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Thursday, 16 February, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes	* Non-disintegration of the Union	* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity	* Perpetuation of Sovereignty
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President U Thein Sein receives Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg



NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Jean Asselborn of Luxembourg and party at the Credentials Hall of the President Residence, here, at 4 pm today.

Also present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs

U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein and departmental heads.

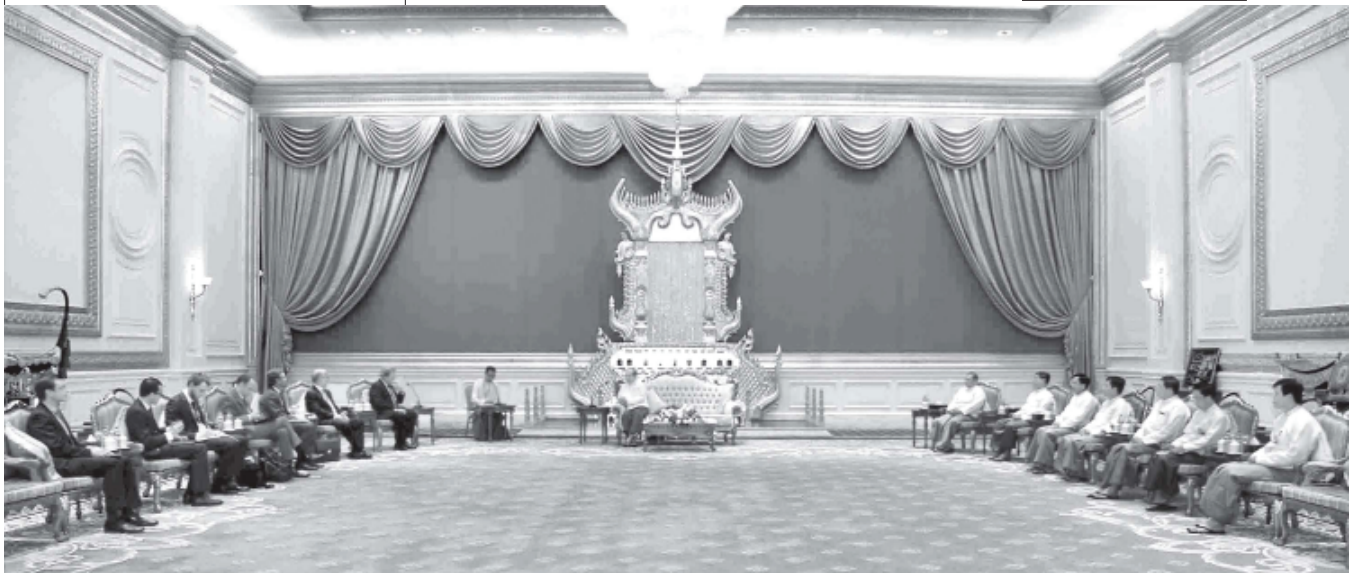
They cordially discussed and exchanged views on friendly ties and cooperation between the two countries.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Jean Asselborn of Luxembourg and party.

MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein cordially greets Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Jean Asselborn of Luxembourg.

MNA



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PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 16 February, 2012

Think right, view straight

Nothing in this world is easier than to criticize others. In fact, it is an aspect of our daily life. Critical judgements, good or bad, may be positive, negative or balanced. However, the world is just full of armed chair critics.

It takes all sorts to make a world but sometimes we are criticizing others just because their meat is poison to us. Every ass loves to hear himself brays. Why? The answer is self-importance. You should look yourself before you criticize others. No man in this world is perfect. If you are living in the glass house, why should you throw stones and invite foes?

There needs to have right view to make balanced criticism and critical thinking is of crucial importance here. Most of us tend to criticize out of ego and pride, neglecting the real situation. We are weak in cause and effect analysis. Differences can be seen here and there in this world and the best option is of cooperation on common ground. Only we think right, can we view straight.

Meat and fish sector entrepreneurs meet

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Relaxations have been seen in tax, catching fish in Myanmar's sea, fish export and investment, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries UKhin Maung Aye said in regular coordination meeting of meat and fish sector entrepreneurs held at Myanmar Fisheries Federation in Yangon yesterday.

He also called for cooperation of all stakeholders in livestock sector for sustainable development, quality control for AFTA in 2015, exporting value-added products, penetrating international market and disbursing loans.

MNA

Experts discuss communications bill in detail

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—As part of efforts for enacting proper rules and regulations to improve the communication sector, responsible personnel and experts held a meeting to discuss the communications bill in detail at Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs here today.

During the meeting, officials of the ministry and Attorney-General's Office discussed the details of the bill which encourages inviting technology and investment from foreign countries in the communication sector.

Responsible personnel of Telenor communication company from Norway participated in the discussion, stressing the need for enacting strong rules and regulations in Myanmar and opportunities for cooperation in the communication sector.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Tint Lwin.

The meeting was also

attended by managing director, director-general, Chief engineers of the departments and enterprises under the ministry and officials of the Attorney-General's Office.—MNA

Discussion on Communications Bill in progress.—MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Dy Prime Minister of Luxembourg



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg Mr Jean Asselborn and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg Mr Jean Asselborn at the Hluttaw Building here at 3 pm today.

During the meeting, Mr Jean Asselborn said he wanted to witness the political reforms which were welcomed by the international community during the time of the new

government.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann explained the role of the Hluttaw in the political reform process and expressed his warmly welcome to the delegation.

Also present at the meeting were chairmen, secretaries and members of the committees of Pyithu Hluttaw.

MNA

Union I&P Minister, Special Adviser to UNSG hold talks



NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Union Minister for Immigration and Population

U Khin Yi received a delegation led by Special Adviser to the United Nations

Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General Mr Vijay Nambiar at his

office here yesterday.

During the meeting, the cordially discussed matters related to the plan for taking a national census, dissemination of knowledge to the people and the cooperation between the ministry and UNHCR and UNFPA.

Also present at the meeting were director-general, head of office and departmental officials of the ministry.—MNA

Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi receives Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General Mr Vijay Nambiar and party.—MNA

UMFCCI Vice-President meets Belarusian Ambassador

YANGON, 15 Feb—Belarusian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Valery Sadokho called on Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Zaw Min Win, and Dr Maung Maung Lay and party at UMFCCI office, here, on 10 February.

They held discussions on visit of Belarusian delegation including entrepreneurs engaging in farming equipment, rice and marine products to Myanmar, and invitation to Myanmar entrepreneurs to Belarus in December 2012.

MNA

Tobacco Kills

NATO regrets airstrike that killed eight young Afghans

KABUL, 15 Feb— The US-led military coalition says it regrets the killing of eight civilians in a NATO airstrike this month in eastern Afghanistan.

The coalition dropped two bombs on 8 Feb in Najrab District in Kapisa Province, after movements by eight people on the ground were assessed as a threat to Afghan police and NATO forces in the area.

Air Commodore Mike Wigston, the director of NATO air operations, said on Wednesday the international forces believed they were "young teenagers" who were armed.

Local officials say seven were boys between the ages of 6 and 14 and one was a mentally ill young man around 18 to 20 years old.

US Gen John Allen, the top commander in Afghanistan, has met with the provincial governor to express his condolences.—*Internet*



Foreign soldiers and military personnel inspecting confiscated arms and ammunition which were displayed during a news event in Lashkar Gah, Helmand Province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 14 Feb, 2012. INTERNET

Cyclone Giovanna kills three on Madagascar

ANTANANARIVO, 15 Feb— Officials in Madagascar say a cyclone that hit the Indian Ocean island left three people dead.

Cyclone Giovanna struck land about 1 am Tuesday, bringing heavy rain and high winds. About 70 families, including 45 in the capital, were flooded out of their homes.

According to national disaster officials, one of the dead was struck by an electricity pylon toppled by high winds in Brickaville, some 160 miles (260 kilometres) east of the capital, Antananarivo.

The collapse of a house in Brickaville killed another victim there, and a third drowned in Moramanga, about 60 miles (100 kilometres) east of Antananarivo.

The worst of the storm was over by afternoon.

Internet

Federal police agents present Jaime Herrera, alias "El Viejo," alleged member of the Pacific drug cartel, on 14 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET

Drug maker for 'El Chapo' seized in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 15 Feb— Mexican officials said Tuesday they have arrested a man who manufactured methamphetamine for

Sinaloa drug cartel run by Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman. The arrest of suspect Jaime Herrera Herrera was the latest in a series of detentions

of associates of Guzman, the most wanted man in Mexico.

The arrest also came amid mounting evidence that Guzman's Sinaloa cartel has moved into meth production on an industrial scale. Officials say several enormous seizures of meth precursor chemicals and large labs for processing the drug are probably linked to Sinaloa.

Federal police said in a statement that Herrera Herrera, 43, was captured in Sinaloa state, on the Pacific coast. It said he was one of the principal producers of methamphetamine for Guzman's cartel

and is wanted by authorities in the United States. Police said he has acknowledged moving tons of methamphetamine into the United States. Also Tuesday, a conference on drug policy in Mexico City turned into a discussion on drug legalization, one day after Guatemalan President Otto Perez proposed a broad legalization. Former Brazilian president Fernando Henrique Cardoso said "the failed war against drugs has strengthened organized crime, destabilized governments, violated human rights and devastated lives everywhere."—*Internet*



Red Cross urges aid to avoid Sahel disaster

SAHEL, 15 Feb— More funding is needed to avert a humanitarian disaster in Africa's Sahel Region where up to 14 million people are suffering from food shortages, the international Red Cross said on Tuesday.

The emerging crisis in the desert area is underfunded because early warnings are going unheeded, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

(IFRC) said.

The UN estimates that as many as 23 million people could be hit by the food crisis in Niger, Chad, Mali, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Senegal, spurred by poor harvests last year. The Sahel belt is particularly sensitive to drought and famine. In 2010 some 10 million people were affected by a severe food crisis. "IFRC is urging donors to come to the aid of the Sahel but also to invest in longer term resilience to break the cycle of chronic food shortages in the region," a statement said.

Momodou Lamin Fye, who represents the IFRC in the Sahel, has just returned from Mauritania.

"I saw for myself how severe the situation is," he told a journalists' briefing.

"It could quickly develop into a humanitarian disaster if the world does not start paying attention to the plight," he said.

The UN World Food Programme said it will host a meeting of humanitarian agencies and donor governments on Wednesday to address the need to increase aid.—*Internet*



A photo released by Oxfam in December 2011 shows a woman pointing at the dry land in Oud Guedara, Mauritania. INTERNET

Sirens scream in quake drill across Indian capital

NEW DELHI, 15 Feb— Ambulance sirens are screaming across New Delhi as the Indian Capital holds a major disaster drill amid fears that a major earthquake could topple many buildings and homes.

Metro trains ground to a halt for more than a half-hour Wednesday while firefighters staged mock rescues and school children dived under desks for cover.

Dogs sniffed out people posing as survivors, and medics tended to fake wounds.

It was the biggest-ever earthquake drill across the city of 16.7 million people. Much of New Delhi is vulnerable to quake damage because of poorly constructed buildings, loosely hanging electrical wires and narrow alleys.



Indian schoolgirls lie low under their desks during a disaster drill checking the alertness and preparedness of various agencies in the event of a major earthquake, at the NP Bengali Girls School in New Delhi, India, on 15 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET

The city says a quake could cause moderate or significant damage to nine out of 10 buildings.

Internet

Pakistan releases US man after "bullets found in baggage"

PESHAWAR, 15 Feb— A US embassy employee was released after being held for questioning in Pakistan on Tuesday when airport security officials discovered bullets in his luggage, police said.

The American was about to fly from the northwestern city of Peshawar to the capital Islamabad when he was taken into police custody, said Tahir Ayub, a senior police superintendent.

He was released after four hours when officials from the US consulate in Peshawar produced documents to show the man worked at the consulate.

"He's been released to the consulate," a US official in Islamabad said. "He's at the consulate now." The American is an embassy employee usually based in Islamabad but was temporarily assigned to the Peshawar consulate, the official said.



