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Friday, 17 February, 2012

## True patriotism

\* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

\* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

### U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, accepts credentials of Hungarian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb—Mr Denes Tomaj, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at Presidential Palace, here, at 9:30 am today.

Present on the occasion together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at President Office U Thein Nyunt and Director-General U Aye Thaw of the Protocol Department.

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*President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives Hungarian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Denes Tomaj at Presidential Palace.*

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### U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, accepts credentials of Ambassador of the State of Kuwait

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb—Mr Essa Yousef Al Shammali, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at Presidential Palace, here, at 10:30 am today.

Present on the occasion together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at President Office U Thein Nyunt and Director-General U Aye Thaw of the Protocol Department.

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*Kuwaiti Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Essa Yousef Al Shammali presents his credentials to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein.—MNA*

### Ayeyawady River crossing Nawade Bridge linking east bank of Ayeyawady River and Rakhine State



Archive: Maung Nyein Aye

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## PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 17 February, 2012

### Health and examination

As the final examinations are drawing nearer, health has become more important for school boys and girls as ill health may ruin their year-round efforts.

Mostly, students start to try hard only when the examinations are near. But some steadily learn their lessons the whole year round. Anyhow, with ill health no student can do well in the final test. So, students need to try hard while

taking care of their own health. The truth is healthy children learn more effectively than children with health problems.

Accordingly, students should have a timetable to fix their study period, sleeping hours, leisure time during which they can play or do some physical exercises and dining time. Some are extremely ambitious that they study the whole night. Such practice is dangerous. It's not good to learn lessons at the cost of health.

Some parents blame the luck when their working-hard child cannot do well in the examinations. In fact, too much sleeplessness makes him forget most of the lessons he has learnt.

Yes, it is true that a student should extend

his learning hours when the examinations are just around the corner. At the same time, he needs to have enough sleeping time and eat well, and that's important. Lack of sleep and energy may invite diseases to the body. Parents must know this.

Too much sleeplessness makes a student drowsy while sitting for the examination. He will be in a very difficult position to recall his memory. Too much excitement and nervousness is another harmful factor. He must try to calm his mind.

All in all, students should have a good timetable for sleeping, dining and learning to pass their examinations with flying colors. I wish every student realize his goal.

### Members of Union level organizations...

(from page 16)

connecting regions and states and the respective townships are still few. In sharing road/bridge projects to entrepreneurs, economic viability and public benefits should be pondered. Action should be taken against companies that give priority only to their interest.

U Sai Thant Zin of Shan State Constituency No. 4 discussed that adoption of national transport network policy can invite those wishing to participate in the development task of the State. It is necessary to consider whether the projects can cover the interests of all the citizens and actually serve the interest of the people.

In his discussions, U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency No. 3 said that job opportunities of the project are to be shared not only to ministries concerned but also internal and international companies and organizations in equal term. Due to the fact that job opportunity to implement the project is allowed to those who have capability through the market, such system will be in conformity with the market-oriented economic system being realized by the State.

U Soe Myint of Magway Region Constituency No. 6 participated in the discussions that today's nation is being built through new system in new era. It is necessary to construct good national transport network systems for emergence of a modern and developed nation. Thus, he said that infrastructures of the nation such as motor roads, railroads and airports must be in better conditions. The Union government should

submit only important projects for the people to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw after reviewing them with various points of views.

U Tha Win of Yankin Constituency said that the transport sector is interrelated with development of other sectors in implementing the five-year short-term plans and annual plans of respective sectors for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation. He said that only when the transport sector achieves rapid development, will it contribute towards progress of other sectors. Although it is necessary to uphold the long-term national interest in adopting the new projects, it should specially consider whether the plan is cost effectiveness or not depending on investment might of the State, he said.

U Thein Tun Oo of Amarapura Constituency noted that it is necessary to show off allotted amount scrutinized by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for State projects and spending of funds on implementation of the projects to the people transparently. As such, the local people can make preparations for successfully undertaking the various tasks including economic, social and health sectors. As the proposal can accelerate clear process of democracy and democratization due to presenting actual requirements of the State and the people, minimizing the loss in State's fund, practising check-and-balance and transparent undertakings, he deeply supported the proposal, he said.

U Ye Tun of Thandwe Constituency said that if commodities and passengers can be transported to various regions through networks of car, train, ship and aircraft, the flow of commodity will be smooth and will save costs. Moreover, he said that transport

facility should be linked with insurance system for life of the passengers and damage of commodities. If the ministries concerned are in harmony to realize the network linkage system, the better transport system will be implemented in a short time, said.

U Zaung Khong of Sawlaw Constituency said that it should undertake development of airports and extension of flights, upgrading of motor roads and railroads and extension of maritime voyages as a special

and social fields of a nation. As Section 22 (c) of the Constitution says "the Union shall assist to promote socio-economic development including education, health, economy, transport and communication, so forth, of less-developed national races", the realization of national transport network policy covering the whole nation is in conformity with the current trend. National brethren must understand similarities among the different types of transport facilities depending on



U Sai Thant Zin of Shan State Constituency No. 4 makes discussion.

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U Aung Lin Hlaing of Bokpyin Constituency makes discussion.

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U Ye Tun of Thandwe Constituency makes discussion.

MNA

extended project for the people from poor transport areas. He said that although it should consider cost effectiveness of the projects in line with the market-oriented economic system, the plans that can actually serve the interest of the people should be implemented.

U Aung Lin Hlaing of Bokpyin Constituency participated in the discussions. He said that everybody knows that waterway, aviation and road transport of the transport sector plays a key role in political, economic

geographical conditions of the State. However, the nation must try hard work to be able to keep abreast of other countries. Transparency should be built by presenting allotted funds for the project through information media so as to disappear suspicion between the government and the people by winning trusts of the people.

Today's session came to an end at 4.05 pm and the 13<sup>th</sup> day session will be held at 10 am on 20 February.—MNA

### Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker comforts Hluttaw representatives undergoing medical treatment at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed)



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint comforts Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Tha Sein at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed).—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint this evening enquired after Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Aung Tha Sein of Minbya Constituency and Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Kyi Tun of Constituency No. 1 of Magway Region who are receiving medical treatment at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed) during the third regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker enquired after Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Aung Tha Sein at intensive care unit and Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Kyi Tun at medical ward and provided them with foods.—MNA

### Establishment of Political parties scrutinized, granted

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb—As the political parties have been applying for setting up political parties, the Union Election Commission has granted to a 18-member group including U Saw Win Tun of Tainglaing (Shanni) National Development Party in accord with the laws and by laws as of 16 February, 2012.—MNA

### Kayin State celebrates sports events, funfairs

YANGON, 16 Feb—Honouring the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Union Day, the sports events and funfairs were held at Thiri Sports ground in Hpa-an in Kayin State on 12 February.

Among the spectators were Kayin State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Aung Kyaw Min, Patron of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation wife of the State Chief Minister Daw Nyunt Nyunt Wai, the State Ministers and their wives. And they gave prizes to winners in the game.—MNA



## To be able to apply full capacity of dams completed by the former government, irrigation systems yet to be built, dilapidated facilities, and dams and canal systems needing repair will continued to be implemented in order of priority with added momentum

**Projects to be implemented for agricultural development in long term national interest will be reviewed in the interests of the people in light of all-round and farsightedness assessment**

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing replied to the proposal on river water pumping projects, dams and reservoir projects being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation submitted by Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Thurein Zaw of Kawkareik Constituency, matters related to the message sent to the President by the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw dated 3-2-2012 and the speech on agriculture sector delivered on 7-2-2012 by the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw at today's session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

*The translation of the clarification is as follows:-*

May the esteemed Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, all Hluttaw representatives and special invited guests be physical and mental well-being.

I, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, would like to reply to the proposal submitted by Hluttaw representative U Thurein Zaw of Kawkareik Constituency on urging the Union government, in the interest of the entire people, to take action on suggestions of the Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee on the findings of the Union Auditor-General over the river water pumping projects, dams and diversion weirs built by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation as the suggestions are crucial issues for the people and urged Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to approve it. **Mr. Speaker,**

As the facts in the message dated 3-2-2012 sent by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann to the President and matters related to the agricultural sector included in the speech delivered at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann were related to the proposal submitted by Hluttaw representative U Thurein Zaw, the President gave instruction to me on behalf of himself to reply to the proposal of U Thurein Zaw, the facts included in the message of Thura U Shwe Mann and his speech in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Thus, I would like to seek permission for replying to the above-mentioned matters.

I would like to reply that repairing works will be carried out through current plan, short- and long-term plans with positive attitude, emphasizing the submissions of respective Hluttaw representatives. The necessary tasks to be repaired have been undertaken in the time of the existing new government, and examples will be presented in respective sectors to clearly observe progress of tasks.

