sales of its Fusion model, pushing it past Toyota to retake its position as the nation’s No 2 car seller even though its monthly sales fell 32 percent from a year ago overall. The newspaper said Ford took 16 percent of the market as its sales rose by 2,878 units from March to April.

Internet

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
China holds over 50 Mexicans over flu fears

BEIJING, 4 May — Chinese authorities are holding over 50 Mexicans in hotels and other sites, fearing the spread of the H1N1 flu, an official at the Mexican embassy in Beijing said on Sunday, adding only one of them had symptoms of the flu.

Mexican Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa on Saturday criticized China, saying “Mexican citizens showing no signs at all of being ill, have been isolated, under unacceptable conditions”.

Mexico’s ambassador to Beijing, Jorge Guajardo, went to a hotel in the capital where over 10 Mexicans have been held, but was not allowed to see to them, said the embassy official. She spoke on condition of anonymity.

The confined Mexicans — mostly business people and tourists, many in transit to other countries — are being held in several parts of China, including Hong Kong, said the embassy official.

Around 35 are in Shanghai, six in the southern city of Guangzhou, and six in Hong Kong, she said.

Black kids with high blood pressure at higher risk for heart failure

BEIJING, 4 May — Black children with high blood pressure are more likely to suffer from heart failure and higher cholesterol levels than other racial groups, suggests a new study.

In a study involving 139 high blood pressure patients aged below 21, researchers from Johns Hopkins Children’s Center found that about 60 percent of those who were black had left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH), a condition that can cause heart failure, problems with heart rhythm and death.

The black children with LVH were also found to have higher cholesterol levels.

“Our study, which will be presented at the annual meeting of the Pediatric Academic Societies in Baltimore this weekend, identifies black children with hypertension as a special group who may be at particularly high risk for heart disease as they grow because of several risk factors, and pediatricians treating these kids should follow them very closely,” study author Dr. Corneil Prutte, a kidney specialist at the children’s center, said in a Hopkins news release.

US flu tally jumps to 245 as labs catch up

NEW YORK, 4 May—The tally of confirmed swine flu cases in the United States jumped Sunday to 245 in 35 states, but officials said that’s largely from catching up on a backlog of lab tests rather than a sudden spurt in new infections.

The new count reflects streamlining in federal procedures and the results of tests by states, which have only recently begun confirming cases, said Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Because states are now contributing their results, and because there are many cases to analyze, “I expect the numbers to jump quite a bit in the next couple days,” she told reporters Sunday.—Internet

Colombia confirms first A/H1N1 flu case

BOGOTA, 4 May—The Colombian government on Sunday confirmed the first case of influenza A/H1N1 in the country.

The patient, a man of 42 who recently returned from Mexico, is now in a stable condition, Public Protection Minister Diego Palacio told media.

The man is one of 18 people with the flu-symptoms found in Zipaquira, close to Colombia’s capital Bogota. “We have sent 18 samples to a laboratory in Atlanta to check the virus, and among them, one is positive,” Palacio said.

The government has taken measures to confront the pandemic, including declaring a nationwide emergency, he said.—Internet

Chilean president says Shanghai Expo represents most important event in world

SANTAGO, 4 May — Chilean President Michelle Bachelet has said that Shanghai World Expo 2010 will be the important event in the world. “Shanghai World Expo will be the most important event in China as well as in the world in 2010 and it is of key significance for Chile to participate in the expo,” Bachelet told Xinhu recently.

The remarks were made after Bachelet attended the launching ceremony of Chile’s participation of the Shanghai World Expo 2010 last Thursday. “Chile has decided to participate in the expo and design its own pavilion because we want to convey a clear message to the Chinese government and the Chinese people that Chile is a reliable and capable partner of China,” she said.

Chile will continue to support China in promoting its economic development and boosting its relations with Latin American countries as the two countries share the common aspiration to promote the harmonious and sustainable development of their economies and improve the living standards of their peoples, the president added.

Xinhua

Vietnam conducts quick tests on seven suspected cases of A/H1N1 flu

HANOI, 4 May—Seven arrivals in Vietnam were tested for the possible cases of A/H1N1 flu due to being detected of high fever, the local newspaper Young People reported Monday.