A policeman gestures towards the vehicle of an American national who was held for questioning at a police station in Peshawar on 14 Feb, 2012. INTERNET

Police officers had earlier said they would hold the man until his identity had been verified by the foreign office in Islamabad and a US official in the capital had said the embassy was looking into the details of the reports.

"He has diplomatic status," the official said. "We're in contact with Pakistani authorities on the details on the case."

Ayub said a pistol and 12 magazine rounds had been recovered from the man's luggage, while another police officer said security officials had only found bullets.

Reuters

Aspirin could beat cancer spread: Australian study

MELBOURNE, 15 Feb — Aspirin and other household drugs may inhibit the spread of cancer because they help shut down the chemical “highways” which feed tumours, Australian researchers announced on Tuesday. Scientists at Melbourne’s Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre said they have made a biological breakthrough helping explain how lymphatic vessels — key to the transmission of tumours throughout the body — respond to cancer.

“We’ve shown that molecules like the aspirin... could effectively work by reducing the dilation of these major vessels and thereby reducing the capacity of tumours to spread to distant sites,” researcher Steven Stacker said. Doctors have long suspected that non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as aspirin may help inhibit the spread of cancer but they have been unable to pinpoint exactly how this is done. By studying cells in lymphatic vessels, the researchers found that a particular gene changed its expression in cancers which spread, but not when the cancer did not spread.

The results published in *Cancer Cell* journal reveal that the gene is a link between a tumour’s growth and the



Aspirin and other household drugs may inhibit the spread of cancer because they help shut down the chemical “highways” which feed tumours, Australian researchers announced on Tuesday.—INTERNET

cellular pathway which can cause inflammation and dilation of vessels throughout the body. Once these lymphatic vessels widen, the capacity for them to act as “supply lines” to tumours and become more effective conduits for the cancer to spread is increased. But aspirin acts to shut down the dilation of the vessels.— *Internet*

Scar tissue forms after a heart attack.—INTERNET

Bone marrow stem cells give ‘some’ heart healing



LONDON, 15 Feb — Bone marrow stem cell therapy offers “moderate improvement” to heart attack patients, according to a large UK review of clinical trials. The analysis by the Cochrane Collaboration looked at 33 trials involving more than 1,700 patients. It said longer-term studies were needed to see if the experimental therapy

affected life expectancy.

The review comes a day after doctors reported the first case of using heart cells to heal heart attack damage. If a patient survives a heart attack, dead heart muscle is replaced with scar tissue - leaving the patient weaker and possibly on a lifetime of medicine. Researchers are beginning to show that taking cells from a heart, growing millions of new heart cells in the laboratory and pumping those back into the heart may reduce scar tissue and lead to new heart muscle.

However, the trials are at a very early stage and in only a handful of patients. Using a similar technique with cells taken from the bone marrow, which is a prime source of stem cells, has a much longer pedigree. The report by Cochrane pooled the data from all 33 bone marrow trials which had taken place up to 2011. It concluded that bone marrow therapy “may lead to a moderate long-term improvement” in heart function which “might be clinically very important”. — *Internet*

Bacteria used to fight sleeping sickness

LONDON, 15 Feb — Scientists believe they have found a way to beat sleeping sickness using a bacterium against the tsetse fly host that spreads the disease to humans. In the same way that we have friendly bacteria in our intestines, the tsetse fly harbours bacteria in its midgut, muscle and salivary glands. Experts in Belgium have genetically modified these “good bugs” so they attack the culprit parasite carried by the fly. But work is needed to hone the process. The latest findings are published in the open access journal *Microbial Cell Factories*. Sleeping sickness, or human African

cases recorded in 2010. The parasite causing sleeping sickness is transmitted to humans through the bite of the infected tsetse fly.

This causes fever, headaches, aching joints and itching. Then follows the second stage of disease as the parasites cross the blood-brain barrier to infect the central nervous system. The person then becomes confused, poorly coordinated and experiences the sleep disturbances which give the disease its name. Without treatment, sleeping sickness is fatal. But current therapies often have unpleasant side-effects.— *Internet*



trypanosomiasis, is a potentially fatal disease that plagues many regions of Africa. Although the number of people being infected with the disease has been going down thanks to better diagnosis and treatment, there were still more than 7,000 new

The sleeping sickness parasite gets into the bloodstream.—INTERNET



China Premier Wen Jiabao vows to help on eurozone debt

BEIJING, 15 Feb — China has promised to help resolve the eurozone’s debt crisis, after talks with EU leaders in Beijing. Premier Wen Jiabao offered co-operation to help stabilise debt-ridden EU nations, but made no specific promise to invest in a European bailout fund. EU leaders have been seeking Chinese money to help bolster a planned fund of about 500bn euros (\$665bn; £420bn).

In another sign of the EU’s troubles, credit-rating agency Moody’s earlier downgraded Spain, Italy and Portugal. Moody’s also downgraded the credit outlook for France, the UK and Austria. The crisis in eurozone counties has intensified in recent days. Greece passed a package of severe cuts late on Sunday, demanded by the EU and IMF in return for a 130bn euro bailout. But the austerity measures have proved deeply unpopular and caused riots in Athens.

Europe is China’s biggest trading



China’s Premier Wen Jiabao: “We are facing enormous challenges.”
INTERNET

partner, with trade worth 560bn euros flowing between the two last year. European leaders have long courted Chinese investment in their bailout fund. n a joint news conference with European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, Mr Wen said China was willing to “increase its involvement” in attempts to stabilize the eurozone. “China is firm in supporting the EU side in dealing with the debt problems. We match our words with our actions,” he said.— *Internet*

Samsung shares hit record on spin-off news

SEOUL, 15 Feb — South Korean giant Samsung Electronics said it is considering spinning off its loss-making liquid crystal display (LCD) business, sending its shares to a record high. Samsung, the world’s largest maker of flat panels, memory chips and flat-screen televisions, made the announcement in a regulatory filing on Wednesday. It said no final decision has been taken.

Details were not given, but Samsung shares rose 5.1 percent to a historic high of 1,135,000 won (\$1,012) as the potential spin-off is expected to strengthen its profitability. Samsung’s LCD business suffered losses in every quarter last year due to a supply glut. The possible spin-off sparked speculation that Samsung may merge its LCD unit with Samsung Mobile Display, which produces organic light-emitting diode

Firm tries to block iPad on mainland

BEIJING, 15 Feb — A Shenzhen-based enterprise claiming ownership of the iPad trademark in China is calling on customs authorities to bar the export and import of Apple’s iPad 3. Provview Technology Shenzhen holds the trademark it registered in 2001, according to the official website of China’s trademark authority, while the technology company Apple argued it bought the name from Provview Taipei, which is associated with but still a separate entity from the Shenzhen company.

“We plan to file the complaints to customs by the end of this month and ask for an embargo on the import and export of the



iPad,” said Xie Xianghui, a lawyer representing Provview Technology Shenzhen. “We are asking for the ban especially for the iPad 3.” China is the major location for factories that supply and assemble a wide range of Apple products. Apple’s sales volume in China accounts for 16 percent of the company’s global revenue, while sales in China only made up 2 percent two years ago, according to media reports.

The new generation of iPad is expected to make its debut in early March, according to US media reports. Xie rebutted a popular criticism that Provview Shenzhen, a company on the verge of bankruptcy that has not produced any iPad products, is exploiting Apple. “Assume we have a house. If we don’t live in it, should we give it away or sell it?” he said. He said Provview Shenzhen is undergoing debt restructuring. It has to be responsible to its shareholders and creditors by getting the most out of any valuable property.— *Xinhua*

(OLED) displays for mobile devices such as smartphones.— *Internet*



A shopper is seen with a box of LCD Samsung TV at a shopping centre in Fairfax, Virginia. Samsung Electronics said it is considering spinning off its loss-making liquid crystal display (LCD) business, sending its shares to a record high.—INTERNET

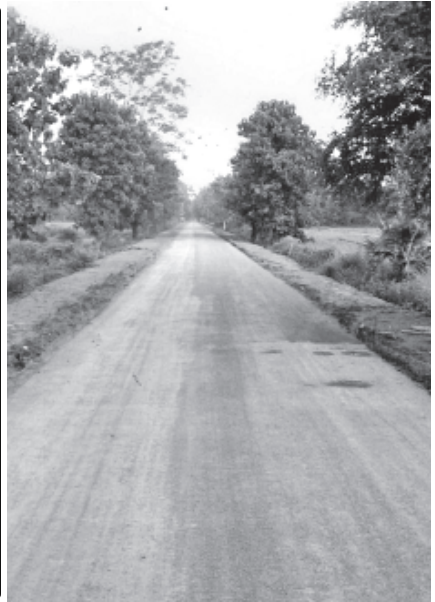


Ayeyawady River Crossing Maubin Bridge contributing to development of socio-economic status of local people in Ayeyawady Region



Archive: Maung Nyein Aye

- * The emergence of Maubin bridge has enabled people from Ayeyawady to travel to Yangon, 50 miles away from Maubin in a short time, and they then can proceed to Patheingyi and other cities by car easily.
- * The agriculture, marine and other products produced by Maubin District can be transported to other cities including Yangon through the bridge in a short period of time, thereby contributing much to further improvement of the socio-economic status of local people.
- * In the past, it took five days to travel from Yangon to Maubin. And at present the trip takes only one and a half hour by car.



Facts about Maubin Bridge

1. Maubin Bridge is 720 meter long.
2. It is complete with 8.50 meter wide motorway flanked by 1.80 meter wide pedestrian lane.
3. It is of reinforced concrete type.
4. Its clearance area is 110 meter wide and 17 meter height.
5. It can withstand 60 tons of loads.
6. The construction of the bridge started on 1-3-1994 and it was opened on 10-2-1998.
7. Maubin Bridge is situated Taloaklat east village of Maubin Township and Taloaklat west village.

Translation: TLA

Return of displaced families in Kachin State discussed



Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win speaks at the coord meeting to help those fled their native due to instability of the state for their homecoming.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe, state ministers, Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives U Tun Tun, Amyotha Hluttaw Representatives U San Tun and U Khat Htein Nan, Secretary of National Human Rights Commission U Sit Myaing and officials met in Kachin State government office on 13 February to help those who fled instability of the state since 15 June, 2011 return home.

The chief minister explained about assistances provided by the state government, the Union government and UN agencies and necessities of displaced persons.

The deputy ministers said they were there for fulfilling wishes of the ethnic

people in coordination with the state government and statistics were needed to compile to thoroughly operate rehabilitation tasks.

Officials participated in discussion. Resettlement, measures of the government for ending conflicts in the state and making eternal peace and education were put on the table.

Families who temporarily settled in Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Bhamo, Momauk, Mansi and Shwegu Townships were provided with cash and kind by the Kachin State government, departmental personnel, social organizations, international organizations, MPs, and wellwishers.

The state government has made arrangements for allowing students of the displaced families to pursue their education in respective areas.—MNA

Third regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw meeting continues for Fourth day



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann at the fourth day session of Pyithu Hluttaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Fourth Day session of Pyithu Hluttaw meeting continued at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Building, here at 10 am today, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 362 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

Defense Services Personnel representatives Major Nyi Nyi Zaw took oath in the presence of the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker in accord with Pyithu Hluttaw Law section 8(b), and signed.

At the meeting, raising questions and replying answer, seeking approval of Hluttaw, submitting two proposals and two bills were carried out.

In his speaking, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker urged those present to carry out Hluttaw works in unison for the interests of the State, the people and the Union regardless of party attachment, sectarian, regionalism, racism, creeds and departments attachments.

At question-raising session, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye replied the question raised by Dr Soe Yin of Kamayut Constituency on **“Whether or not there is any plan to open Post-Graduate journalism diploma course in Universities like Yangon University and Mandalay University.”** He said that B.A (Journalism) course has been conducted in National Management College since 21-1-2008. The trainees have to take three-and-half-year course—three years in theory and six months in practice there. Those trainees who graduated B.A (Journalism) in 2010-2011 are now engaging in outside media world. Plans are under way to open M.A (Journalism) for those qualified graduates. Arrangements are being made for conducting B.A (Journalism) course in upper Myanmar by turning out course instructors.