**Mr. Speaker and Hluttaw representatives,** On 30-3-2011 when the new government took its assumption of State power, the President delivered an address that **"now, it has laid sound foundations to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Thus, the people elected us to continuously build the more peace and more developed nation by applying the sound foundations constructed by the Tatmadaw government. In order to accomplish the demanding duties, our new government will lay down new policies and programmes according to the objective conditions of the nation."**

We all are to build the Union to achieve greater unity and development in conformity with the current situation with genuine

goodwill based on sound foundations in unity and harmony facilitated by the previous government though it had faced difficulties and sanctions.

With regard to the proposal of U Thurein Zaw and discussions of Hluttaw representatives, I would like to clarify my explanation that it should strive for gaining greater development with positive attitude over the sound foundations built by the leaders of previous government with farsightedness so as to serve the long-term interest of the citizens and build socio-economic infrastructures of farmers and local people.

**The previous government built many dams and river water pumping projects with the aim of effectively utilizing the land resources in our agro-based country and sufficiently using water resources though it faced economic sanctions and financial and technological difficulties. Thus, we all are to strive for continuously implementing the ongoing projects in respective sectors as a good example for new generations.**

As global countries are facing climate change day by day, the dams were constructed for storage of water from rivers and creeks to be able to use fresh water for consumption and agricultural purpose in addition to prevention against floods and bank erosion. For example, Kyaybinet Dam was built in Kanbalu Township of Sagaing Region to protect Shwebo-Myitkyina railroad against annual floods and Ma Mya Dam in Myanaung Township of Ayeyawady Region to prevent floods at Patheingyi-Monywa Road and railroads.

Kodukwe Dam, Salu Dam and Shwelaung Dam in Bago Region is under construction to prevent annual floods in Bago, Kawa and Thanatpin townships, to contribute towards greening 30-mile radius Yangon and irrigate the salty farmlands in dry zones for gradually declining its salty rates. As such, it should emphasize advantages of Pyaungpya Dam, Khetlan Dam and Zeeadaw Dam in Natogyi Township of Mandalay Region for serving current and long-term interests of the new generations.

Thanks to river water pumping projects, the local people who suffered scarcity of drinking water and dryness are not enjoying the fruits of water supply. That is why it should place special emphasis on construction of irrigation facilities with genuine goodwill without depending on economic point of view.

The responsible persons of the previous government built the dams and river water pumping projects with the aim of creating job opportunities for the local people without depending on cost effectiveness. They set aim to conserve weather and environments in dry zones and to solve scarcity of drinking water and social life of local people to some extent.

Nowadays, there is over 7000 million of global population. The global countries face higher food and water demands daily. Moreover, all the countries are taking care of food and water difficulties due to climate change and natural disasters such as storms, earthquakes, heavy rains and floods, dryness and outbreak of fire.

By reviewing the problems in natural

disasters that affected some townships in Bago and Ayeyawady Regions, Rakhine State, Yangon and Mandalay Regions in the events of cyclonic storm Nargis in 2008, storm Giri in 2010 and heavy rains in 2011, special emphasis is to be placed on prevention against natural disasters and ensuring food security.

The government assigned duties to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation with firm decisions to undertake the tasks.

Being an agro-based nation, over 30 per cent of GDP of the nation is depending on the agriculture sector. Thus, it is necessary to put investment in agriculture sector for its development so as to strengthen the immune of the nation.

Annual reduction of two per cent poverty rate of the nation to be able to decline 26 per cent to 16 per cent in 2015 as a UN Millennium Development Goals totally depends on development of agricultural production and socio-economic development of rural farmers.

**While the global countries are facing shortage of food due to climate change, the people of the nation do not need to worry about difficulties thanks to dams and river water pumping projects implemented by the State leaders with farsightedness and food sufficiency through cultivation of summer paddy, double and mixed cropping patterns.**

We all are to strive for ensuring food security of 100 million population of the nation that will increase in coming a few years.

Investment in agricultural sector will generate plenty of **"job opportunities"** and will help farmers more income from a series of seasonal crops. Investment should be made with a firm belief on transition of the country's agricultural sector from irrigation system, dependent on the weather, to Sustainable Agricultural Development.

Understanding the new government's financial difficulties to take measures for fulfilling region-wise requirements in over 10 months and its attempt to address the issue, the Hluttaw representatives need to realize the reality of the new government which have to complete projects handed down by the previous government to become Total Solution.

Regarding agriculture sector, I would like to give you some examples of Total Solution. For example, the whole Commodity Supply Chain for rice— dam project/river water pumping station project, canal system, land reclamation, providing training for scientific cultivation, distribution of agricultural machinery and quality fertilizers, production of marketable quality strains, developing model plantations, harvesting with less wastage/drying, milling at advanced rice mill, packaging marketable rice and marketing, selling at good price, and enabling farmers fetch reasonable market price—has to be completed.

Investment of the government in dam projects and river water pumping station projects will bear fruits if they are completed as Total Solution and they will help increase per capita income of farmers and development agricultural produce of the State.

The entire people should cooperate in



**Union Agriculture and Irrigation Minister U Myint Hlaing makes clarifications.—MNA**

implementing the projects till they become Total Solutions with one voice for development of the country based on that of the agricultural sector.

The river water pumping station projects of the previous government were aimed at distributing irrigation water for regional food sufficiency and creating more job opportunities for local people. Simultaneously, it set the targets to distribute potable water and improve living standards of local people in arid zones. If there is insufficiency of electricity and of irrigation water for paddy, farmers may have the right to grow marketable crops suited with the region. According to market economy, they should have the right to grow the crops of their own choice.

They were built with a huge fund and targeted for supplying irrigation water to paddy plantations. If the sufficient irrigation water cannot be supplied for paddy following insufficiency of electricity, lack of concrete lining systems and pipeline systems, marketable crops will be allowed to choose to grow.

According to 2011 statistics, the government had to use K 23490 per acre as it levied only K 9000 for irrigation. It had to use K 1147.09 million for 48833 acres of farmlands. It still has to collect K 929.175 million for irrigation from farmers. Plans which will be convenient for them will be laid down. They will be allowed to grow marketable crops State-wise/Region-wise.

As proposed by Public Accounts Committee, river water pumping station projects distributing under 2000 acres of farmlands will be handed over to Regions and States in 2012-2013 fiscal year. After necessary measures have been taken for thorough transfer of projects, they will be handed over. There are 270 river water pumping station projects irrigating under 2000 acres in States and Regions to hand over.

Only Shwe Hlan Bo river water pumping station project in Sinkaung Township of Mandalay Region is under way although there were 41 ongoing river water pumping station project. These 40 projects have been suspended for 2012-2013 fiscal year with no budget allotted to them.

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**Proposal “Citizens and service personnel’s pay, salary and allowance to be inevitably raised in coming fiscal year” a matter being taken by Union Government to be implemented**

**Raising salary of service personnel calls for best management of the government**

**Raising salary and allowance of service personnel should be carried out only in 2013-2014 fiscal year when necessary measures have already been taken**

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb— At today’s session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, on behalf of the President, made clarification on the proposal for ensuring matter to raise wage, salary, expenses and reward of the government services in coming financial year for designation as a roadmap in drawing National Development Plan by the present government.

*The translation of the clarification is as follows:-*

**Mr. Speaker,**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> day of third regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker discussed matters related to national planning bills. You all have already known that it is a duty of Union Level Groups, on behalf of the President, to give details on the facts about mentioned suggestion, in accord with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rule 127. First, the Union Minister for Finance and Revenue is to clarify it.

I wish the esteemed Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives, Union Ministers and distinguished persons physical and spiritual wellbeing.

I will make a clarification about the proposal for ensuring matters to raise pay, salary, allowance and reward of the government servants in coming financial year for designation as a roadmap in drawing National Development Plan by the present government.

I, on behalf of the Union government, have made clarification of Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill-2012 and Union Budget Bill-2012 on 31 January, 2012. In drawing bills and accounts, with the endorsement of finance commission, arrangements have been made to ensure growth rate of 7% for national planning goal in 2012-2013 fiscal year, 3.0% for agriculture sector included in GDP, 10.5% for industrial sector, and 8.3% for service sector.

Component of private will be encouraged for GDP by reducing State component. As to industrial sector which is a driving force of economic development of the country, investments will be invited at home and abroad. To ensure economic growth, budget for 2012-2013 has been drawn based on investment and GDP ratio of 31.94%, and budget deficit and GDP of 4.9%.