The seven cases, arrived at Ho Chi Minh city’s Tan Son Nhat international airport of Vietnam on Sunday, include two Vietnamese children returning home from China’s Hong Kong, two overseas Vietnamese from the US, one foreigner from Denmark, one foreigner from Australia, and the rest from China’s Hong Kong coming to Vietnam on 1 May, said the newspaper.

The test results by Vietnam’s Institute of Tropical Diseases showed that three of seven high fever cases tested negative for the A/H1N1 virus.

The rest results are expected to come out on Monday.—Internet

Confirmed H1N1 flu cases rise to 44 in Spain

MADRID, 4 May—The number of human infections with the A/H1N1 flu virus has risen to 44 in Spain after 20 new cases were confirmed Sunday, the Health Ministry said.

Of the 44 infected, 38 have been released from hospital, said the ministry.

Spanish health authorities have ruled out 90 cases with similar symptoms of H1N1 flu, and samples from a further 83 patients are being tested.

Authorities said that those flu patients with mild symptoms are responding well to treatment.—Internet

Confirmed A/H1N1 flu cases rise to 245 in US

WASHINGTON, 4 May—The US Department of Health and Human Services confirmed the A/H1N1 flu cases rose to 245 on 35 states, but officials said that’s largely from catching up on a backlog of lab tests rather than a sudden spurt in new infections.

The new count reflects streamlining in federal procedures and the results of tests by states, which have only recently begun confirming cases, said Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Because states are now contributing their results, and because there are many cases to analyze, “I expect the numbers to jump quite a bit in the next couple days,” she told reporters Sunday.—Internet

Italy confirms second case of A/H1N1 flu

ROME, 4 May—Italian Welfare Ministry confirmed the second case of A/H1N1 flu in Italy on Sunday, which is also the first case found in Rome, the capital city A 25-year-old Roman man, who visited Mexico in late April with his girlfriend, got a fever on 27 April and then went to the Rome’s hospital “Spallanzani” on 30 April.

However, the result of his test which came out Sunday showed positive for A/H1N1 flu, a doctor of the hospital was quoted by the Italian’s news agency ANSA as saying.

Italian Welfare Ministry said the man “is well” after receiving an antiviral treatment and now he is under a home isolation with his girlfriend, who does not show any symptom.—Internet

China holds over 50 Mexicans over flu fears

BEIJING, 4 May — Chinese authorities are holding over 50 Mexicans in hotels and other sites, fearing the spread of the H1N1 flu, an official at the Mexican embassy in Beijing said on Sunday, adding only one of them had symptoms of the flu.

Mexican Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa on Saturday criticized China, saying “Mexican citizens showing no signs at all of being ill, have been isolated, under unacceptable conditions”.

Mexico’s ambassador to Beijing, Jorge Guajardo, went to a hotel in the capital where over 10 Mexicans have been held, but was not allowed to see to them, said the embassy official. She spoke on condition of anonymity.

The confined Mexicans — mostly business people and tourists, many in transit to other countries — are being held in several parts of China, including Hong Kong, said the embassy official.

Around 35 are in Shanghai, six in the southern city of Guangzhou, and six in Hong Kong, she said.

Black kids with high blood pressure at higher risk for heart failure

BEIJING, 4 May — Black children with high blood pressure are more likely to suffer from heart failure and higher cholesterol levels than other racial groups, suggests a new study.

In a study involving 139 high blood pressure patients aged below 21, researchers from Johns Hopkins Children’s Center found that about 60 percent of those who were black had left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH), a condition that can cause heart failure, problems with heart rhythm and death.

The black children with LVH were also found to have higher cholesterol levels.

“Our study, which will be presented at the annual meeting of the Pediatric Academic Societies in Baltimore this weekend, identifies black children with hypertension as a special group who may be at particularly high risk for heart disease as they grow because of several risk factors, and pediatricians treating these kids should follow them very closely,” study author Dr. Corneil Prutte, a kidney specialist at the children’s center, said in a Hopkins news release.

US flu tally jumps to 245 as labs catch up

NEW YORK, 4 May—The tally of confirmed swine flu cases in the United States jumped Sunday to 245 in 35 states, but officials said that’s largely from catching up on a backlog of lab tests rather than a sudden spurt in new infections.