So, National Management College have been conducting B.A (Journalism) course since the 2008-2008 Academic year and is going to conduct M.A (Journalism) course during this year. Post-graduate Journalism Diploma course will be opened at a suitable university at a time when qualified teachers are turned out.

Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi replied three questions raised by two Hluttaw representatives on workers affairs and Fire services department.

Regarding the question of Dr Than Win of North Okkalapa Constituency on **“How would the State handle unemployment rate in urban and villages.”**, he said that the State will carry out availability of up-to-date labour market information for creating more job opportunities, adopting strategies that can links job opportunities and job hunters, creation of new job opportunities, access to penetrating into foreign labour markets, inflow of huge foreign investment, the emergence of local labour markets, giving training to job seekers so as to land jobs easily.

The State also carried out the establishment of special economic zones, providing basic infrastructures by means of long term and short-term projects, plans under way to set up 18 industrial zones and industrial regions in rural areas and creating more job opportunities thanks to increase in the number of tourism industry, construction industry, agriculture and fishery industry and supermarkets.

According to the Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2011, unemployment rate of ASEAN countries is 5.2 percent, the world, 6.3 percent and Myanmar, 4 percent. The country sees some job opportunities because about three million Myanmar workers are now working in foreign labour market. In the olden days, only male workers were sent to foreign countries. But now the government has already given green light to employment agencies to send female workers to secure overseas job sites. Labour Exchange Offices serve as proxy for connection of job seekers and job opportunities.

The government is giving its relaxations on import of automobiles for those who are officially working in foreign countries and income tax exemption, which are the good opportunities for those.

According to recent political, economic and social reform processes, US and EU have lifted some sanctions imposed on Myanmar. So, helps and assistances from World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Asia Development Bank and international organizations will flow into Myanmar soon. Due to the prospects of lifting more sanctions in the future, there would be inflow of more foreign investments, more job opportunities and decrease in unemployment rate, he said.

With respect to the question raised by Dr Daw Aye Myint of Shwetaung Constituency on **“whether or not there is any plan to substitute four fire engines in four villages in Shwetaung Township and whether or not there is any plan to substitute fire engine in Thayettaw ward because of facing many difficulties in case of fire”**, he replied that these four fire engines are over forty years. There are 418 over-forty-year fire engines in the country. Starting the 2012-2013 financial year, plans have been adopted to substitute new ones on a priority basis. For substitution plans for over-aged fire engines, priority will be given to facts like deployment of fire stations and fire engines in foreign countries in addition to city, state/region city, township, sub-township and village-town.

So, the first question regarding the four over-aged fire engines is not first priority. For temporary convenience of these village-tracts, four light fire engines have already been provided on 6 February this year.

Regarding the latter question, that over-40-year-old fire engine is still in good condition. That engine can extinguish fire without breaking down, but has weakness in physical appearance. On 6 February this year, a light fire engine has been provided in Thayattaw ward at present. Shwetaung township in which there are so many projects will be provided with one fire engine in 2012-2013 financial year because fire station there is 3-Unit Level.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan replied three sport questions raised by three Hluttaw representatives.

Regarding the question raised by U Win Myint of Myingyan Constituency on **“Is there any plan to renovate People’s Sport Ground in Myingyan District”** and on **“Is there any plan to upgrade sport ground in Maingpyin”**, Union Minister U Tint Hsan answered that Ministry of Sports is giving priority to construction of sport grounds, gymnasiums and sport villages for successful holding of XXVII SEA Games to be held in Nay Pyi Taw in December 2013 as a host country. So, upgrading of sport grounds is not impossible during this financial year and would be only after the SEA Game.

With respect to the question raised by Dr Daw Aye Myint on **“Is there any plan to promote part-time sport technical officers appointed in Shwetaung into permanent ones”** Union Minister U Tint Hsan replied that Sports and Physical Education Department has appointed technical officers as instructor (Technical) on a piece-work basis since 21-9-2009. In addition, they also enjoy salary, cash assistances etc like other technical officers.

They are appointed to come out and train new boxers in the region. During two years terms, they could not serve their duties properly. So, they remain piece-work instructors (Technical).

According to new formation of Sports Ministry, technical officers will be appointed in every township. Based on their performances, they will be appointed as temporary officers, he said.

Union Minister for Communication, Posts and Telegraph U Thein Tun replied the four questions raised by four Hluttaw representatives.

Regarding the question raised by U Sai Naung Hsai Hein of Maukmai Constituency on **“Progress in construction of GSM/CDMA towers in Maukmai, Mongnai, Langkho, Mongpan and Homein sub-townships in Langkho district and completion time”**, Union Minister for Communication, Posts and Telegraph U Thein Tun replied that for installation of 750 CDMA-450 telephone lines in Langkho of Shan State (South) machine building and tower foundation have been completed. Construction of tower, installation of transmission and radio are under progress. In the end of February, 2012, CDMA-450 mobile telephone will come online in Langkho. As the third phase of first year GSM mobile extension project, 3000 GSM lines will be installed in the end of August 2012.

Machines to be installed in installation of 400 CDMA-450 lines in Maukmai are on order. Construction of building and tower are progress. CDMA-450 mobile phone are available in the end of April, 2012. A total of 1500 GSM lines will be added in the end of August, 2013, which is second year of GSM mobile extension project.

He continued that equipment was ordered for installation of 300 CDMA-450 lines in Mohne; mechanical and tower construction are in the course of implementation and CDMA-450 mobiles service can be launched commencing the end of April; 1500 GSM lines would be installed in Mohne at the end of August, 2013 as the second phase of GSM mobile project.

As to Mongpan, equipment are being transported for installation of 1250 CDMA-450 lines; mechanical and tower construction are in the course of implementation and CDMA-450 mobile service can be launched commencing the end of April this year; 1500 GSM lines would be installed at the end of August, 2013 as the second phase of GSM mobile project and the same would be carried out for Homain.

U Tin Maung Win of Mingaladon Constituency asked **if the CPT Ministry has a plan to open a phone bill office in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region** and the Union Minister replied that phone bill stations in Pabedan, General Post Office, Tamwe, Thingangyun, Ahlon, Hline, Mayagon, Insein, Kyimyindaing, Pazundaung, thuwunna and Bayintnaung under the account department of the Myanmar Post and Telecommunications is handling 184832 auto telephone users and 284000 mobile phone users in addition to online billing payment system of Yatanarpon Web Portal through Myanmar Economic Bank and Asia Green Development Bank; the MPT has initiated to shift to prepaid system and phone users can now buy prepaid cards from the prepaid card sellers of the nearest townships.

U Ai Yun Mon of Mema Constituency asked **if the CPT Ministry has a plan to provide GSM or CDMA service in Mema Township** and the Union Minister replied that 1500 GSM lines would be installed in Mema Township of Wa Self-administered Division at the end of August, 2013 as the second phase of GSM mobile project.

(See page 7)

Third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continues for fourth day



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint at the fourth day session of Amyotha Hluttaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the fourth day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex here at 10 am today.

The session was attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and 201 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

The Hluttaw approved supplement to level monthly emolument of financial and legal commission with that of Hluttaw representatives.

The Speaker announced that 41 books donated by U Pe Myint will be kept in U Pe Myint Corner of Amyotha Hluttaw Library and the Amyotha Hluttaw recorded the donation.

U Nyan Lin of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (3) raised the question about “**progress in negotiations with ethnic armed groups for peace fill now**”. Leader of Union-level peace-making group Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min answered: The President said, regarding national races affairs, national unity is top priority and the government always keeps

the door open for peace in his first address to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30-3-2011.

The Union government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued Notification No (1/2011), inviting armed groups for ending armed conflicts in the country, making peace and implementing development tasks around the country hand in hand with the government and the entire people. The President assigned a 10-member Union-level peace-making group to hold peace talks with RCSS/SSA, KNPP, CNF, and NMSP armed groups on 24-11-2011.

The President gave three-step guideline for building eternal peace that is to discuss at the state level, at the Union level and before Pyidaungsu Hluttaw by all the national races to sign an eternal peace agreement.

After four meetings with Kayin national armed group KNU, Union-level agreement in principle was signed. After three meetings with Shan national armed group RCSS/SSA, Union-level agreement was inked. After two meetings with Chin national armed group

government, serviceable vehicles and motorcycles confiscated as public property were shared among government departments and enterprises and unserviceable vehicles and motorcycles were auctioned to the public.

However, some of those who won the auctions import vehicles illegally from abroad and made it believe those were the vehicles they won in the auctions, leading to an increase in illegal vehicles without licenses.

In the time of the incumbent government, serviceable vehicles and motorcycles out of the confiscated were given to government departments and enterprises and the remaining unserviceable vehicles were sent to foundry and currently there is no plan to auction those vehicles to the public.

Approval was sought from the Pyithu Hluttaw regarding replacement of Public Accounts Committee member, recruitment to Legal Affairs and Special Cases Analysis Commission, making supplements to responsibility, power of the committee/commission, and privileges and rights of the commission.

U Thant Zin of Gyobingauk

CNF, State-level ceasefire agreement was signed. After two meetings with Mon national armed group NMSP, State-level agreement was signed. The Union-level peace-making group met twice with Kayah national armed group KNPP and PaO national armed group PNLO respectively. Among 11 national races armed group in UNFC, the peace-making group has contacts with two small groups—National Unity Party (Arakan) and Lahu Democratic Union.

Leader of Union-level peace-making group U Aung Thuang said: The President assigned a group with Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Aung Thuang of Taungtha Township as the leader and Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Thein Zaw of Myitkyina Township as the deputy leader to discuss peace at Union-level.

Armed groups were invited to discuss peace on 18-8-2011 as it was found the government, the people and the entire ethnic armed groups to establish peace as required by the country. After three meetings with “Wa” Special Region (2) peace-making group, Union-level peace agreement was signed. After three meetings with Special Region (4) peace-making group, Union-level peace agreement was signed.

After two meetings with Kalo Htoo Baw squad (former DKBA) peace-making group, Union-level peace agreement was signed. Negotiations with KIO/KIA and SSP/SSA are under way.

After peace meetings around the country are accomplished, the final historical peace agreement will be signed with armed groups, other national races leaders and other appropriate persons before the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Hluttaw representatives.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than answered five questions raised by five Hluttaw representatives.

U Hmat Gyi of Mandalay Region Constituency (9) asked “**whether there is plan to reserve and distribute paddy strains to inundated plantations**”. The deputy minister answered: There are three

means to address the issue: to reserve paddy strains suited with the region in advance, to grow reserve plantation in highland farms and to grow plants of the same age from farms which are not inundated immediately.

By reserving paddy strains, strains suited with the region are available, high cost for transportation will be reduced and systematic storage of reserve paddy strains help recover quickly.

Region/State agricultural ministers need to be aware of weather conditions of their own Region or State.

U Htay Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency (12) asked “**whether there is plan to repair No (6) (North) feeder canal of Nyaungyan-Minhla Lake in Thazi Township**”. The deputy minister answered: The original irrigation area of the lake through seven canals was 27205 acres. It could irrigate the area sufficiently in years of higher rainfall.

The said canal has the length of 11225 ft and the width of five feet. If the rainfall is lower, it has difficulties to irrigate farmlands at the edge of its irrigation area.

It was repaired in 2004-2005 fiscal year by machinery. Although it was damaged by heavy rain in 2011, the Irrigation Department is repairing and managing to irrigate farmlands sufficiently. The repair will be completed by February, 2012.

Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency (8) asked “**whether there is plan to help farmers obtain hybrid seed for producing hybrid rice**”. The deputy minister answered: The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is making test production of four kinds of hybrid seed in cooperation with China, the Philippines, Vietnam and India. In this monsoon, China and Myanmar agriculturalists are carrying out test productions of hybrid seeds in 200-acre farmlands of Shwetaung farm in Wundwin Township in Mandalay Region and Yezin University of Agriculture. Private companies are doing the same in 550-acre farmlands in Yangon Region.