The President had set out principles of the Union government in his first address in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw that decisions would be made to shore up socioeconomic life of farmers and workers, to generate job opportunities for workers and odd-jobbers, to make commodity price stable, and to have social welfare in workplace. And arrangements would be made to ensure lowest pay scale to be agreeable to current living cost. The government would make strenuous efforts for farmers and workers,

who are major class of the country, to own comfortable living standard without worrying about their future.

Another point I would like to explain is spending on salary and pension in revenue expenditure. President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar said in his address to heads of Union level organizations and members of the Union government on 31 March of 2011 that **with respect to submission of Hluttaw representatives, salary and pension of government employees would be increased at the proper time in consideration of currency flowing in the country, inflation rate and commodity price, gross national product and service value.** The government has been making plans for increase in per capita income of all citizens including government employees.

I would like to further explain that successive governments changed and increased salary and pension of government employee starting from post independence period of 1948. Government carried out plan for increase in salary and wage, granting cost of living allowance and extra fund on 1 October 1972, on 1 July 1976, on 1 April 1981, and on 1 August 1988. After 1988, salary, looking forward to welfare of government employees, pension and wage rates were increased on 1 April 1989, on 1 April 1993, on 1 April 2000, on 1 April 2006 and on 1 January 2010.

The age of the Union government now reached 11 months. The new government after taking office has been implementing procedures step by step. All Hluttaw representatives can see undertakings carried out by the government. As addressed by the President, the Union government increased pension rate of retirees beginning 1 July 2011. So, pension allowance for 2011-2012 fiscal year amounted to K 261.018 billion, higher K 174.651 billion than previous allowance. The pension allowance for 2011-2012 fiscal year was just for nine months. In coming 2012-2013 fiscal year, pension allowance for 12 months will account for K 335.415 billion. If salary rate of government employees is increased, pension rates for retirees are to be increased.

**Moreover, as the regional allowance of government employees working in remote areas of the country is no longer agreeable to current situation, the government has wish to reward them for their unselfishness, giving incentives to increase number of staff members to work such areas, and Hluttaw representatives presented submission, the government in coordination with related region and states has been taking measures for regional allowance rates for government employees working in such areas.**

**Situations of government employees working in socially inaccessible remote areas are as follows:-**

Sr	Region/State	Socially inaccessible townships	Number of staff members
(a)	Kachin State	15	4261
(b)	Kayah State	5	1208
(c)	Kayin State	10	4052
(d)	Chin State	12	12982
(e)	Sagaing Region	11	6749
(f)	Taninthayi Region	2	1258
(g)	Rakhine State	2	1266
(h)	Yangon Region	1	168
(i)	Shan State	27	5873
<b>Total</b>		<b>85</b>	<b>37817</b>

**Further expenditure for 37,817 government employees working in remote areas will be K 22,589 billion if the regional allowance is added to their ordinary salaries one hundred per cent.**

**Mr Speaker and Hluttaw representatives**

At the 6<sup>th</sup> day third regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held on 7 February 2012, **“salary and allowance of teachers, police, Tatmadawmen, staff members, lower administrative organizations are to be fairly enough. Ration allowance, uniforms and living cost and other costs for Tatmadawmen who are assuming national defence duty and sacrificing their life if necessary for the country and the people should be at least the amount allowed in year 1959-1960.”** Here I mentioned before is not for salary only. I would like to explain situation between rate of 1959-1960 and that of present condition combining salary with allowance.

If rates of wage, salary and cash reward are granted as rates in 1959-1960, it is needed to know about prices of paddy, rice, gold, wage and salary at that time. At that time, one hundred baskets of paddy cost K 350, rice one *pyi* cost P 88 and one tical of gold cost K 272. Salary of a civil service with the lowest rank K 82 and could afford to buy 0.30 tical of gold. Today, gold rate for 0.30 tical shows K 210,000. So, it is needed to take account of salary for a government employee with the lowest rank to be about K 210,000. That amount is equal to about US\$ 263 according to current foreign exchange rate. It is found that the lowest pay scales of some neighbouring countries are below US\$ 100. The increased rate is over 2500 times according to current gold price and over 1000 times according to paddy price. So, considering plan for salary to be increased, comparing with paddy rate will be taken into account instead of comparing with gold rate.

Today paddy prices are 1000 times much more than those in 1959-1960. The following results will occur when the staff salary is calculated based on 1000 times.

- Salary of a lowest-earning civil service (or) a Tatmadawman is to be increased to K 82,000 and a highest-earning civil service to K 1,600,000.
- So, a total of K 3309.286 billion is to be spent on salary and expenses. A total of K 2397.901 billion is to be



**Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun makes clarification.—MNA**

spent more than the existing salary and expenses of K 911.385 billion.

- In doing so, salaries of pensioners are to be increased along with staff salary. A total of K 1925.282 billion is to be spent on it. So, it would amount to K 1589.867 billion more than the existing salary and expenses of K 335.415 billion.
- Likewise, the total amount would be K 129.661 billion when adding salaries of staff who are serving duties in remote areas. So, an extra K 107.072 billion are to be spent on that.
- Union Budget deficit for 2012-2013 financial year is K 2517.888 billion. Budget deficit would amount to K 661.728 billion if the salary rates as in 1959-1960 are increased.
- So, deficit and GDP ratio would be 12.87%.

When current salaries of staff are multiplied by 100 %, the results would be as follows:

- the lowest salary rate would be K 70,000 and the highest rate, K 420,000. So, a total of K 1822.770 billion are to be spent on it.
- So, an extra K 911.385 billion is to be spent more than the present salary and expenses.
- A total of pension salary of K 670.830 billion is to be spent. So, an extra K 335.415 billion is to be spent more than the present salary and expenses.
- Likewise, the total amount would be K 45.178 billion when adding salaries of staff who are serving duties in remote areas. So, an extra K 22.589 billion is to be spent on that.
- Deficit would amount to K 3787.277 billion if the current salary rate is calculated multiplying by 100%. The ratio of deficit and GDP would be 7.37%. When current salaries of staff are multiplied by 50 %, the results would be as follows:

(See page 7)



## **Industrial development project to create synergic benefits such as creation of jobs for the people, development of advanced technologies, independent production of machines, SME development by manufacturing production lines on industrial scale nationwide and technical expertise to fulfill the industrial requirements of the nation on own in the future**

**Measures should be taken to initiate investments in industrial development, long-term nation objective**

**Strategic view shows that the soonest the project is completed, the biggest the benefits to the State**

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb—Union Minister for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay, on behalf of the President, made clarification on State policies and various situations of the nation regarding the National Planning Bill of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session today. *The translation of the clarification is as follows:-*

**Mr. Speaker,**

According to the permission of Mr Speaker, I, Union Minister for Myanmar Industrial Development on behalf of the President, would like to present clarification on industrial development policies of the State and matters related to various situations of the State over the suggestions and discussions of the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw regarding the National Planning Bill of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in line with the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rule-127 at today's third regular session of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

I will not submit more report on detailed facts on industrial development plan that was submitted to the third regular session of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 1-2-2012. Now, I would like to explain industrial development policy of the State, vision and mission of the project, industrial-based facts for the project, matters related to social economic sector, possibility of the project and matters related to cost effectiveness, aims for serving the interests of the State and the people and actual situations.

An address on policy and stance and programme of the Union government delivered by the President at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30-3-2011 was as follows:-

(a) **Ours is an agro-based country.**

**Successive governments paid serious attention to agriculture, so the country has enjoyed surpluses of crops. Now, the nation has got sound foundations for agricultural farming such as dams and river water pumping stations for food security of the population of new years. However, agricultural development alone is not enough for the country to become a developed one. So, we must turn to national industrialization to transform country into a developed, rich one with a lot of employment opportunities and high per capita income.**

(b) **Our country is rich in natural resources to establish an industrial nation. However, we need capitals, energy and human resources. Our country has all sound foundations. So, if we try our best, without doubt, we will achieve our goal. Therefore, our government will try our best for national industrialization while scaling up agricultural development.**

(c) **As one more point, if we want the nation to enjoy development and economic**

**growth, we will have to focus on industrial development. That is why the Tatmadaw government tried its best for national industrialization. Now, the nation has taken a giant step to transform itself into an industrialized one. And there are signs of sustainable development of the nation. Therefore, we plan to transform the nation into a modern, industrialized one with the use of the benefits from the agricultural sector and internal and external investments.**

It can be seen that the industrial development policy of the Union government included in the address of the President is in conformity with actual situations of Myanmar as well as current international and regional issues. All developed nations are industrialized ones. GDP of Thailand contains 45.6% ratio of industrial sector worth US\$ 267.63 billion. If the ratio of industrial sector in Thailand is compared with 24.3% ratio of Myanmar's industrial sector worth US\$ 18.58 billion to its GDP, everybody can clearly know the situation for enhancement of the present industrial development status. In studying other ASEAN countries, Indonesia sets 46.4% ratio of industrial sector to its GDP, Thailand 45.6%, Malaysia 41.6%, Vietnam 41.1%, Laos 31.7%, the Philippines 31.3% and Cambodia 21.4%. Thus, degradation of industrial production in Myanmar can be reviewed.