The new count reflects streamlining in federal procedures and the results of tests by states, which have only recently begun confirming cases, said Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Because states are now contributing their results, and because there are many cases to analyze, “I expect the numbers to jump quite a bit in the next couple days,” she told reporters Sunday.—Internet

Colombia confirms first A/H1N1 flu case

BOGOTA, 4 May—The Colombian government on Sunday confirmed the first case of influenza A/H1N1 in the country.

The patient, a man of 42 who recently returned from Mexico, is now in a stable condition, Public Protection Minister Diego Palacio told media.

The man is one of 18 people with the flu-symptoms found in Zipaquira, close to Colombia’s capital Bogota. “We have sent 18 samples to a laboratory in Atlanta to check the virus, and among them, one is positive,” Palacio said.

The government has taken measures to confront the pandemic, including declaring a nationwide emergency, he said.—Internet

Chilean president says Shanghai Expo represents most important event in world

SANTAGO, 4 May — Chilean President Michelle Bachelet has said that Shanghai World Expo 2010 will be the important event in the world. “Shanghai World Expo will be the most important event in China as well as in the world in 2010 and it is of key significance for Chile to participate in the expo,” Bachelet told Xinhu recently.

The remarks were made after Bachelet attended the launching ceremony of Chile’s participation of the Shanghai World Expo 2010 last Thursday. “Chile has decided to participate in the expo and design its own pavilion because we want to convey a clear message to the Chinese government and the Chinese people that Chile is a reliable and capable partner of China,” she said.

Chile will continue to support China in promoting its economic development and boosting its relations with Latin American countries as the two countries share the common aspiration to promote the harmonious and sustainable development of their economies and improve the living standards of their peoples, the president added.

Xinhua
**SPORTS**

Nadal wins fourth Rome Masters after epic final

ROME, 4 May—World number one Rafael Nadal won a record fourth ATP Rome Masters claycourt title on Sunday, beating reigning champion Novak Djokovic 7-6(7/2), 6-2 in the final.

The 22-year-old Spaniard took his winning run on clay to 30 matches in just over a year while Djokovic’s failure to retain his title saw him lose the world number three spot to Briton Andy Murray, who thus becomes the highest ever ranked British man since the computerised rankings system was introduced in 1973. Although the match ended in two sets it was a high quality and close run affair until the very end when Serbian Djokovic wilted and Nadal, who has only dropped one set on clay this year, ran away with it.

It was the top seed’s 15th Masters Series title and only Andre Agassi, with 17, has won more. “I would love to have more than 17. Right now I have 15. I’m very happy for that. (but) I’m going to try my best in the next tournaments,” said Nadal. —Internet

Benitez expects Torres and Alonso to return

LIVERPOOL, 4 May—Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez insisted Spanish duo Fernando Torres and Xabi Alonso would be fit for the Premier League title run-in after his side kept up the pressure on leaders Manchester United.

Torres, who has scored 16 times for his club this season, missed Sunday’s 3-0 victory over Newcastle after suffering a hamstring problem in training on the eve of the Anfield match. His compatriot Alonso did start but was forced off after falling victim to a shocking challenge by Newcastle’s Liverpool-born midfielder Joey Barton which saw him sent off.

Alonso left the pitch on a stretcher but Benitez played down fears that the midfielder will miss the final three matches of the season. He also insisted Torres could have featured on the substitutes bench but decided not to gamble his fitness at such a crucial stage in the season. —Internet

Pienaar keeps Everton on course for Europe

SUNDERLAND, 4 May—Everton are on the verge of wrapping up a place in Europe — albeit in the re vampred UEFA Cup which next season will be known as the Europa Cup — after claiming a 2-0 win at Sunderland that left the hosts dangerously close to the relegation zone on Sunday.

David Moyes’s side already have an FA Cup final clash against Chelsea to look forward to later this month and are almost certain to have European football on their agenda again next season following this convincing victory.

South Africa midfielder Steven Pienaar opened the scoring early in the second half and record-signing Marouane Fellaini’s late strike ensured Everton leapfrogged Aston Villa. Although Villa can regain fifth place with a win over relegation-threatened Hull on Monday, Moyes’ men are now just one point away from wrapping up a spot in the Europa Cup. —Internet

Milan stay in Serie A hunt with Catania win

ROME, 4 May—AC Milan kept their slim title hopes alive with a comfortable 2-0 victory at Catania on Sunday courtesy of goals from Filippo Inzaghi and Kaka.