(See page 8)

Third regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw...

(from page 6)

U Si Kam Yam of Kaunglanpu Constituency asked if the ministry has a plan to provide CDMA/GSM service to Kaunglanpu Township, which is necessary for the township and the Union Minister replied that the necessary equipment for CDMA-450 mobile service has arrived in Myitkyina and will be transported to Kaunglanpu and CDMA-450 mobile service can be launched at the end of April this year.

U Tin Win of Kawlin Constituency asked if the auction teams formed by region and state governments have any plan to auction the vehicles confiscated in connection with the lawsuits in respective townships and Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw replied that it may take up to three years from at least six months to reach a verdict for a lawsuit according to the legal procedure; only five to 10 percent of such vehicles and motorcycles can be reusable as the remaining were usually left in poor condition; in the time of the previous

Constituency was replaced with Defence Services Personnel Representative Col Myint Ko Ko as member of the Public Accounts Committee and Supreme Court Advocate U Mya Thein was recruited to the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Analysis Commission. The previous provision—“committee/commission can invite suggestions from responsible persons of the related organizations” was added with the phrase “committee/commission can invite suggestions from responsible persons of the related organizations and those assumed to understand the matters concerned.” The Hluttaw also approved that commission members are allowed to enjoy the same emolument as the Hluttaw representatives beginning the day of appointment.

Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Dagon Myothit (North) Constituency proposed to promulgate Statue Law to transform universities of the high education of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar into autonomous government agencies and Thura U Aung Ko of Kanpetlet Constituency proposed to open National University.

Regarding the proposal of Daw Tin Nwe Oo, U Saw Hla Tun of ChaungU Constituency asked to seek the opinion of

the related ministry and Union Education Minister Dr Mya Aye replied that it was too early to enact Statue Law.

The proposer asked to seek the opinion of the Hluttaw which rejected the proposal as the majority voted against the proposal. The Hluttaw decided to put the proposal on record.

Hluttaw representatives wishing to discuss the proposal of Thura U Aung Ko enlisted in the evening.

Union Labour Minister U Aung Kyi submitted Labour Dispute Settlement Bill and Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Thuang read out the analysis report of the committee on the bill.

U Aung Thuang, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Financial Development Committee submitted Foreign Currency Expenditure Bill and Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Ba Shein read out the analysis report of the committee on the bill.

Dates for discussion of those bills will be announced later and representatives wishing to take part are reported to enlist by 18 February.

Today’s recession came to an end at 2.20 pm and the fifth day session continues at 10 am, 17 February.—MNA

Third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw...

(from page 7)

While educating farmers to abide by Good Agriculture Practice (GAP), the ministry is targeting to yield 20-30 baskets of paddy strains per acre. China started applying hybrid paddy technology for food sufficiency as of 1974 and put 60 per cent of farms under hybrid paddy.

Innovation of experts in respective fields contributes much to improvement of technological experiences, and quality of rice gets better market.

Thanks to innovation of Chinese agriculturalists from International Rice Research Institutes-IRRI from People's Republic of China and the Philippines, hybrid paddy produce higher rate of per-acre yield than that of existing paddy strains and better quality for enabling the farmers to earn income through cost effective status. Thus, the rice exporter countries including India are producing hybrid paddy. Entrepreneurs of national entrepreneurs from respective states and regions can produce and distribute hybrid paddy seeds in the respective regions by joining hands with skillful technicians. He invited the Hluttaw representatives to visit modern hybrid paddy seed production farms that can double the income of farmers.

With regard to the proposal for farmers of Maubin and Nyaungdon townships to enjoy full rights of farming works asked by U Thet Lin of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No. 8, the deputy minister replied that the farmland law compilation commission was formed with 14 members chaired by the Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation under Announcement issued on No. 44/2011 on 19-10-2011 by the Union government.

The provisions at Section 23 (a), Sections 29, 248 (a) and 249 of the 2008 Constitution of the Union of Myanmar were exactly prescribed on political system and economic system of the State, basis of farmland, rights of farmers, transform of manual farming to mechanized farming and matters related to region or state government.

The region/state government will solve the problems for enabling the local farmers to enjoy rights of farming works. A total of 14 company entrepreneurs attained 69502 acres of land in Nyaungdon and Maubin townships of Ayeyawady Region. Of them, 61157 acres of farmlands have been reclaimed and there remains to reclaim 8345 acres of land. Among the reclaimed lands, a total of 33354 acres of land are put under agriculture and livestock breeding works. Thus, there remains 27803 acres of land to be used in agriculture and livestock breeding.

The State leaders assigned duties to company entrepreneurs to reclaim the vacant and wetlands to become farmlands in Ayeyawady Region. The entrepreneurs took risks for creating of job opportunities in rural areas and regional development though they do not have economical cost effectiveness in their farming works. Due to effective undertaking of farming works, the aim of entrepreneurs can be realized to develop the region. The Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Law will be promulgated soon, so the problems can be solved effectively under the law.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 4 asked **whether there is a plan to reclaim more and more**

farmlands to contribute towards enhancement of mechanized farming for improvement of social economic life of farmers, the deputy minister replied that as educative activities are being undertaken for reclamation of mechanized farms so as to boost crop production, hectare plots and acre plots of mechanized farms facilitated with production roads, feeder canals and drains are being reclaimed as model plots in Dekkhinathiri, Pobbathiri, Ottarathiri and Zabuthiri townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Shwedaung Farm in Wundwin Township of Mandalay Region in upper Myanmar, Mechanized Farming Special Zone-1 and Zone 2 in Dagon Myothit (East) and (Seikkan) townships in lower Myanmar. At present, farmers and officials from various regions are invited to visit the farms.

AAE Co joined the mechanized farming process in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area with investment of heavy machinery worth US\$ 20 million. It is necessary to come out cooperation of private sector in respective regions of the whole nation.

A plan is underway to grant reclamation of 500 acres each of educative mechanized farms in Yangon, Bago, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady regions and Nay Pyi Taw, 200 acres in Mon State, 50 acres each in Taninthayi Region, Rakhine, Shan (South) and (North) states and 25 acres each in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Shan State (East). The ministry will provide necessary technological and machinery assistance to them.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko replied to questions on home affairs sector raised by three Hluttaw representatives.

U Ye Myint of Bago Region Constituency No. 4 asked a proposal to **effectively supervise transport and distribution of explosive fireworks**, and the Union minister replied that businessmen import and trade fireworks. Likewise, above-ground and underground destructionists may transport and explode the gunpowder and other explosive materials. Thus, regional orders have been issued officially. Moreover, warnings and orders were issued to take action against those who store and sell fireworks at festivities in the months of Thadingyut and Tazaungmone through dailies, radio and TV before the festivals.

Action was taken against the offenders with six-month imprisonment under Section 188 of the Criminal Law, 7-year imprisonment under Section 285/286 and 10-year imprisonment under Section 3 of the 1908 Explosive Objects Act. Action was taken against 74 persons in 67 cases from 1-4-2011 to 31-12-2011 in regions and states, and 93172 packets of fire crackers, 677 packets of gunpowder and 43124 pieces of fireworks worth K 5263950 were seized.

Those who illegally carrying fireworks including bombs and explosive materials are being searched at border checkpoints and action is being taken against them. He invited the people to join hands with the government conscientiously.

U Tin Maung Win of Mandalay Region Constituency No. 3 asked **as authorized personnel are committing bribery and malpractice of authority whether there is a plan to combat the said behaviors**. The Union minister replied that emphasis is being placed on eradication of bribery and corruption cases among departmental personnel, and deterrent action is being taken against the offenders. Moreover, respective

ministries announced the telephone numbers for complaints against the bribery and corruption cases of departmental personnel.

Penalties were prescribed in provisions of sections 161, 162, 163, 164 and 165 of the Chapter IX of the 1861 Penal Code and section 3 of the Suppression of Corruption Act 1948.

In accord with the announcement No. 13/2007 of the government of the Union of Myanmar dated 18 July 2007, 10 types of crimes including corruption were prescribed as criminal cases of money laundering by exercising the authority under Section 5, subsection (a) and subparagraph (10) of Control of Money Laundering Law 2002.

Myanmar signed the United Nations Convention Against Corruption on 2 December 2005. The enquiry courts are formed by the ministries for respective cases in the executive sector of the State.

To clear out bribery and corruption cases, service personnel are being assisted with welfare tasks. The people on their part are to exactly abide by the existing laws in eradicating the bribery cases.

U Mya Ohn of Kachin State Constituency No. 8 asked **whether there is a plan to designate Phakant Township of Kachin State as drug free zone**. The Union Minister replied that the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control formed in 1976 is taking preventive measures against danger of narcotic drugs in the entire nation. The 15-year drug elimination plan was adopted to decline poppy cultivation and production from 1999-2000 to 2013-2014.

Myitkyina Special Anti-Drug Squad and Bhamo Special Anti-Drug Squad are discharging duty of drug elimination in Kachin State. Likewise, Seikmu anti-drug mobile group, Mawwam anti-drug mobile group and Tamakhan anti-drug mobile group are taking out narcotic drug preventive tasks in Phakant Township.

INGOs give talks on narcotic drugs and provide treatment in Tanai and Phakant townships. NGOs, INGOs and UNODC are joining hands in rehabilitating the drug addicts. Due to easy earning of incomes in various jobs, jade mines and gold mines in Phakant Township has larger density of population and increasing number of drug users. Thus, narcotic drug eradication tasks are being added with momentum there. In Phakant Township, a total of 275 male culprits and 48 female culprits were arrested in 238 cases of heroin, raw opium, opium oil, stimulant tablets and opium related cases in 2011.

Rewards and certificates of honour were presented to outstanding State service personnel and people for their performance in narcotic drug prevention tasks and staff were promoted their ranks. Likewise, the personnel related to the drug cases were taken in deterrent action. Single person, national race, organization and country cannot take drug preventive measures. Under the leadership of the State, all the people are to participate in the drug preventive tasks joining hands with the international community to designate the drug free zone.

U Sai Kyaw Zaw Than of Shan State Constituency No. 2 asked **whether there is a plan to allot adequate fund for maintenance of artifacts and whether there is a plan to re-display royal equipment of successive Nyaungshwe Saophas**. Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin replied that the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library

opens cultural museums and archaeological museums in regions and states and demands the annual funds for maintenance of the ancient cultural objects. Based on values and damages of the artifacts, the funds were allotted for maintenance.

Artistic works like paintings and sculptures are being renovated asking the craftsmen. Craftsmen from Mandalay were sent to Nyaungshwe Museum to repair mosaics and floral sculptures and clean paintings out of the antique and furniture of the museum. Renovation cost was granted in this fiscal year.

Nyaungshwe Palace now opened as Buddhism Museum was opened to the public as Nyaungshwe Palace Archaeological Museum from 1964 in the time of the Revolutionary Council to 1999, Shan Chieftains Museum from 2000 to 2005 and costumes; items, furniture, paintings and documentary photos of Shan chieftains were exhibited. It was opened as Nyaungshwe Cultural Museum beginning 3 March 2005 and then as Buddhism Museum from 8 July, 2007 till now. Now with Inlay becoming major tourist attraction, plans are underway to reopen the museum as Cultural Museum, Nyaungshwe with the exhibition of all the items previously on display in order that globetrotters can learn the history and culture of Nyaungshwe more widely. It will be repaired during 2012-2013 fiscal year and upon completion documents, royal items of successive Shan chieftains and costumes, tradition and cultural items of the nationals of Nyaungshwe region and religious items currently on display will be exhibited in the same fiscal year.

Next, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker informed that the Pyithu Hluttaw has made amendments to Vacant, Fellow and Virgin Land Management Bill ratified by the Amyotha Hluttaw and sent it back to the Amyotha Hluttaw and asked the MPs to enlist if they wish to make discussion.

UKhin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (6), U Soe Myint of Bago Region Constituency No (6) and Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No (4) discussed the amendments to Environment Conservation Bill made by the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw decided to ask its bill committee to reconsider the discussions.