The ASEAN Vision 2020 adopted the aim for ASEAN countries to realize the Industrialized Economy. Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam that comprise in CLMV countries are implementing the industrialization process of their countries.

According to the fifth five-year plan of the National Plan of the State, an aim was adopted to have 34.2% ratio of industrial sector to the GDP in 2015-2016 and to achieve 14.1% development annually. To be able to secure development, investment must be put in the industrial sector without fail. The policy was adopted to come out development of national industrial sector combined with State-owned sector, private sector, public-owned sector, joint venture-owned sector and foreign investment sector on a wider scale to encourage technology, techniques and local and international investments.

**First priority was given to interests of the State and the people in considering the basic factors of industrial development project. By industrializing the nation, it considered on first priority of serving the State interest to be a modern and developed nation with prosperity and plenty of jobs to increase per capita income. Moreover, it was aimed at creating the job opportunities for the people from arid zone of central Myanmar where the people are difficult to carry out agriculture for their livelihoods.**

Over eight million of population are

residing in Myingyan, Pakokku, Magway, Minbu, Meiktila, NyaungU and Kyaukse districts which are included in about 9,443,936 acres of project area. Due to receiving 20.30 inches of rainfall on average, the region is still facing shortage of water for agricultural purpose though a total of 77 dams and 114 river water pumping projects have been implemented. The region is scarce in drinking water in summer. Thus, the local people go to Shan State for plucking tea and for working at construction sites and cutting firewood and bamboo for their livelihoods. In consequence, deforestation and environmental degradation causes climate change as the circle of misery.

If the industrial development projects are implemented there, about 100,000 jobs can be created at the main factories on its completion. Due to emergence of the nature of sub-factories, a large number of factories can generate jobs for more people and it can contribute towards emergence of secondary businesses such as transport, trade, service, health and education tasks. Thus, about 300,000-500,000 jobs will be created there.

It is expected that as a result of job opportunities, the industrial towns with higher living standard will emerge through combination of public residences of the factories and existing villages for contributing towards development of social economic life of the rural people, alleviation of poverty and benefits of environmental conservation.

In choosing the industrial development project region, facts about inputs of the project and basic industrial data in addition to basic factor of social economy of the region were considered as follows:-

- availability of raw materials
- supply of electricity, natural gas and water that are energy requirement
- status of transport
- availability of human resources, and
- connectivity with other industries.

Pig iron, steel scrap and steel slab are main raw requirement of the industrial development project. Integrated Steel Complex of Myingyan Steel Plant can yearly manufacture 450,000 tons of pig iron, steel slab and steel plate with the use of iron ore from Pinpet region. Thus, the project can use raw materials from the Integrated Steel Complex. The project plant will have capability to manufacture various types of special apply steel that need for special parts, with the use of pig iron and scrap raw materials. Likewise, the project plant will produce steel mill machinery, rolls and spares from Myingyan Steel Plant and will have capability to create the design for the whole Steel Mill Plant as the extensions in the future.

Similarly, the project plant can contribute much to operating the Machine and Machinery Factory (Myaing) and



**Union Minister for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay makes clarification.**

MNA

Automobile Factory (Magway) located in the industrial development project area. Moreover, spare parts for cement plant will be produced for raising production capacity of 18 cement plants located in the project area. As the project spent US\$ 150 million on importing 1.6 million tons of cement in 2010-2011, it is necessary to escape from the reliance on purchasing imported cement.

Especially, a special point was considered on energy requirements in establishment of source industry. Arrangements have been made for supplying electricity from Yeywa Hydropower Plant to Nabuaing Sub-Power Station through 230 KV power grid. A plan is underway to build a gas turbine in Myingyan to stabilize the supply of electricity. Moreover, arrangements have been made for taking necessary natural gas from Gas Pipeline to China through a spur line for the gas turbine and the project plant. It is a plan to be ready for conducting test-run of machines according to the plan.

**The project plant is 66.3 miles far from Yeywa Hydropower Plant. The natural gas pipeline passes the project area, so it can bring advantages of energy security and save the cost. In making arrangements for supply of water, the project plant is three miles far from Ayeyawady River, so it can save the cost. As water course of Ayeyawady River will be used for transportation, the project plant can take advantages of its perpetuity and saving the cost.**

With regard to requirement of human resources, seven Technological Universities, five Universities of Computer Studies, seven Technological Colleges/Institutes and five technical high schools are located in the project area, and altogether 33,434 students are attending the courses for technical certificates, diploma and degrees at the institutions. Five technical training schools in the project area can turn out about 850

(See page 8)

## Union government will develop national development project (or) human resource development project with the advice of Hluttaw representatives

### Union government taking measures for implementation of ongoing and future tasks that can not be separable and need to be implemented by linking one by one in commensuration with present situation

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb—On behalf of the President, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein made clarification at today's regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on discussion that "National Development Plan" is needed to be drafted in the national interest and the institutions concerned are urged to report investments for sustainable National Development Plan or Human Resources Development Plan which will bear fruits right now, in short term or in long term.

*The translation of the clarification is as follow:-*

**Mr Speaker,**

On behalf of the President, I, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, will make clarification on suggestion that "National Development Plan" is needed to be drafted in the national interest and the institutions concerned are urged to report investments for sustainable **National Development Plan or Human Resources Development Plan** which will bear fruits right now, in short term or in long term.

Firstly, I would like to thank all the Hluttaw representatives for recognizing the government's effort to submit national projects to be put forward to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw completely and in short period of time and for making constructive comments on national plans bill in national interest.

**Mr Speaker,**

Section 100, Sub-section (b) of 2008 constitution states, "Bills relating to national plans, annual budgets and taxation, which are to be submitted exclusively by the Union Government shall be discussed and resolved at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accord with the prescribed procedures." There is no mention for national development project or human resources development project. That is why the government submitted only **National Plan Bill** in accord with the constitution.

Among four objectives mentioned in preamble of the National Plan Bill submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, socio-economic development in all fields that the entire people can enjoy is included. It is composed of 14 sectors including education and health and regional projects which are added in the bill for developing them in each year.

**The discussion that National Development Plan is still needed in promoting the national interest with the good-will for all-round development is found to be a discussion that called our country which is lagged behind the other countries for striving the entire nation to keep abreast of the other countries. It is worth undertaken. Despite using the title of national development plan, it is the same with procedures of the Union government which is implementing All-Round Development and Inclusive Growth in essence. Inclusive growth procedures or national development plan will be clarified**

**for knowledge of Hluttaw representatives.**

In developing the country, every government has to adopt policies, objectives, aims and procedures, short-term or long-term. 30-year long-term project, five-year short-term projects, border areas national races development project, 24 special regions development project, rural development procedure or rural development project of the former government the State Peace and Development Council are All-Round Development and Inclusive Growth plans. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker also thanked it for ensuring peaceful transition with seven-step road map.

**Whatever projects were drawn or however good it were, they had to face with economic sanctions to develop the country and socio-economic standards of its people. It is not an unknowable thing. In this respect, the President instructed heads of Union-level organizations and members of cabinet in his address at the President Residence on 31 March, 2011, "Though it is true that the country is more developed in time of Tatmadaw government than earlier time, there are still people dealing with difficulties for food, cloth and shelter, daily paid odd-job workers, and the unemployed. It is urged to emerge as a government showing sympathy to the people, safeguarding the interests of the people and serving the people."**

**Mr Speaker,**

When the Union government took office, national plan drawn by the former government was continuously implemented as Region/State governments were just formed. Five-year short-term plan was drafted by the Union government and Region/State governments. Annual national plans of first and second years are drawn and submitted in accordance with the latest conditions. Policies and aims are essences and most important things in drawing the project. These policies and aims are not new ones emerged when the national plan was drawn. The policies and aims of the Union government could be seen in address of the President to first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw regular session on 30 March, 2011, in talking about political, economic and social conditions of the country. In this address, he said that the government would prioritize narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor, bridging the gap in living standards of urban and rural people, emergence of harmonious market economy, attracting foreign investments by establishing special economic zones, building modern industrialized nation exploiting wealth from agricultural sector and local and foreign investments, encouraging improvement of living standards of peasants and workers, development of agricultural sector, fetching reasonable prices for agricultural produce, improvement in quality of agricultural produce, generating plenty of job

opportunities for workers and daily paid odd-job workers, stability of commodity price, providing job site welfare and social welfare provisions, adjusting the lowest pay scale with the current living cost, working to ensuring reasonable living standards of the people with no concerns for future by the government, and development of human resources of the entire nation who will undertake the duty of the future nation as many brilliant human resources intellectuals and intelligentsia are needed.