Veteran Inzaghi’s strike took his record to 11 goals in his last eight matches while Kaka’s strike was his 15th of the season in Serie A and followed up a pair of penalties last weekend against Palermo. The victory reduced Inter Milan’s lead at the top of Serie A to seven points but, with just four matches left, second-placed Milan would need their city rivals to suffer a spectacular collapse to win a first scudetto since 2004. Third-placed Juventus’ hopes all but mathematically ended as substitute Jose Ignacio Castillo scored an equaliser deep into injury time for relegation-threatened Lecce in a 2-2 draw in Turin. —Internet

Birmingham promoted to Premier League

LONDON, 4 May—Birmingham are back in the Premier League at the first attempt after securing automatic promotion from the Championship with a 2-1 win at Reading on Sunday. Alex McLeish’s team had wasted a chance to seal promotion when they were beaten by Preston last weekend, but they made no mistake with their second and final opportunity on the last day of the season. The Blues, who go up alongside champions Wolves, had gone ahead through Keith Fahey’s first-half strike and Kevin Phillips put them within touching distance of the top-flight when he scored on the hour. Marek Matejovsky reduced the deficit for Reading, who had an outside chance of automatic promotion themselves, a minute later but Birmingham held on to return to the Premier League a year after relegation. —Internet

Birmingham City’s Keith Fahey (L) celebrates scoring a goal against Reading with teammate Kevin Phillips during their Championship football match at the Madejski Stadium in Reading. — Internet

Kuznetsova downs world number one Safina in final

STUTTGART, 4 May—Svetlana Kuznetsova beat Russian compatriot and world number one Dinara Safina 6-4, 6-3 in Sunday’s final to win Stuttgart’s WTA tournament to bring an end to her losing streak in finals.

The fifth-seed needed just one hour and 19 minutes to beat the highest-ranked player in the world in straight sets to claim the winner’s prize of a new Porsche sports car having beaten Olympic champion Elena Dementieva in Saturday’s semi-final. Kuznetsova finally broke her losing streak here having lost the last six finals she had reached on the WTA tour. —Internet

Rafa Nadal of Spain celebrates with his trophy after beating Novak Djokovic of Serbia during their ATP Tennis Open match in Rome. —Internet

Sunderland’s Marouane Fellaini celebrates after scoring a goal against Sunderland during their English FA Premier League football match at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland. — Internet

Sean O’Hair rallies to win at Quail Hollow

CHARLOTTE, 4 May—A narrow victory at Quail Hollow came with a large dose of redemption for Sean O’Hair. Five weeks after he blew a five-shot lead against Tiger Woods at Bay Hill, O’Hair showed his mettle in hard, blustery conditions Sunday with a 3-under 69 and rallied to win the Quail Hollow Championship when no one could catch him.

Despite a bogey-bogey finish on the two hardest holes on the course, O’Hair was the only player in the final nine groups to break 70. He took the lead on the 15th with a two-putt birdie from 70 feet, then batted an 8-iron to 8 feet on the 16th to give him room for error on the frightening finishing holes.

Internet

Coach Ramos fears for Real Madrid future

MADRID, 4 May—Real Madrid coach Juande Ramos admits the Spanish champions are no longer one of Europe’s elite clubs following their 6-0 aggregate loss to Barcelona on Saturday and the result casts further doubt on whether he will be entrusted with the task of restoring Real to past glories.

The league now looks over for double champions Real as Barca are seven points ahead with just four games left and the Barca humiliation, coupled with the embarrassing 5-0 aggregate loss to Liverpool in the last 16 of the Champions League, has put a question mark over Ramos. The former Sevilla coach was handed a six-month contract in mid-December after replacing Bernd Schuster and has won 17 out of his 20 league games but that may still not be enough to persuade the club to keep him on. —Internet

Barcelona’s Cameroonian forward Samuel Eto’o (R) fights for the ball with Real Madrid’s Argentinian defender Gabriel Heinze (L) during their Spanish League football match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 2 May. —Internet

Kuznetsova downs world number one Safina in final

STUTTGART, 4 May—Svetlana Kuznetsova beat Russian compatriot and world number one Dinara Safina 6-4, 6-3 in Sunday’s final to win Stuttgart’s WTA tournament to bring an end to her losing streak in finals.