U Win Naung of Yangon Region Constituency No (5) proposed **the Union government to set a suitable year and take whatever actions for actual decline in road accidents rate and casualties caused by road accidents across the nation**.

A MP seconded the proposal and the Hluttaw approved to discuss the proposal inviting the MPs to enlist for discussion if they are interested.

Member of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye read out the analysis report of the bill committee on Union Election Bill. UEC Member U Myint Naing proposed to consider the UEC bill and a representative seconded the proposal. The Hluttaw approved the proposal.

MPs then approved the amendments made to the UEC bill and UEC member U Myint Naing proposed the Hluttaw to pass the UEC bill and a MP seconded the proposal.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker sought the approval of the Hluttaw to pass the UEC bill as amended. No MP raised objection and the Hluttaw approved the proposal.

(See page 9)

Successive governments conferring ...



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham views samples of titles and insignias to be conferred on monks and nuns.—MNA

(from page 16)

Day of Tabauung). In conclusion, he urged responsible persons of the leading committee, work committee and subcommittees to strive for ensuring smooth process of the ceremony and for providing health care services to members of the Sanghas and nuns.

Union Minister Thura U Myint Maung

reported on preparations for successful holding of the ceremony and Union Minister U Thein Nyunt on matters related to accommodation and food services for religious title recipient Sayadaws and nuns.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay submitted the reports on preparatory tasks of the respective subcommittees.

Third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw...

(from page 8)

Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency No(7) proposed to consider the Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Races Affairs Bill and a MP seconded the proposal.

Dr Banya Aung Moe then read out the Republic

of the Union of Myanmar National Races Affairs Bill. The Hluttaw decided to adjourn the further discussion of the bill for a while.

The fourth day third regular session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw came to an end at 4.05 pm. At

today's session, supplements were made to the rights and privileges of financial and legal affairs commission members, donation of 41 books by U Pe Myint was recorded, Union ministers replied to 10 questions, three proposals were made, two bills submitted, one bill discussed and one bill passed.—MNA

Union Commerce Minister receives Japanese guests



Union Commerce Minister U Win Myint receives President of Singapore Business Federation (SBF) Mr Tony Chew and party.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb— Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received Former

Member of the House of Councilors of Japan & Senior Advisor of the Parliamentary

League for the Friendship between Myanmar and Japan Mr Hideo Watanabe and party

67th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Objectives

- * To strictly uphold the objectives namely non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
- * To play the leading role in the national politics by the Tatmadaw with Union Spirit, the true patriotism
- * To safeguard the constitution, the main duty of the Tatmadaw in building up a modern, developed, new democratic nation
- * To build strong, competent, a modern, patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the nation

Deputy Minister for Information U Soe Win presented reports on preparations for undertaking documentary and information tasks in time, Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein on smooth transport works, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Ohn Khin on preparations for giving health care services, member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Than Htay on smooth process for offering rice to members of the Sangha and nuns, member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myo Thant on providing food service and Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun on preparations for security measures.

The commander, the Union Minister for

Religious Affairs and the Union Minister at the President Office gave supplementary reports on security, giving meal service, invitation and rice offering tasks.

After that, the Vice-President reviewed the reports on security, invitation and health matters and instructed them to implement the work plans for successfully holding the ceremony, systematically supervise tasks of the respective subcommittees and coordinate tasks among subcommittees in harmony.

After the ceremony, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and guests viewed samples for religious titles to be conferred on recipient Sayadaws and nuns.—MNA

Union FM holds talks with Deputy PM of Luxembourg



Union Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin receives Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Jean Asselborn of Luxembourg and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb— Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin held talks with a delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister of Luxembourg and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Jean Asselborn at

his ministry here today.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters related to promotion of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on the issue.—MNA

at the ministry here on 14 February. The meeting focused on the potential trade and investment between the two countries, agriculture export with value-added, and Official Development Assistance (ODA) promoted

program for economic development by Japan.

In meeting with a 13-member delegation group led by Chairman of Singapore Business Federation (SBF) Mr Tony Chew, the Union Minister held a discussion

on making potential investment to improve trade sector between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Dr Pwint Hsan and officials.

MNA

EP-2 to review current electric supply system

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Myanma Electric Power Enterprise signed an MoU with China Three Gorges Corporation and HydroChina Kunming Engineering Cooperation for formulating Myanmar electricity plan yesterday evening as the Ministry of Electric Power No (2) is planning to upgrade Myanmar's electricity system from 230 KVA to 500 KVA to reduce voltage irregularity.

Union Minister for Electric Power No (2) U Khin Maung Soe, EP-1 Deputy Minister U Myint Zaw, EP-2 Deputy Minister U Aung Than Oo, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Than, Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo from Attorney-General Office of the Union, departmental heads, and officials of Chinese corporations.

The minister said the project planning will be completed within one year and surveys and on-job

trainings will be conducted for young Myanmar engineers.

The project planning process will study and review current electricity supply systems in detail.

Vice-President Mr Bi Yaxiong of China Three Gorges Corporation spoke words of thanks.

Managing-Director of MEPE U Khin Maung Zaw and Mr Bi Yaxiong signed and exchanged the Memorandum of Understanding.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Int'l Relations Committee Chairman, Norwegian businessmen hold talks



Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo receives Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs Katja Christina Nordgaard.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — Accompanied by Ambassador of Norway to Myanmar Mrs Katja Christina Nordgaard, a business delegation from Norway called on Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo at Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Building here today.

During the meeting, Mrs Katja Christina Nordgaard discussed matters related to opportunities for Norwegian businesses to invest in the private sector in Myanmar.

U Hla Myint Oo welcomed the offer, saying that Myanmar has been making endeavours for economic development of the country in accordance with the democratic reforms since 2011 when the Hluttaws were

formed.

The Hluttaws are responsible for legislation and are making efforts for enacting laws including the investment law, he added.

The delegation comprises businessmen from Statoil company which has invested in oil and natural gas exploration in Norway and Telenor company, a communication company.

Also present at the meeting were Secretary of the Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Ko Ko Tun, Secretary of Economic and Trade Development Committee U Khin Maung Oo and members of the committee U Aung San Oo and U Khin Maung Shwe. —MNA

Jobs market shows signs of stabilisation

LONDON, 15 Feb—The number of Britons out of work inched down in December from the 17-year high hit in November as employment rose and firms offered more jobs.

The stabilisation in the labour market is yet another sign that Britain may have avoided a renewed slump despite an economic contraction at the end of 2011 and provides some relief for the government, which is under pressure to ease its tough austerity programme to boost the economy.

However, in a reminder that higher unemployment was still set to weigh on public finances, the number of those claiming benefit rose by 6,900 in January to 1.604 million - the highest level since January 2010, data from the Office for National Statistics showed on Wednesday. The number of people without a job on the wider ILO measure stood at 2.671 million in the three months to December,



A man walks past a shop advertising job vacancies in Leicester, central England on 16 November, 2011. —INTERNET

down from the 17-year high of 2.685 million in the three months to November. However, this was still 48,000 higher than in the July-September period.—Reuters

Political parties apply to UEC

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Political parties have been applying for setting up political party. A 18-member group including U Salai Aung Min Hlaing applied to the Union Election Commission for setting up of Asho Chin National Party

today. Regarding their application, the Union Election Commission (UEC) has made coordination with respective ministries in order that they are scrutinized in accord with Political Parties Registration Law's section Nos. 4 and 6.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Labour U Myint Thein being welcomed by DPRK Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Kim Sok Chol at reception to mark 70th birthday of National Leader of Democratic People's Republic of Korea Mr Kim Jong Il held at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on 15 February.—MNA

Myanmar, UNICEF sign Country Programme Action Plan



A ceremony to sign Country Programme Action Plan in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — As part of cooperation between Myanmar and UNICEF, Country Programme Action Plan was signed at Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development here today.

The plan was signed by Deputy Minister for NPED Dr Kan Zaw and Resident Representative of UNICEF Mr Remesh Shrestha.

According to the plan, UNICEF and ministries concerned will cooperate in

growth of children, improvement of drinking water sources, improvement of sanitation in environment and personnel hygiene, ensuring equal rights for primary education enrolment for male and female, dissemination knowledge on prevention and treatment of HIV, AIDS and on protection of child rights, monitoring and evaluation.

The signing ceremony was also attended by deputy ministers of the ministries concerned and departmental officials.—MNA

Gas plant investment signals confidence in New Zealand economy

WELLINGTON, 15 Feb—The investment of 70 million NZ dollars (\$8.65 million US dollars) in a new gas plant to supply a New Zealand Steel plant is a strong sign of confidence in the New Zealand economy, Economic Development Minister Steven Joyce said on Wednesday.

Joyce, who attended a ground-breaking ceremony for the BOC gas facility at New Zealand Steel's site at Glenbrook, just south of Auckland, said the construction would create 120 jobs over two years.

"The new contract for BOC Gases to build a plant to supply air gases to New Zealand Steel for at least another 20 years is

excellent news," Joyce said in a statement.

"It shows the confidence the companies have in investing in our economy and recognizes the importance of having a strong manufacturing industry in New Zealand. The 120 new jobs are clear evidence that nothing creates sustainable employment more than business confidence and growth."

Once operating in early 2014, the new plant would enhance reliability of supply to the steel plant and allow increased quantities of liquid oxygen, nitrogen and argon to the broader New Zealand air gases market that could be used in hospitals, food production and metal fabrication.—Xinhua



Thousands of people create a human chain along the Elbe river in front of the Dresden historical city centre, eastern Germany, to protest against a neo-Nazi "funeral march" commemorating the 67th anniversary of the allied bombings during World War II.—INTERNET

Britain again raises the pitch for Typhoon for fighter deal

BANGALORE, 15 Feb— Britain today sought to raise the pitch for Eurofighter Typhoon, positioning it as the 'strongest offer', two weeks after it lost out to French-made Rafale in the multi-billion contract for the supply of 126 Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) to India. 'We feel that the Typhoon is the strongest offer...obviously, otherwise we wouldn't be hoping that's the competitive bid. Obviously, there are still some considerations that

need to be made', UK Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Jeremy Browne, told reporters in reply to questions. Eurofighter Typhoon is made by EADS and financed by the four-nation consortium of Britain, Germany, Spain and Italy. He said Britain feels that Typhoon is the 'best technology for India and also offers the right mix of technology transfer and it's the best operationally and it's the best in technology terms'.—Internet

India interested in building Med-Red Sea railway in Israel

NEW DELHI, 15 Feb—India has expressed deep interest in participating in building a railway between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea coasts in Israel, reported local media on Tuesday. Indian Urban Development Minister Kamal Nath told Israeli officials in Jerusalem that "once this project is formed and the road map is clear, Indian companies will evaluate their participation", according to Press Trust of India. The proposed rail link, which was unanimously approved by the Israeli cabinet last week, offers a new Asia-Europe trade route that will compete with the Suez Canal.—Xinhua

US, N Korea to hold nuclear-related talks next week

WASHINGTON, 15 Feb— US and North Korean officials will meet in Beijing next week for talks Washington hopes may clarify whether Pyongyang's new leadership is willing to curb its nuclear programmes, the State Department said on Monday. However, Korea analysts said they expected little progress on the nuclear issue during the 23 February talks between US Ambassador Glyn Davies and North Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan. Pyongyang agreed to abandon its nuclear programmes under a September 2005 aid-for-denuclearization agreement hammered out in so-

called six-party talks among North and South Korea, China, Japan, Russia and the United States. Since then, however, it has twice conducted nuclear tests and it has disclosed the existence of a uranium enrichment programme, giving it a second path to obtaining fissile material for bombs in addition to its long-standing plutonium programme. MNA/Reuters



An Olympic countdown clock in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, showing 753 days left before the event. Sochi will host the 2014 Winter Olympic Games, which are scheduled to start on 7 Feb, 2014.—INTERNET