These words are found to be policies and objectives in essence for all-round economic development including welfare, socio-economic life, socio-economic quality, social security and human resources development of over one million civil servants discharging duties in various areas and various fields and over 50 million population.

**Mr Speaker,**

In accordance with the address of the President, workshops were held with local and foreign scholars, departmental officials, entrepreneurs and Hluttaw representatives. Rural development and poverty alleviation central committees and committees at various levels are formed. National level workshop on economic reforms of the State was held. Laws and rules and regulations in monetary, investment and commerce sectors were amended in coordination with international organizations.

Requirement of skilled human resources in various fields is clearer and clearer when local and foreign investments are invited for establishing special economic zones, regional industrial zones and small and medium enterprises; and when hotels and tourism, banking services industry, private education services, and healthcare services.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham leads Human Resources Development Plan Drafting and Implementation Central Committee. Subcommittees are also formed and functioning. Conference on Development Policy Option in Myanmar held at MICC on 13 February, 2012, also contributes to human resources development with advices for drafting the plan.

These undertakings are targeted at nurturing fit, highly educated future business pioneers with high morality and discipline, well-rounded and ethical scholars who are matched with Myanmar's social life and attitude and scholars who will serve the country.

The government has planned to increase budget for education, health and human resources development year after year. It is also making efforts for drafting international-standard curricula and syllabuses, opening branches of foreign universities, colleges, institutes and training centres, for attracting more investments in education services, healthcare services and other services from private sectors at home and abroad, and for implementing with the investments of the



*Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein makes clarification.—MNA*

government, the institutions and the private sector.

As it will take so long to nurture human resources, the President invited Myanmar scholars and skilled technicians abroad who love and adore Myanmar to ensure development of the country in short period of time. It means every citizen should play a part in development of the country wherever they are in.

These pragmatic procedures are step-by-step undertakings of the Union government as suggested in the discussion that **the institutions concerned are urged to report investments for sustainable National Development Plan or Human Resources Development Plan which will bear fruits right now, in short term or in long term.**

So, it can be seen that even though the Union government does not name projects national development project for national development, Union government is carrying out the following varieties of national development projects in cooperation with experts from home and abroad, departments and private entrepreneurs as well as results of seminars and meetings attended by some Hluttaw representatives.

- (1) Rural development and poverty alleviation plan or project
- (2) Human resources development plan
- (3) Industrial development plan (Arrangements have been made to get experience from foreign experts so as to adopt plan shifting from industrial development committee project status to better industrial development.)
- (4) Reply has been received from (United Nations Council for Trade and Development-UNCTAD) for technical assistance of investment plan.
- (5) Coordination with organizations from home and abroad on change and development of monetary sector are going on.

*(See page 9)*



## To be able to apply full capacity of dams...

(from page 3)

One of special river water pumping station project Hsimigon (3) Ayeyawady river water pumping station project in Myingyan Township of Mandalay Region has also been suspended. Only when technical assistances and foreign investment are acquired, will it be resumed. The suspension is decided by cabinet meeting.

Out of 237 completed dams/diversion weirs included in the suggestion of the Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee, there are 39 facilities meeting or exceeding the target, 50 facilities irrigating 50-90 per cent of target and 93 facilities irrigating under 50 per cent of target.

**Dams which do not meet the target because irrigation systems have to be completed, which distribute low per cent of target in light of assessment on targeted**

**area and actual irrigating area, of which dilapidated irrigation systems need repairing, which are ravaged by Malar cyclone, Nargis cyclone and Giri cyclone and can irrigate under 50 per cent of target will be repaired in order of priority.**

65 dams/diversion weirs which are stated to be dams which cannot supply irrigation water includes 41 dams constructed for distributing potable water, greening the region and supplying water to factories in arid zones, 10 supporting dams which are built to help existing dams store more water and prevent from dangers, three diversion weirs to help existing dams distribute irrigation water, three dams of which irrigation systems have yet to be finished, one dam for preserving ancient cultural heritage, and seven sluice gates built for preventing from flood and salt water in monsoon and summer and store and distribute fresh water in summer.

It is planned to improve performance of completed dams/diversion weirs and

implement ongoing dams/diversion weirs projects to meet set standards.

Plants to grow paddy once a year sufficiently to produce staple food of the country and to cultivate other crops of their own choice by farmers has been made clear in cabinet meetings and State-/Region-level agricultural meeting presided over by the Union minister. It is fundamental right of the farmers to grow marketable and suitable crops of their own choice in areas with scarcity of irrigation water.

It may be first-hand knowledge of Hluttaw representatives from arid zones in middle Myanmar that the good-will of the government to fulfill the actual will of the people is **"no money and gold, but water"**, and how river water pumping station projects contributed much to tackle daily difficulties of people to access drinking water for themselves and cattle.

To be able to apply full capacity of dams completed by the former government, irrigation systems yet to be built, dilapidated facilities, and dams and canal systems needing repair will continued to be

implemented in order of priority with added momentum.

If there is new projects to be implemented, it will be reported to the Hluttaw through the cabinet in light of procedure of international-standard assessment.

**Mr Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker and Hluttaw Representatives,**

On behalf of the President, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation has made brief clarification.

**Handed down by the former government, projects which have to be implemented for agricultural development in sustainable national interest will be reviewed and considered in the interests of the people in light of all-round and farsightedness assessment on the reality with genuine good-will.**

I would like to wind up my clarification by informing that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation will continue to work on confirmed instructions of the government on the Hluttaw's decision to continue implementing by the government.—MNA

## Proposal "Citizens and service personnel's pay,...

(from page 4)

- (a) the lowest salary rate would be K 52,500 and the highest rate, K 315,000. So, a total of K 1367.077 billion are to be spent on it.
- (b) So, an extra K 455.692 billion is to be spent on it.
- (c) A total of pension salary of K 503.122 billion is to be spent. So, an extra K 167.707 billion is to be spent on it
- (d) Likewise, the total amount would be K 33.883 billion when adding salaries of staff who are serving duties in remote areas. So, an extra K 11.294 billion is to be spent on it.
- (e) Deficit would amount to K 3152.581 billion if the current salary rate is calculated multiplying by 50%. The ratio of deficit and GDP would be 6.14%.

The following table shows neighbouring countries' the ratio of budget deficit and GDP, GDP growth rate, the ratio of investment and GDP for 2010-2011.

sr	countries	2010-2011		
		GDP growth rate (%)	Deficit and GDP (%)	Investment and GDP ratio (%)
1.	China	10.3	(-) 1.6	48.8
2.	Thailand	7.2	(-) 1.9	26.0
3.	Vietnam	6.8	(-) 3.03	38.1
4.	India	10.1	(-) 5.1	37.8
5.	Pakistan	3.8	(-) 5.3	16.6

It can be seen that neighbouring countries increase the ratio of investment and GDP and are working based on budget deficits so as to ensure the GDP growth rate.

There might be macro economic instabilities such as inflation that occurs when there is budget and GDP ratio is high, decrease in demand that occurs due to the high prices in the market. So, the government has drafted budget deficits and GDP ratio (4.9%) in order that investment and GDP ratio is to be 31.94% and GDP growth rate, 7% in the 2012-2013 Budget. In total expenditure, the ratio of revenue expenditure and capital expenditure is 60:40.

On the other hand, the country would face debt burden problem if budget deficits are filled by borrowing from foreign countries. Currency being used in the country would be K 5600.354 billion in January, 2012 if budget deficits are filled by means of the circulation of currency. So, there would be an increase in the number of currency thereby contributing to high inflation and high good prices. Because of that, the country's economy would not become stagnant, which has a negative impact on grass-root level.

Poverty rate is 26% in 2010-2011 National Planning Year which is base year. It can

impede effort to reduce poverty rate by 2% per year.

For necessary salaries and expenses, there would be no change in the ratio of deficits and GDP while the investment and GDP ratio would decline if the deficits are filled by reducing capital expenditures which is in the investment sector. So, the country would not achieve the expected economic growth rate of 7%. And individual income of people including the staff would decline and it would impede the country's development. For instance,

- (a) the country would not fully implement the development of industrial sector based on agricultural sector which is the country's economic objective if the investment expenditures on agricultural sector are reduced. In addition, hybrid paddy seed, which is the goal of agricultural sector is to be produced and distributed to states/regions. In doing so, agriculturalists would extend a helping hand to it. It can cause a hinder to implementations of 15 dam projects to be completed by 2012 and river water

pumping projects and construction of related feeder canals for supply of water to 10,2500 acres of area in Regions across the country. It would not hit the target for development of agricultural sector as well as expected economic growth.