The fifth-seed needed just one hour and 19 minutes to beat the highest-ranked player in the world in straight sets to claim the winner’s prize of a new Porsche sports car having beaten Olympic champion Elena Dementieva in Saturday’s semi-final. Kuznetsova finally broke her losing streak here having lost the last six finals she had reached on the WTA tour. —Internet
China awaits flu virus sample from WHO to make own vaccine

BEIJING, 4 May—China is awaiting samples of the A/H1N1 virus from the World Health Organization (WHO) to produce its own vaccine, and it could take three or four months, or even longer, to complete the procedure, an expert from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC) told Xinhua on Sunday.

The vaccine would be very important in preventing an outbreak of the disease, said Zhang Yanping in an interview.

The A/H1N1 virus is believed to have originated in Mexico and the United States, he said.

China has developed its own method of making quick tests for the A/H1N1 virus by analyzing nucleic acid, which takes just 12 hours, according to Shu Yuelong, another expert of the China CDC.

The China CDC is training staff from epidemic monitoring stations across the country to do the nucleic acid test, and the reagent will be distributed to all 84 stations, said Mao Quan’an, an official with the Ministry of Health.

The China CDC obtained the sequence of the A/H1N1 virus from the US Centers for Disease Control on April 27 and the primer for making nucleic acid tests from WHO on April 28.

PREVENTION (China CDC) told the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC) on April 27 and the primer for making nucleic acid tests from WHO on April 28.

Sunday, 4 May 2009

Forecast valid until evening of 5 May 2009:

Rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Taninthayi Division, fairly widespread in Rakhine and Mon States, scattered in Shan State, Mandalay and Bago Divisions, isolated in Kachin, Chin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Mandalay Division and isolated heavyfall in lower Sagaing Division. Day temperatures were (7°C) above May average temperatures in Kayah State, (3°C) above May average temperatures in Taninthayi Division, (8°C) below May average temperatures in Mandalay Division, (6°C) below May average temperatures in Eastern Shan State and about May average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Aunglan and Pyy (34°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (1.58) inches, Mandalay (2.60) inches, Sagaing (2.33) inches, Thandwe (1.97) inches, Dawei (1.81) inches and Pyinoo win and Taungkhol (1.57) inches each.

Maximum temperature on 4-5-2009 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 4-5-2009 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 09 (09) hours MST on 4-5-2009 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 3-5-2009 was (9.7) hrs approx. Rainfall on 4-5-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (1.14) inches at Mingaladon, (2.01) inches at Kaba-Aye and (5.28) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (06:30) hour MST on 4-5-2009.

Bay influence: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and North Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 5 May 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, isolated in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Kayin States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar area.

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

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

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-5-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Development Training School of Falam enhances livelihoods of national race youth of border areas

Article: Myo Min Thein (Mayangon); Photos: Lay Nwe (Mingaladon)

Recently, we visited Falam of Falam District in Chin State. The latest scene of Falam was totally different from that in the past. The peaceful Falam is developing with the attractive residences and buildings. Thanks to better transportation facilitated by the government, the town has gained development in a short time.

On arrival at Falam, the news team of the Myanmar Alin Daily, under the arrangements of the township officials, visited Training School for Development of National Race Youth of Border Areas.

Within a few minutes, we arrived at the school in Kyinnwe Ward of Falam. The school was found to be a grand structure.

In an interview, Principal U Aung Myint explained, “The training school was opened on 30 June 2004. In 2008-2009 academic year, the school admitted 23 trainees and provided two sets of school uniforms, one set of school textbooks and stationery to all the trainees in addition to meals. Moreover, an iron box and bedding were provided to them.”

Visiting the school, we saw a one-storey 90 feet long and 30 feet wide hostel, a 60 feet long and 30 feet wide mess hall, a 120 feet long and 30 feet wide six-apartment staff quarter and a 40 feet long and 32 feet wide office.

The Department of Education and Training under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs had spent over K 49.4 million on construction of the buildings.

(See page 11)