Workers at the Rolls-Royce's wind tunnel test facilities give a tour for the media in Singapore, on 13 Feb, 2012. Rolls-Royce on Monday officially opened its largest facilities in Asia at Seletar Aerospace Park in Singapore. Constructed on a 154,000 square metre site, Rolls-Royce Seletar Campus includes an Assembly and Test Unit, a Wide Chord Fan Blade manufacturing facility and Advanced Technology Centre, and a Regional Training Centre. It is the first of its kind to bring advanced aerospace high-value manufacturing technology to Singapore. XINHUA

Experts say Iranians' Internet access blocked temporarily

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 Feb—Most computer users in Iran were blocked from accessing email, social networking and other services in recent days, US-based Internet experts said on Monday, raising fears the government is extending the reach of its surveillance on ordinary citizens. Internet service providers presumed to be acting at the Iranian government's behest began blocking the most common form of secure connections on Friday, according to the outside experts and Iranian bloggers. Traffic rebounded to normal levels on Monday. The cutoff apparently affected all encrypted international websites outside of Iran that depend on the Secure Sockets Layer protocol, which display addresses beginning with https, according to Earl Zmijewski of Renesys, a US company that tracks Internet traffic worldwide. Google, which uses SSL for its Gmail service, reported that traffic from Iran to its email system fell precipitously. Gmail use, which typically drops by about 80 percent at night, dropped by roughly 95 percent Friday and remained that low during daylight hours through the weekend before recovering Monday, according to Google's publicly posted access statistics.— MNA/Reuters

Israeli lawsuit: Radiation caused cancer

DIMONA, 15 Feb—Former workers at an Israeli nuclear reactor suffered cancer and other diseases caused by exposure to radiation while searching for uranium ore, a lawsuit says. The class-action suit, in Petah Tikva District Court, says 44 former employees of Negev Nuclear Research Centre in Dimona had been sent to search for uranium ore across Israel without the necessary protection, Haaretz reported. The workers had been involved in a search for uranium in weeklong stints and were equipped only with goggles and masks that did not protect them from radiation, the lawsuit said. Government and reactor officials said if the former workers had been exposed to radiation it was at levels equal to what they would have been exposed to in everyday life, Haaretz reported. The suit also names family members of the former workers as plaintiffs.—Internet

New Trade Centre security to be high-tech

NEW YORK, 15 Feb—Officials with New York's Port Authority said they plan to deploy military-level technology to protect the new World Trade Centre once it's complete. The high-tech system would use thousands of "intelligent" cameras and computer processors that can recognize people's faces and retinas and then compare the facial information with databases such as terrorist watch lists, sources told the New York Post in a story published Monday. Security measures at the 16-acre site, scheduled to be completed next year, include the cameras, along with infrared and heat sensors that can be modified to include explosive and radiation detection, the officials said. The Port Authority also is authorizing the use of "artificial intelligence" computers that can track the behavior of people to determine how to spot "unusual movements" that can be flagged, the Post said. Behavioural Recognition Systems will set up most of the system, estimated to cost tens of millions of dollars. While not speaking specifically about the World Trade Centre system, John Frazzini, president of the Houston-based Defence Department contractor, said the system doesn't retain personal information and no security monitors are installed in private areas such as restrooms. The Twin Towers of the old World Trade Centre were destroyed in the 11 Sept, 2001, terror attacks.—Internet



A young couple buy roses on the Central Avenue in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 14 Feb, 2012. Many Chinese would like to buy roses to experience a romantic Valentine's Day.—XINHUA

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Dated: 16 February, 2012.



A London bus passes Battersea Power station in London on 8 March, 2011.—INTERNET

Chimney-free Battersea “worth extra £470 million”

LONDON, 15 Feb—London’s decaying Battersea Power Station site would be worth an extra 470 million pounds to a developer who could demolish the protected landmark building itself, according to calculations done for Reuters by property consultancy EC Harris.

The extra cash would boost the viability of a stalled scheme central to the creation of 25,000 jobs in the wider area as Britain’s economic outlook darkens.

The 38-acre (15-hectare) site, which has seen repeated failed redevelopment attempts in the three decades since the power station closed, goes on sale again next month after the collapse in December of the latest scheme - a 5.5 billion pound plan for homes and offices based around the derelict riverside edifice.

That plan, by Irish developer Treasury Holdings, was approved by local government authority Wandsworth council, and included 3,611 homes as well as shops and offices on the site and inside the shell of the building itself.—Reuters

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for Federal-Mogul Friction Products Limited
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
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Dated: 16 February 2012

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GREAT MOTION VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GREAT MOTION VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.2.2012 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 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.

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Japan planned review of tsunami risk, but too late

TOKYO, 15 Feb—Four days before a tsunami devastated a Japanese nuclear plant, its operator promised a fuller assessment of the risk of such a disaster—but not for seven months.

The disclosure in a three-page briefing paper obtained by The Associated Press



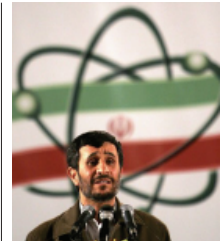
In this 11 March, 2011 file photo released by Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO), tsunami waves gush into a complex near the Unit 4 reactor at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex in Okuma town, Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan.—INTERNET

raises questions about whether the utility and regulators were too complacent about studies that suggested a tsunami could overwhelm the defences at the 40-year-old Fukushima Dai-ichi plant.

It also highlights Japan’s slow pace of decision-making on an issue that experts had been warning about for at least 20 months.

“If they had made the decision earlier, then they could have been prepared on 11 March,” said Hideyuki Hirakawa, an Osaka University expert on governance and the sciences. “There is absolutely nothing you can do in four days.”

On 11 March, 2011, a 9.0-magnitude offshore earthquake triggered a tsunami that killed about 19,000 people along Japan’s northeastern coast.—Internet



In this 9 April, 2007 file photo, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks at a ceremony in Iran’s nuclear enrichment facility in Natanz, 300 kilometres 186 (miles) south of capital Teheran, Iran.—INTERNET

Iran, Europeans discuss sanctions

TEHRAN, 15 Feb—Iran’s semiofficial Mehr news agency says six European ambassadors are meeting Iranian officials to discuss the European Union sanctions against Teheran over its nuclear programme.

Mehr says envoys from Italy, Spain, France, Greece, Portugal and Netherlands were invited to Iran’s Foreign Ministry on Wednesday.

The report says the talks are focused on EU sanctions, which include a boycott of new oil contracts with Iran.

Iran has strongly denounced the EU action.

Mehr didn’t provide further details. The United States and its allies accuse Iran of seeking nuclear weapons, a charge Teheran denies.—Internet

Boy genius’s book reveals life in college at age eight

LOS ANGELES, 15 Feb—The one thing 14-year-old Moshe Kai Cavalin dislikes is being called a genius.

All he did, after all, was enroll in college at age 8 and earn his first of two Associate of Arts degrees from East Los Angeles Community College at age 9, graduating with a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Now, at 14, he’s poised to graduate from UCLA this year. He’s also just published an English edition of his first

book, “We Can Do.”

The 100-page guideline explains how other young people can accomplish what Cavalin did through such simple acts as keeping themselves focused and approaching everything with total commitment. He’s hoping it will show people there’s no genius involved, just hard work.

“That’s always the question that bothers me,” Cavalin, who turned 14 on Valentine’s Day, says when

the G-word is raised. “People need to know you don’t really need to be a genius. You just have to work hard and you can accomplish anything.”

And maybe cut out some of the TV.

Although he’s a big fan of Jackie Chan movies, Cavalin says he limits his television time to four hours a week. Not that he lacks for recreational activities or feels that his parents pressured him into studying constantly.

Internet



In this 2 May, 2008 file photo, Moshe Kai Cavalin, 10, strikes a martial arts position as he poses for photos at his home studio in Downey, Calif.—INTERNET



A helicopter is seen during the Cobra Gold 2012 bilateral Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX) at Baan Muangkom, Lopburi Province, which is located about 150 kilometres north of Bangkok, capital of Thailand, on 15 Feb, 2012.—XINHUA

Ten killed, 24 injured in bus-truck collision in Thailand

BANGKOK, 15 Feb—Ten people were killed and 24 others were injured in a bus-truck collision in northeast Thailand early Wednesday, police said.

The passenger bus, en route from the capital Bangkok to Si Sa Ket Province, crashed head-on with an 18-wheel truck at around 03:45 am local time in Surin Province, the Bangkok Post quoted local police as saying. The two drivers were among the dead. The injured people, seven in critical condition, were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. The cause of the accident is still under investigation.—Xinhua

Pekingese named Malachy wins prestigious US dog show

A placid Pekingese trotted to victory on Tuesday at the 136th Westminster Kennel Club dog show, beating a Dalmatian, a German Shepherd, a Dachshund and three other canines to become the first of his breed to win the prestigious annual event since 1990.

Malachy, a four-year-old dog formally known as Ch Palacegarden Malachy, charmed the packed Madison Square Garden arena crowd his way to his 115th best-in-show title. Handler David Fitzpatrick said the little dog would now retire to the life of a house pet, saying "he won't be doing commercials, he's been working hard enough for the past two years."



Owner David Fitzpatrick holds Malachy, a Pekingese, as co-owner Iris Love kisses Malachy after he won Best In Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York's Madison Square Garden on 14 Feb, 2012.

Street cleaner finds Rolex in drain

An English street cleaner who found an 18-carat Rolex Oyster Daytona watch in a drain turned it over to police after getting a jeweler to assess its value.

The watch's estimated value is 21,000 pounds (\$32,000). This Is Total

Essex reported. If no one claims it in the next month, it will become the property of the man who found it. Police said the watch has not been reported missing. "This was a highly unusual find, and it's hard to imagine how something so valuable has

not been reported lost or stolen by its owner," said Police Constable Calley Mackay, a specialist in stolen property in Southend Police. "It is possible, seeing as the drain was near Leigh train station, that the watch was dropped by a commuter."

Man allegedly built dungeon in old house

A Canadian man was formally charged on Tuesday with breaking into an abandoned farmhouse near Toronto and installing a dungeon there.

Robert Edwin White, 44, of Oshawa, Ontario, was being held pending a bail hearing on Wednesday, *The Globe and Mail* of Toronto reported. He was charged with breaking and

entering with intent to commit a crime.

Contractors discovered the dungeon, or confinement room, in the basement of the old farmhouse in November, about a year after the building was last inspected. It is on a property that Transport Canada plans to develop into an airport.

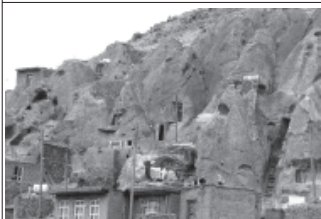
Officials in Pickering, a suburb north of Toronto, had been trying to find someplace to move the farmhouse, which was considered historic. The house burned down in January in a fire that is considered suspicious.

Girl holds sign for stealing lesson

A Memphis family said they are hoping a 13-year-old girl learned a lesson about stealing after being made to stand at the side of a road with a sign.

Lauren Scales, the girl's aunt, said Natia Wade's mother made her stand at the intersection of Poplar and Highland on 12 February holding a sign reading "I steal from my family," WPTV-TV, Memphis, reported on Tuesday.

"My niece for the past couple of years, quite honestly has been kind of taking things. It hasn't been anything big, but it never really has to be," Scales said. She said the girl's mother finally had enough when Wade stole her mom's debit card to reactive her cellphone, which had been cut off as a punishment.



Kandovan village, located in Iran's East Azerbaijan Province, is quaint and mysterious. What makes Kandovan village so unique is due to cave or troglodyte dwellings. Some of its houses are at least 700 years old and are still inhabited.

News Album



Oprah Winfrey

Oprah issues apology for TV remark

LONDON, 15 Feb — International talk show queen Oprah Winfrey has issued an apology for breaking TV ratings rules and urging fans to watch her "Oprah's Next Chapter" show instead of Grammy Awards.

Contactmusic.com, the 58-year-old invited followers to turn off music's big night and switch to her network, OWN, by on micro-blogging site twitter.

"Everyone who can please turn to OWN, especially if u have a Nielsen box (sic). Commercial Grammy people...you can turn to Own," she tweeted.