- (b) Likewise, if the investment expenditures on industrial development and industry sector are reduced, the target of upgrade of technology that can benefit national industry sector and turning out intellectuals, intelligentsia and experts for human resources development and plans to implement factories, assembly lines and production of machinery equipments, giving encouragement to development of small and medium enterprises by making investment in industry sector, plans to boost the production of import-substitute and export products by setting up heavy industries, would be impeded.
- (c) The government is investing both foreign loan and the country's foreign currency in offshore natural gas filed projects. These works are targeted to complete in the end of 2013. Only when targeted investment could be implemented, would

the country get more income from these projects in the beginning of 2014. So, it is impossible to reduce capital expenditure which is investment at present.

**Mr Speaker and Hluttaw representatives,**

It has been described that the State has a foreign debt of USD 11,023.298 million in the report to the Union Hluttaw on the 2012-2013 fiscal year budget. Out of that debt, the due debt inclusive of the interest still unpaid is USD 7539.908 million till 31, December, 2011. Most this USD 7,539.908 million debt was borrowed before 1988 and delay charges are increasing as it cannot be repaid in time. Now, the new government is extending international relations, making political and economic reforms and initiating talks on debts with Japan and Italy to settle debt problem with creditor nations and institutions.

**Moreover, the State will host XXVIII SEA Games in 2013. So, necessary expenditure has been drafted in 2012-2013 fiscal year budget to create hospitable environment as the host, to construct international standard stadiums and to hold international standard sports events and to secure success for the nation. In addition, we are now preparing to take the ASEAN Chair in 2014 during which we will have to hold a lot of meetings and thus essential spending on meetings, accommodation and transportation has been budgeted in 2011-2012 fiscal year and also in the 2012-2013 fiscal year.**

We have found that we have to take these facts into account in considering the pay rise for the civil servants.

- (a) We should sell treasury bonds through bond market and coordinate with international monetary institutions to invite them invest in the bonds to be sold. If agreement cannot be reached with the international monetary institutions, we need to prepare necessary regulations to allow foreign investment in bond market.
  - (b) If official development assistance can be obtained, it could be used in future infrastructure development projects, cutting the State's budget on these projects. The budget cuts can be used in paying increased salary for the civil servants.
  - (c) We should adopt a new low-rate-and wide-range taxation system agreeable to the current situation.
  - (d) If we would print the money to pay for the salary increase of the civil servants, it would lead to inflation and other macroeconomic instabilities. So, we should avoid this.
- We have to take the following measures to raise salary of the civil servants.
- (a) To seek the ways to reduce unnecessary spending subsidized by the government.

- (b) To think income-generation methods in advance to pay for the potentially increased spending (For example: to earn increasingly from sale of natural gas or increased taxation after the reforms in taxation structure)

- (c) To take actions to invite increased foreign investment and effective foreign aid including financial assistance and low-interest rate loans.

- (d) To settle up debts in order of priority

- (e) To focus on sale of treasury bonds and to take actions to develop treasury bonds market.

- (f) Transparency and accountability of government's budget

In conclusion, I would like to say the proposal **"to increase pay, salary and allowance of civil servants in coming fiscal year"** included in the resolution of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is welcoming. It is the proposal the Union government is considering to realize and should be done for the civil servants. As the government has intended to increase the proportion of the private sector participation and the pay rise of the civil servants may have impact on workers engaged in private businesses, we need to consider the balance between per capita income and potential situation after the pay rise, taking wages and salary of workers in the private sector into account.

Moreover, before the pay rise of the civil servants, we would increase the allowances of civil servants discharging duties at far-flung areas at the service of the national people first as proposed by the MPs. The salary increase of the civil servants mainly calls for best management system of the State. To reach such stage, we have to form a team constituted with scholars at home and abroad and from government departments, copying the methods practiced internationally. That team will have to make reports on pay rise of the civil servants based on success of the national projects. Analyzing these reports, we are to take steps to increase wages, salary and allowances of the civil servants. If we allow pay increase in 2012-2013 fiscal year, we will have to face the burden of increased salary and other spending, leading to the budget deficit.

So, the pay increase should be realized in 2013-2014 fiscal year only after the necessary preparations are made to increase salary and wages of the civil servant. On behalf of the President, I with respect would like to present to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw that in consideration of the government staff discharging duties at remote areas, we will make coordination to increase their allowances starting 2012-2013 fiscal year.

MNA

## Industrial development project to create synergic benefits such as ...

(from page 5)

technicians annually for supplying adequate human resources to the project plants. Moreover, it is a good situation to create job opportunity and develop human resources at the same time by providing vocational training and occupational training to local youths.

Development of human resources, economy based on human resources, creation of job opportunities and production of high quality products are inseparably related phenomena.

Although education plays a crucial role in process of human resources development, vocation, profession and occupational trade are main points to control the practical production life. It is nature to give these subjects to the trainees in synchronization with production process.

For example, education standards of Japan and South Korea were at the lowest level in 1950. As the two countries improved the expertise and practical works at works while importing foreign investments and technology to operate industrial production, their production standards were higher than that of the original nation. At a time when they achieved booming economy, they have capability to promote education standard through long-term plans for ensuring perpetuity of their achievements.

In today's international arena, practical skill is emphasized as a profession. The vocabulary of WorkShop that emerged from the industrial sector is being used in other fields on a wider scale. It can be seen that only when industrial production is flourishing, will the professions of practical skills develop.

We can see five-layer hierarchy in human resources development according to its nature like this:

- (1) Skilled Operator
- (2) Technician
- (3) Engineer/Profession
- (4) Academician
- (5) Scientist

We need to adopt different approaches and plans to organize nurturing and training according to their differing features.

The former government, Tatmadaw government had adopted long-term plans for industrial human resources development. There have established 32 technological universities, 25 universities of computer studies, 15 government technical institutes/ colleges and 36 technical training schools.

Till the end of December, 2011, those technological universities, colleges and training schools have turned out 278,937 graduates, ranging from certificate holders to PhD degree holders with 112051 students learning at those universities, colleges and training schools, having nurtured a total number of 390,988 technical human resources.

Industrial development is crucial to create jobs for human resources nurtured

through long-term plan by the State at the sky-high cost and to keep on nurturing human resources with technical expertise. Neglecting this point will lead to unemployment. It is the real situation that about 3 million Myanmar migrant workers are working at neighbouring countries and other countries due to less job opportunities stemming from industrial underdevelopment. Industrial development and human resources development are inseparable parts of winning combination.

**Today, agricultural sector is forwarding to mechanized farming and thus jobs opportunities can be created constantly for exceeded human resources from the agricultural sector and human resources waiting job opportunities beginning the projects construction.**

**Industrial development project will constantly create massive job opportunities for different professions such as engineers, technicians, economists, managers, skilled operators and blue collar labourers who were forced to abandon their social life to work overseas due to less job opportunities stemming from underdevelopment of production industries in the nation, enabling them to work at home region and for the interests of the motherland. The ultimate goal of the industrial development projects is to bring about socio-economic development of the entire nation and its national people by utilizing the natural resources of our country on our own without relying on foreign countries.**

In implementing industrial development projects, we will have to depend on technical human resources nurtured as long-term plan. We will have to enhance their competency and make them to work and train them on job for continuous improvement. Industrial developments in return would practically benefit human resources development.

We need to analyze feasibility, financial benefits and market conditions in preparing a project. Especially, although the decision to implement projects with foreign loan in principle is made by the government concerned, but in practice, we need to submit systematic feasibility study report and economic and financial evaluation report as the loan is given by independent economic and monetary institutions.

Such reports are jointly compiled by tripartite scholars from the client, contractor and bank. It is the internationally accepted procedure that the creditor bank will review those reports and give loans only when the results are satisfactory.

Feasibility study report and financial evaluation reports on industrial development projects have been submitted and the respective monetary institutions have systematically assessed the reports and accepted the feasibility and economic and financial benefits of the projects.

Source industries can handle the whole production process, manufacture a particular item with a particular production line and spare parts of different production industries as well. As they are equipped with design bureau, they have flexibility to change between different factory designs to manufacture different products as necessary according to the needs of the country.

Source industries can not only

## Myanmar Gazette

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb.—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Deputy Director-General U Min Htein of Hluttaw and Residence Maintenance Group of Department of

Human Settlement and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction as Director-General of the department on probation from the date he assumes charges of his duty.—MNA

guarantee sustainability of present industries of Myanmar but also are a requisite for future industrial development goals.