But ratings compilers at Nielsen organization demanded Winfrey to remove her tweet and her posts were later removed.

Internet

The late pop diva Whitney Houston at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills on 12 Feb, 2011.

INTERNET

Victoria names handbag after daughter

LONDON, 15 Feb — Singer-turned-fashion designer Victoria Beckham has named a handbag collection after her daughter Harper Seven. The 37-year-old showcased her new autumn-winter collection at New York Fashion Week and revealed that she had named a bag after her seven month old daughter, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

"It's all about construction and quality. The hardware and military influence is coming from the handbags. I am so excited about the new Harper bag. I am designing what I want myself. And I can't wait to wear it," said Victoria.

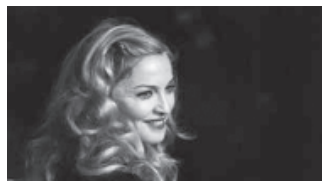
Victoria's collection also includes feminine, fitted shapes, finished with military detail and biker boots, which were partly influenced by her husband.

"My daily life is my inspiration. I took the beanie hats from David's wardrobe and there are some boyfriend jackets that are all him...It looks so cool," she said.—Internet



Singer-turned-fashion designer Victoria Beckham—INTERNET

Madonna's necklace up for grabs



Pop diva Madonna

LONDON, 15 Feb — Pop diva Madonna is giving her fans the chance to own the

necklace she wears in the promo for new single "Give Me All Your Lovin".

The 53-year-old donned the Swarovski Montaigne accessory in the video, and now bosses of the jewellery brand have teamed up with the pop star to offer it as a prize in an online competition, reports contactmusic.com. Hopeful fans need to log on to their Facebook page account and connect with Madonna and Swarovski before entering their details for the raffie.

The lucky winner will be announced next month.—Internet

Whitney Houston climbs pop charts again after death

LOS ANGELES, 15 Feb — Whitney Houston's songs were rocketing up the pop charts Tuesday, in some cases a quarter-century after their initial release, as fans sought to recapture the magic of the diva's iconic voice in the wake of her death.

Amazon.com said on its website that seven of the top 10 bestselling music collections were recordings from Houston, while her "Greatest Hits" album was the top seller on iTunes.



Meanwhile, British music tracker Official Charts said that sales from Sunday through to midnight on Monday were so brisk that seven of Houston's recordings were "heading for the Top 40."—Internet



Tony Bennett sings "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" during a sound check for a Valentine's Day benefit concert in the Venetian Room at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, on 14 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET

Rita Wilson records first solo CD

NEW YORK, 15 Feb — The first solo album of American actress, producer and writer Rita Wilson is set for release this spring, Decca Records announced.

The "Sleepless in Seattle" cast member's 14-track CD "AM/FM" will go on sale on 8 May, the label said. Wilson, who is the wife of double Oscar winner Tom Hanks, produced the film "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" and the movie musical Mamma "Mia!" She also starred in the Broadway musical "Chicago."

For her first solo album, she chose songs "that resonated emotionally with her, that told a story and evoked the era of the '60s and '70s which sparked her singing desires," her label said in a news release.

"That time period was hugely influential on me as a kid and as a teenager," she

said in a statement. "I'd spend hours and hours lying on my bed, holding up the albums, reading the liner notes, and learning all the words to these songs that expressed what I was feeling or fantasizing about."—Internet



Actors Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson attend the Clive Davis pre-Grammy party salute to Richard Branson in Beverly Hills, California on 11 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET

Tony Bennett honoured on Valentine's Day in SF

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 Feb — More than 1,000 people crammed into San Francisco's City Hall on Valentine's Day to honour singer Tony Bennett and the 50th Anniversary of his famous song, "I Left My Heart in San Francisco."

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reports that a symphony, children's chorus and the Gay Men's Chorus all sang the famous song to Bennett during a ceremony he attended on Tuesday.

The tune had its first public performance in December 1961 in the Venetian Room of the Fairmont Hotel, where Bennett was scheduled to sing later Tuesday night.

Bennett's version of the song was being played throughout the city on radio and in public performances at Union Square in honor of the holiday.

The song has become a part of San Francisco culture, and is played after every home victory for the Giants.—Internet

Pioneering Premier League coverage to take off

LONDON, 15 Feb—Coverage of Barclays Premier League matches is about to enter a new era as live matches become available to watch on board flights. IMG Media, who currently produce a 24-hour Premier League channel for overseas broadcasters, has teamed up with Panasonic to launch the first-ever live global premium 24-hour sports channel—SPORT 24—for airline passengers from this week. The Barclays Premier League is one of the competitions which will be broadcast via satellite to specially-equipped Gulf Air planes for the pioneering service.

And the channel will also be available to cruise liners from 1st March with Norwegian Cruise Liners (NCL) being the first operator to broadcast SPORT 24 on selected vessels. Other live events which will be available through Panasonic's eXTV service include the 2012 Summer Olympic Games, the Bundesliga, The Masters, The US Open, The Open Championship and the Ryder Cup, Formula 1, Roland Garros, The Wimbledon



Manchester United are the current Barclays Premier League champions.—INTERNET

Championships and the Australian Open.

Discussions with other interested airlines are ongoing, and Gulf Air, Bahrain's national airline, is initially offering Sport 24 on its 'Sky Hub'—currently available on A330 aircraft that fly long-haul and on some intra-Gulf routes including its destinations to Europe, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Jeddah, Manila, Lahore and Islamabad. Richard Wise, Senior Vice President, IMG Media, said: "Sport 24 will revolutionise the way passengers watch live sports on Airlines and Cruise Ships.—Internet

FC Barcelona's Alexis Sanchez celebrates a goal against Bayer Leverkusen during their Champions League soccer match in Leverkusen on 14 Feb, 2012. INTERNET



Sanchez double and Messi magic delights Barca

LEVERKUSEN, 15 Feb—Two goals by Alexis Sanchez—his first in the Champions League—led Barcelona to a 3-1 first-leg win at Bayer Leverkusen on Tuesday to put the holders in the driving seat in their round of 16 tie. Barca, who are now unbeaten in 13 Champions League games and have scored in 28 consecutive matches in the competition, are trying to lift the trophy for the third time in four years.

While Chile forward Alexis struck twice, it was Lionel Messi who once again stole the show with another sublime exhibition of ball skills capped by a late third goal from the World Player of the Year. "We are very satisfied with the result because scoring three goals away is very important," said Barca coach Pep Guardiola. The visitors grabbed the lead in the 41st minute after a brilliant left-footed flick by Messi sent Alexis racing through on goal.

Michal Kadlec equalized in the 52nd minute but the 23-year-old Chilean made it 2-1 three minutes later. Messi completed the win, starting an 88th-minute move that also involved Dani Alves and finishing it with a volley at the far post as Barca avenged their 2001 defeat by Leverkusen, the last German club to beat them.

Asked whether he was planning to rest Messi, who has now scored a remarkable 25 goals in his last 24 Champions League matches, Guardiola replied: "Why? People want to see players like him. His life is football. He doesn't care. He's just happy when he plays. For us it's very important when he plays.—Internet

Zambia soars in FIFA rankings; Germany up to No 2

ZURICH, 15 Feb—Zambia has soared in the FIFA rankings after winning the African Cup of Nations, and Germany climbed to second behind World Cup winner and European champion Spain. Zambia rises 28 places to No 43, becoming the continent's fourth-ranked nation after starting the African Cup in 16th place. Ivory Coast, which lost Sunday's final in a penalty shootout, is the highest African nation at No 15.

Egypt plummeted 25 places to No 61. The three-time defending African champions failed to qualify for the tournament. Germany moved up one, dropping the Netherlands to third. South American champion Uruguay is fourth, followed by manager-less England. Portugal rises to No 6, dropping Brazil to seventh. Denmark relegates Argentina a spot to No 11.—Internet

Lin sanity breaks heart of Raptors on Valentine's Day

TORONTO, 15 Feb—The legend of Jeremy Lin continued as he hit a game-winning three-pointer with 0.5 second left to lead the Knicks to a 90-87 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday night. The victory marked the sixth consecutive victory for the 14-15 Knicks and also saw the return of forward/center Amar'e Stoudemire who came back after a four-game absence.

In front of a season-high crowd of 20,092 fans, Lin did not disappoint them, scoring 27 points and a career-high 11 assists. In total, he played a game-high of 43 minutes and 10 seconds, the second

Jeremy Lin (L) of New York Knicks controls the ball during the NBA game against Toronto Raptors at Air Canada Centre in Toronto, Canada, on 14 Feb, 2012. Knicks won 90-87.—XINHUA



most in his young career. Lin started the game slowly, scoring his first two points almost eight minutes into the opening frame. His struggles continued into the third quarter as he struggled on both ends of the floor.

In the first three quarters, Lin allowed Raptors point

guard Jose Calderon to score 25 points on 11 of 15 field goals. Lin on the other hand had 15 points on a less efficient six of 15 shooting along with six turnovers. Once the fourth quarter started, Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni switched to a more defensive line-up, holding the Raptors to only 12 points on five of 15 shooting in the final frame. The most noticeable substitution was that of Iman Shumpert, who was assigned to defend Calderon and kept him off the score sheet for the entire quarter.—Xinhua

Arsenal star Henry hoping to go out with a bang

LONDON, 15 Feb—Thierry Henry will be looking to give the club he loves a farewell gift as he makes his final appearance for Arsenal against AC Milan in the Champions League on Wednesday. Henry's second spell at the North Londoners is set to come to an end on Thursday when he will return to the New York Red Bulls in Major League Soccer.

And having bowed out of his Premier League commitments on Saturday with a vital winning goal at Sunderland, Henry will be

hoping to leave an equally lasting impression at the San Siro. These two sides meet at this stage of the competition for the second time in four years.

Back in 2008/09 Milan came away from the Emirates with a goalless draw but two goals in the final six minutes in Italy from Cesc Fabregas and Emmanuel Adebayor saw Arsenal triumph 2-0 on aggregate.

That was the start of a miserable run for the rossoneri who were also knocked out at the second round stage by

English opposition in the next two years with Manchester United and Tottenham both winning at the San Siro as well.

Until that juncture Milan had never lost at home to an English side but now they will be looking to end this run of three successive reverses. And they will have to keep an eye on Henry who at 34 proved during his six-week spell with Arsenal that he can still cut it at the top level, even though he was mostly used as a substitute.

INTERNET



Thierry Henry, will be looking to give the club he loves a farewell gift as he makes his final appearance for Arsenal against AC Milan in the Champions League on Wednesday. INTERNET

Clijsters withdraws from Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, 15 Feb—Kim Clijsters announced on Tuesday that she has withdrawn from next month's BNP Paribas Open because of an injury to her left ankle. Clijsters said in a statement that she is disappointed she won't be playing in the tournament, saying she has great memories of Indian Wells.

The Belgian plans to retire at the end of the season. Clijsters has already retired once—in 2007—but was tempted back in 2009 and has since won three Grand Slam titles.

She won the Australian Open a year ago but the remainder of the season was marred by shoulder, wrist and abdominal injuries. A twisted ankle almost curtailed the defense of her Australian Open title last month. Clijsters lost to eventual champion Victoria Azarenka.—Internet



Kim Clijsters

A late start for Adam Scott; a snub for Mike Weir

LOS ANGELES, 15 Feb—Adam Scott was on the range at Riviera on Tuesday and had every reason to feel like a stranger. He is the only player from the top 10 in the world who has yet to play a tournament this year. "I may have to introduce myself to a fair bit of people," Scott said. Waiting until the Northern Trust Open to begin his 2012 season was only partially by design. Scott had planned to be at Kapalua for the PGA Tour opener, but he had his tonsils taken out in December. He said the recovery time for an adult is about three weeks.

Scott said he had tonsillitis at least five times a year for the last couple of seasons, and when it happened at the Deutsche Bank Championships—he was tied for the lead through 36 holes—that was the last straw. "It was the first time I

had it during a tournament," he said. "I figured if I had it during a major, it would be one less chance of getting one." The three-month break was the longest of his career, and it was the first time in 10 years Scott has spent so much time at home in Australia. It allowed him to get his mind off golf, and it made him eager to return.