It is real situation that a lot of factories, production lines and industries in different sectors of the country nowadays are facing such problems as long halt in production, unrecoverable machine breakdown and buying spare parts at four or five times higher cost than the original price once there is serious mechanical failure in machines for there is no reliable source industries in the country.

Studying the industrialized nations of the world, production industries that can guarantee the high standard of socio-economy of the nation and its people are developed by establishing firm source industries, which brings about sector-wise economic development of the nation.

Industrial development projects are implemented on transfer of technology basis. Technological advancement can be obtained through transfer of technology, establishment of research and development centres, taking human resources development measures and gathering production experiences. Technology integration will lead to synergistic technology integration.

At the present, there are restrictions on SME development that small and medium enterprises still have to rely on foreign countries for all the input such as factory equipment, capital, technology and industrial raw materials. Industrial development projects will help SMEs overcome those needs and restrictions and grow on their own locally without relying on foreign assistance. In establishing SMEs for private and public sectors, we can save money as our country has got the core technology and does not need to pay for separate expenses. Technology transfer costs from 15 to 30 per cent of the total cost of equipment and thus it would increase the competitiveness of the SMEs, saving the cost on capital.

**Source industries can manufacture factories, equipment and production lines required for SMEs. So, it will spread over regions and states although they can currently be established only in major cities, leading to national industrialization age with opportunity for the entire people to take part in.**

Through the creation of such favourable environment for industrial development, entrepreneurs are to be nurtured in connection with industrial production sector. Then, we will have to create entrepreneurial business environment (EBE) including every sector such as production, trade, finance and service by encouraging entrepreneurs, forwarding to sector-wise economic development nationwide.

The industrial development of Myanmar is long-term investment of the nation and it is the national investment

concerned with the entire nation, benefitting generation after generation. It is the investment in productive sector which will help multiply the GDP. And this productive sector is not mere ordinary industrial production but synergistic productive paradigm as it is the production of factories, assembly lines and machine parts.

It is aimed to reach national industrialization age by making private- and public-owned production industries boom in respective regions and states and by enabling to equally utilize natural resources, hardware resources and human resources of own region.

The emergence of ASEAN Free Trade Area in 2015 is an urgent challenge to Myanmar but it is assumed to create a power encouraging the competitiveness of Myanmar citizens.

It is not restricted that the investment can be made by the government alone. All investments private, public, partnership and foreign direct investment are allowed. However, in the present situation, local and foreign investors tend to put self interest at the fore rather than national interests and would not invest in source industry which is a long-term investment. So, the government has to invest in source industry, the key to industrial development. In the future, according to the trend in market economy, the ownership can be changed as necessary.

According to the objective of the fifth phase five-year term of the national project of the State, it is necessary to implement industrial development projects to achieve annual 14.1 per cent increase in industrial development. This would create synergistic benefits such as creation of jobs for the people, gradual development of advanced technologies, ability to produce machines independently without relying on foreign countries, SME development through production of factories and production lines nationwide and ability to fulfill the industrial requirements of the nation on our own in the future.

Investments in industrial development are long-term process made in the national interests of the State and the project is estimated to take five to ten years. As it is the long-term objective of the State, affordable measures should be instantly taken to start the project right now as it is strategically viewed that the soonest completion of the project would create huge benefits to the nation.

**Mr Speaker,**

I have straightforwardly presented the real situations so that MPs can seriously consider the State's policies on industrial development projects included in the National Project Bill of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and project implementation process. I hope MPs can make right decision in consideration of the long-term interests and hopes of the State and the entire national people.

MNA



## Union government will develop national...

(from page 6)

(6) Plans are under way to promote the living standards of Myanmar people so as to keep abreast of international countries after adopting City Development Plan, Township Development Plan and Village Development Plan by Regions and States.

All these processes are National Development Plan because these processes and education and health sectors on which Hluttaw representatives put more emphasis, are aimed at ensuring human resources development and boosting socio-economic status of people.

In addition to recently-submitted National Planning Law, if National Development Plan is adopted, according to section 220 of the 2008 Constitution says, the Union Government shall promulgate its policies in accord with the provisions of the Constitution. The necessary projects have to be drawn in accord with the said policies and shall be implemented with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

So, with regard to National Development Plan, Union Government should adopt it by taking into consideration remarks and suggestions of Hluttaw representatives in accord with the Constitution Section 220.

National Development Plan (or) Human Resources Development Plan is named. But if all agreed that Human Resources Development Plan should be implemented, plans are under way to implement Human Resources Development Plan by Union Government after forming committee for human resources development plan in coordination with experts from home and abroad and consultants, he said.

**Mr Speaker,**

It is very difficult to review annual National Plan for individuals because of it not being a strategic plan. It should be implemented by mean of development strategy only. Here, I would like to explain some suggestions for implementation of 20-year long-term plan.

U Myo Myint of Amyotha Hluttaw representative said: the recently-submitted proposal, has suggested that new plans should be adopted by making in-depth observation with foreign consultants; In Parliamentary Democracy Era, it had to take two years in adopting Pyidawtha Plan with the help of oversea companies; and it should take enough time to implement a plan.

In its efforts to achieve successes in the sectors of political, economic and social in the short period of time, Union Government is adopting the five-year short-term plan by taking account of the facts that the country's rapid development, promoting socio-economic development of people which is much more practical than GDP growth rate plan and Union Government's five years term which is in harmony with in the first phase of the 30-year long term plan.

In adopting National Plan, Union Government is planning to use system of national account with the help of experts from UNDP.

The Union Government has already made arrangements to get technical assistances and adopt industrial

development plans with the help of foreign experts and plans to hire foreign consultants for special economic zones and asked for assistances of investment experts from United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). These efforts could generate sound foundations for reform process and strategic long-term project as well as for the coming successive governments.

President U Thein Sein said: for socio-economic development of the State and the people, GDP growth rate alone is not enough and it needs synergy called Comprehensive Development Plan. So, he has already laid down Comprehensive Development Plan in line with the MDGs and ASEAN goals in order that the country keeps abreast of other countries' socio-economic index.

Arrangements have been made to have harmonious developments in all state/regions across the country by comparing poverty-related index, inflation rate, adult literacy rate, school enrolment rate, the ratio of students and teachers, life expectancy, death rate of child under one, death rate of child under five, the ratio of population and doctor, mother death rate, population and bed ratio, net cultivation and access to telephone.

Those procedures in the direction of GDP growth only in the past have changed into practical field in favour of development of socioeconomic life of the people.

To ensure high living standard like in cities and villages of other countries, region and state governments have been devising City development plan, Township development plan and Village development plan as physical plan.

In conclusion, as I mentioned before, discussions on projects held in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw conform to principle, goal and practical procedure of the President. Since the government took office, reforms carried out by the Union government intended to ensure interest of the country and the people, make socio-economic status higher, keep pace with other countries in living standard and living security, improve job opportunities, businesses and investments, and develop education, health and human resources as the measures of rural development and poverty alleviation. So, the Union government will develop national development plan (or) human resource development plan with the advice of Hluttaw representatives.

At first-day second regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 22 August 2011, the President said, **"Our government is just nine months old. Although young, our government is taking measures in favour of public interest in political, economic and social sectors. Capability of the government can be measured in its term."** Our country is in first step to democracy transition for over ten months, requesting time and experience. The Union government is taking measures for implementation of ongoing and future tasks that can not be separable and need to be implemented by linking one by one in commensuration with present situation.

Although measures taken by the Union government in over ten-month period are not perfect, not only Pyithu Hluttaw representatives but also the people have witnessed needs and disturbances of democracy transition period that are still

## Presentation of Political parties through Radio and TV

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb— *The Union Election Commission issued the Announcement No 12/2012 dated 16-2-2012. The translation of the announcement is as follows:-*

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Union Election Commission  
Nay Pyi TAW  
Announcement No 12/2012  
9<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tabodwe, 1373 ME  
(16<sup>th</sup> February 2012)**