"I'm really ready to play, and that's important, too," Scott said. "I've been starved of tournament golf at the moment." The majors were also behind his late start to the year.—Internet



Adam Scott

Djokovic awarded Serbia's top honour from president

BELGRADE, 15 Feb—Novak Djokovic has been awarded the top state honour in Serbia. President Boris Tadic has decorated the tennis great with the Karadjordjeva Star Medal, the highest honour in the Balkan country.

Tadic said on Tuesday Djokovic deserves the medal for "special merits in representing Serbia." Djokovic was the world's top-ranked player, and winner of the last three Grand Slams. Djokovic will formally receive the medal at a ceremony on Wednesday marking Serbia's statehood day.—Internet



Novak Djokovic

Soldiers find, detonate car bomb in north Nigeria

MAIDUGURI, (Nigeria), 15 Feb—Authorities say soldiers have found and safely detonated a car bomb in a northeast Nigeria city that's the spiritual home to a radical Islamist sect.

Military spokesman Col Victor Ebhaleme told journalists Wednesday that soldiers discovered the car that morning in the city of Maiduguri in a neighbourhood that has seen attacks by the sect known as Boko Haram.

blamed for killing at least 286 people so far this year, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 185 people died in the sect's coordinated assault in January on Kano, the largest city of Nigeria's north.

On Tuesday, a police anti-bomb squad member died in the city of Kaduna after an explosive detonated inside a plastic bag he was examining. No one has claimed responsibility for that attack.

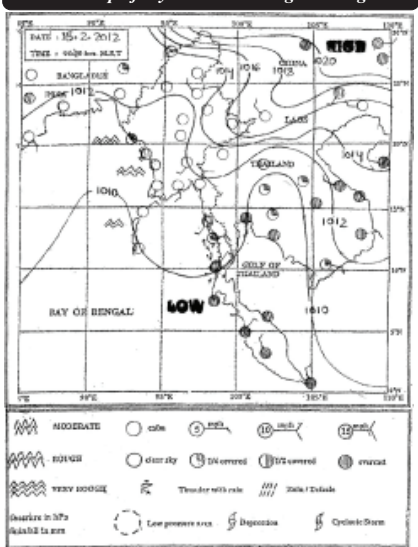
Boko Haram is

Internet



Job seekers view the employment information at a job fair in Xining, capital of northwest China's Qinghai Province, 15 Feb, 2012. Over 300 enterprises provide nearly 10,000 job opportunities at the job fair.—XINHUA

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 16th February, 2012

Sl. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	30/86	14/57	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	60%
2	Kayah	32/90	07/45	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayin	38/100	15/59	Partly Cloudy	
4	Chin	22/72	10/50	Partly Cloudy	
5	Upper Sgawng	30/86	13/55	Partly Cloudy	
6	Lower Sgawng	34/93	16/61	Generally fair weather	
7	Taintharyi	36/97	21/70	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	60%
8	Bago	36/97	17/63	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	36/97	16/61	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	34/93	16/61	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	38/100	18/64	Partly Cloudy	
12	Yangon	38/100	18/64	Generally fair weather	
13	Rakhine	30/86	16/61	Generally fair weather	
14	Southern Shan	29/84	11/52	Generally fair weather	
15	Northern Shan	30/86	07/45	Generally fair weather	
16	Eastern Shan	32/90	12/54	Generally fair weather	
17	Ayeyawady	35/95	19/66	Generally fair weather	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	38/100	15/59	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	38/100	18/64	Generally fair weather	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	34/93	16/61	Generally fair weather	

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea, South and West Central Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the Northern Myanmar areas.



A visitor looks into the Boeing 787 Dreamliner during the second day of the Singapore Airshow in Singapore, 15 Feb, 2012.—XINHUA

Fukushima weighs heavy at Berlin film showcase

TOKYO, 15 Feb—The Fukushima nuclear disaster has come under the spotlight at Berlin's film festival with three films exploring its impact on Japanese society less than a year on. The 11-day festival, which prides itself on its generally edgier and more politically-overt line-up over other film showcases, was perhaps a fitting backdrop for the documentaries. "I'm more than happy to be here because the



Screen shot from the documentary film *Nuclear Nation* by Japanese director Funahashi Atsushi, presented at the International Film Festival Berlinale in the Forum section.—INTERNET

Berlinale has got a long history of showing all those political, socially conscious films," Atsushi Funahashi, director of "Nuclear Nation", told AFP. He said that although he was sensitised to the atomic question because his family had been affected by the 1945 Allied atomic bombing of Hiroshima, he was unsure at first how to tackle Fukushima.

"First of all, I didn't know what to do as a film-maker but I knew I had to do something," he said, adding one of his motives had been the difference in data from international and Japanese officials.

He focuses on the exile of residents of Futaba, where the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant was based, to an abandoned high school 250 kilometres (155 miles) away.

The story homes in on a mayor whose town no longer exists as he tries to keep the community together.

"No Man's Zone" by Toshi Fujiwara journeys inside a 20-kilometre area which was evacuated after the disaster, as well as surrounding areas, to talk to "normal" people about how their lives were affected.—Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(16-2-12 09:30 am ~ 17-2-12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

- * News
- * Amazing Wooden Sculpture Exhibition & Contest
- * News
- * Music Programme
- * News
- * Bagan: The Land of Pagoda
- * News
- * Youth & Technology (Chin Twin Technology Training School)
- * Myanmar Traditional Festivals in the Month of Tabodwe
- * News
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * National Races from Shan State "Gon Shan and Li Shan"
- * National Expo & Car Show (2012)
- * News
- * On the LEDO Road (Part-1)
- * Myanmar Movies
- ** "Longing For Mother"

MYANMAR TV

(16-2-2012) (Thursday)

- 7:25 am
- 1. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:50 am
- 2. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:00 am
- 3. Health Programme
- 8:15 am
- 4. Dance Variety
- 8:30 am
- 5. Teleplay (Forest)
- 4:05 pm
- 6. Cute Little Dancers
- 4:15 pm
- 7. Musical Programme
- 4:25 pm
- 8. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 4:30 pm
- 9. 2012 University Entrance Examination (History)
- 5:00 pm
- 10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:05 pm
- 11. One Village & One Product
- 5:15 pm
- 12. Science and Environment
- 6:20 pm
- 13. Approaching Science Discovery World
- 6:40 pm
- 14. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 15. News
- 16. TV Drama Series

New school building opened

WAKEMA, 15 Feb—A new building was opened at Basic Education Primary School in Danonchaung Village of Wakema Township on 7 February.

Township Administrator U Soe Tun, Ayeyawady Region representative U Kyaw Lwin and village administrator U Zaw Oo spoke on the occasion.

The local authorities and school construction committee chairman U Htay formally opened the new building. The 60x30 feet building was constructed at a cost of over K 17 million.

Myanmar Alin



DISTRICT NEWS

Agricultural technology explained

PYAPON, 15 Feb—At the agricultural technological course No. 2/2012 being conducted in Kyontashankwin village of Pyapon Township on 5 February, officials of Pyapon District and Township Myanmar Agriculture Service explained cultivation of crops through good agriculture pattern, prevention against pests and technology on boosting production.

The trainers and farmers viewed thriving Palethwe hybrid paddy plantation on 18 acres of model plot.

District IPRD



**Successive governments conferring religious titles on members of the Sangha, nuns and laypersons for their performances in ensuring perpetuity of Theravada Buddhism
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends coord meeting to confer religious titles and offer rice to monks**



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers an address at coordination meeting to confer religious titles and offer rice to members of the Sangha.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—A coordination meeting to confer religious titles and offer rice to members of the Sangha was held at the hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, here, at 2 pm today, with an address by Patron of the Religious Title Conferring and Rice Offering Ceremony Holding Committee Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

Also present at the meeting were Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Religious Title Conferring and Rice Offering to members of the Sangha Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye, deputy ministers who are chairmen of subcommittees, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Chief of Myanmar Police Force, departmental heads and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said that successive governments have been conferring religious

titles on members of the Sangha, nuns and laypersons for their performances in ensuring perpetuity of Theravada Buddhism countable by the years in the thousands. Since 1915, Agga Maha Pandita titles for Pariyatti literature have been conferred on the monks. In 1953, he said that not only Agga Maha Pandita title but also Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title was conferred on the prominent monks. In 1953 when the Sixth Buddhist Synod was held, Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika title was offered to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Viççittasarabhivamsa, he said. After 1963, the conferring of religious title was suspended, and beginning 1979, Agga Maha Pandita, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru and Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika titles were conferred for Pariyatti genre.

The State Law and Order Restoration Council continued the conferring of the titles in 1989 and 1990, he said. In 1991, he added that a total of 20 religious titles were prescribed to confer three types of titles on Pariyatti lecturers, three types of titles on meditation instructors, two types of titles on Dhamma preachers, four types of titles on missionary and eight types of titles of Sasana Nuggaha on lay persons in

addition to existing three types of titles. Thus, he said that there are 23 types of religious titles.

In the time of the new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, an announcement was issued on 4 January 2012 to confer 23 types of religious titles on 121 members of the Sangha, eight nuns and 31 lay persons for their outstanding performances, he said.

He said that the patrons and the leading committee were formed for successfully holding the ceremony to confer religious titles and offer rice for 2012.

Moreover, he added that the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife and party will offer alms meal to State level members of the Sangha and religious title recipient monks and nuns at Sasana Maha Beikman on Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Hill on 5 March, two days ahead of the religious title conferring ceremony.

He continued to say that the religious title conferring ceremony will be observed at the Beikman on Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Hill at 12 noon on 7 March 2012 (Fullmoon) (See page 9)

Zenit 3-2 Benfica: Shirokov strikes late winner to decide end-to-end contest and given Russians narrow victory

A brace by Roman Shirokov stole the show for the hosts, who will not look kindly on keeper Yuri Zhevnov for two errors that cost them two away goals



Roman Shirokov

Moscow, 15 Feb—Zenit St Petersburg ran out 3-2 winners over Benfica after a thrilling Champions League Round of 16 at the Petrovsky Stadium.

Maxi Pereira opened the scoring for the visitors 20 minutes in, but a pair of well taken goals in either half from Roman Shirokov and Sergey Semak gave the hosts the advantage.

A late equaliser from Oscar Cardozo appeared to restore parity for the second

leg, but Shirokov rounded off his brace with two minutes to go to send the tie to Lisbon on a knife's edge.

Conditions were well below freezing, and with the home side playing their first competitive match in two months, it was no surprise that the first half unfolded in fits and starts with both teams struggling to establish a rhythm.

Perhaps befitting the

disjointed tone of the opening exchanges, it was a scrappy goal from Benfica that broke the deadlock after 20 minutes. A free kick by Cardozo was fumbled by Yuri Zhevnov, which gave Pereira an empty net to poke home the rebound.

With three minutes to go, Benfica grabbed an equaliser through Cardozo after another fumble by Zhevnov allowed the

Paraguayan the simplest of finishes from barely a yard out.

The drama was not done, and Zenit regained the lead a minute later after a failed clearance by Pereira and a spill by Artur allowed Shirokov an open goal to give the Russian outfit a slender advantage heading into the second leg, which takes place on 6 March in Lisbon.—Internet

Frank de Boer: It is a big surprise to be facing Manchester United in the Europa League

AMSTERDAM, 15 Feb—Ajax coach Frank De Boer has admitted his surprise at seeing Manchester United drop into the Europa League, although he concedes that teams like the Red Devils

and their rivals Manchester City do bring a lot to the competition.

Ajax found themselves in a similar position to United going into their final group game of the Champions

League, knowing a win would see them through to the second round.

Internet

SPORTS

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Dy Prime Minister of Luxembourg



PAGE 2



Aspirin could beat cancer spread: Australian study

PAGE 4

Pioneering Premier League coverage to take off



PAGE 14