### Presentation of Political parties through Radio and TV

- The Union Election Commission had issued the Announcement No. 61/2011 that the by-elections will be held on 1-4-2012 (Sunday) for 48 vacant constituencies where Hluttaw representatives of the Respective Hluttaws will stand for.
- Altogether 17 parties registered to stand for the by-election will be allowed to present their policies, work programmes, etc in canvassing for votes through Radio and TV. Therefore, if the political parties to stand for by-election are willing to make presentation through Radio and TV, the chairmen and secretaries of the parties are to apply for the permit together with manuscripts of their presentation attached with timetables to the UEC at least seven days earlier than the prescribed date. (The A4 size-manuscripts applying for the permit must not be more than seven pages).
- For the political parties that are applying for the permit to be able to make presentation in turn in a comfortable manner, the UEC will coordinate the dates and time tables permitted of each political party with the relevant departments and organizations.
- After coordinating the manuscripts of presentation with the Ministry of Information, the UEC
  - shall issue the permit or deny it.
  - The UEC shall state dates, times and the name of person to make presentation in accord with dates and time tables prescribed when issuing the permit.
  - If it denies the permit, the UEC shall inform the applicants with reasons.
- Each political party
  - shall be allowed 15 minute Radio presentation
  - shall be allowed 15 minute TV presentation
  - shall be allowed 15 minutes presentation of party songs.
- The political parties shall refrain from the following prohibitions when making presentation on Radio or TV
  - statements detrimental to non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.
  - statements detrimental to security, prevalence of law and order and peace and tranquility.
  - statements undermining the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
  - statements tarnishing or harming the image of the State
  - statements leading to disintegration of the Tatmadaw or tarnishing the image of the Tatmadaw.
  - statements and incitements leading to the conflict among race or religion or individuals or groups and undermining their dignity and morale
  - using religion as a tool in politics
  - incitements detrimental to peaceful pursuit of education
  - statements that incite service personnel to discharge duties perfunctorily and go against the government.
- Action will be taken against the political parties that fail to follow any prohibition, restriction or rule and regulation included in the permit according to the law as well as the political party registration law.
- Accordingly, to ensure that the by-election on 1-4-2012 be free and fair, the political parties are to present their policy, work programmes, etc in canvassing for votes through Radio and TV in accordance with the announcement.

*Sd/*

**Tin Aye  
Chairman  
Union Election Commission**

challenges to face. To gain unceasing development without delay is of paramount importance for the country and the people. I conclude my speech with remark on behalf of the President that in the interests of the country and the people, all Hluttaw representatives take deep consideration of the points I mentioned with the participation of government, Hluttaw and the people.

*MNA*

## Culture Ministry paying more attention on preventive measures

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb—On the cultural preservation and conservation, due to natural disasters and climate change, the Culture Ministry has to pay more attention on preventive measures, said Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan at an international conference in Bagan on 14 February.

The Union minister spoke of the need to enhance awareness and understanding of the people about preservation and protection of cultural heritages at the “Early Myanmar and its Global Connections” conference.

Explaining endeavors of the Ministry of Culture, he also said that it is seeking more assistance on active projects and ongoing research and conduct research and training and digital archiving of its rare collections concerned with archaeology, fine arts and historical research.

Concerning the task of the government, he said that one of its commitments is to narrow the gap among regions and states in coherence with NGOs and UN agencies.

Culture Ministry and Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre (ISEAS Singapore) co-sponsored the



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan making a speech at “Early Myanmar and its Global Connections” International Conference.—MNA



conference held at Bagan Archaeological Research Museum in Bagan Archaeological Region, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, on 13 and 14 this month.

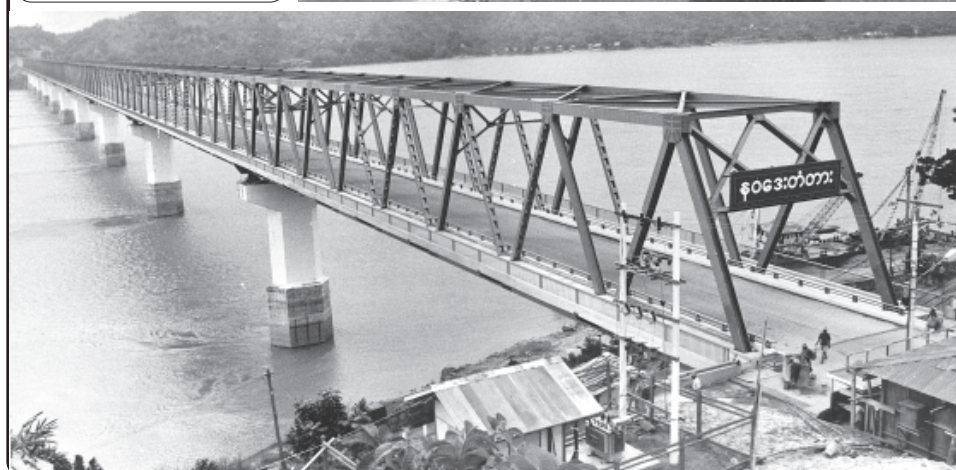
Director of Archaeology of the Singaporean centre Mr John Miksic presented books on historical research to the Union minister. The conference continued after a photo session.

Participants included officials of Myanmar Historical Research Commission, officials of Culture Ministry, professors and Phd candidates of Ministry of Education, Head of Department of the centre Mr Tansen Sen and party, resource persons of Indonesia, Ecole française d’Extrême-orient of France, University of Sydney of Australia, the Heritage Museum of Russia, University

London and Manchester Metropolitan University of Britain, Nanyang Technological University of Singapore, Thammasat University of Thailand, Institute de Chandernagor of India, National Centre for Scientific Research of France, Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka. Myanmar and international scholars presented 18 research papers.—MNA

## Ayeyawady River crossing Nawade Bridge linking east bank of Ayeyawady River and Rakhine State

- \* It contributes a lot to development of regions in west bank of Ayeyawady Bridge while bringing about easy access between Ayeyawady Region, Rakhine State and Bago Region.
- \* With it, one can travel directly through Yangon-Pyay-Mandalay Highway on east bank of Ayeyawady River Patheingyi-Monywa Road on west bank of the river and Padaung-Taungup Road that leads to Rakhine State.
- \* The emergence of the bridge has brought closer contact among national races of different regions and the national brethren have thus been able to further cement friendship among them.



### Facts about Nawade Bridge

1. The bridge is 4183 feet long with its concrete piers on lower structure and its steel trusses on upper structure.
2. It links Padaung Township and Pyay Township
3. Its motorway is 28 feet wide flanked by five feet wide pedestrian lanes on either side. It can withstand 60 tons of loads. The water clearance area is 350 feet wide and 57 feet high.
4. The construction of the bridge started on 1 March 1994 and it was opened on 18 September 1997.

Translation: TS

Archive: Maung Nyein Aye



## Obama touting manufacturing at Wisconsin plant

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb—Pointing to a rebound in manufacturing, President Barack Obama in Wednesday is visiting a Milwaukee plant that has brought back jobs to the United States.

Before going on an extended West Coast fundraising spree, the president was visiting Master Lock, a Milwaukee maker of padlocks that was cited in his State of the Union address for bringing back 100 jobs to the US from China in response to higher labor and logistical costs in Asia.

In his speech at Master Lock, Obama intends to call on companies to promote more investments—and more jobs—in the US.

“Right now we have an excellent opportunity to bring manufacturing back—but we have to seize it,” Obama said in remarks prepared for delivery. “My message to business leaders is simple: Ask yourselves what you can do to bring jobs back to your country, and your country will do everything we can to help you succeed.”

Obama also planned to announce that the Commerce Department would hold the first annual SelectUSA Investment Summit, bringing companies in to meet with governors, mayors and others to discuss ways of promoting investments in the US.

Internet



President Barack Obama.—INTERNET

## Tens of billions at stake in BP oil spill trial

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb—Tens of billions of dollars will be at stake when BP heads to a US court this month to determine how much it owes for the massive Gulf of Mexico oil spill and how much it can shift to subcontractors.

Several government probes have castigated BP, rig operator Transocean and Halliburton—which was responsible for the runaway well’s faulty cement job—for cutting corners and missing warning signs that could have prevented the disaster.

The 20 April, 2010 explosion on the BP-leased Deepwater Horizon drilling rig killed 11 workers, blackened beaches in five US states and devastated the Gulf Coast’s tourism and fishing industries.

It is now up to a federal judge to determine whether the deadly missteps constitute gross negligence, how much of the blame rests with each party and whether punitive damages should be imposed.

“There’s only one path for BP to take—blame it on as many other people as possible and

make sure it’s not cast as gross negligence,” said Blaine LeCesne, a law professor at Loyola University in New Orleans who has been following the case closely.

“That way they may be able to limit their cost to \$30 or \$40 billion as opposed to \$100 billion.”

Judge Carl Barbier—an expert in maritime law with a reputation for efficiency—has consolidated hundreds of spill-related lawsuits into a single case set to begin on 27 February in New Orleans.

BP—which last week reported a \$23.9 billion profit for 2011—has said it is working to reach a settlement with the US government over a host of civil fines and possible criminal charges.

“We are prepared to settle if we can do so on fair and reasonable terms, but equally, if this is not possible, we are preparing vigorously for trial,” chief executive Bob Dudley said after the British energy giant surged back into the black.

That settlement will likely come in at a record \$20 to \$25 billion, Morgan Stanley estimated in a recent research note.

Internet



## Stolen Dutch artworks found in British warehouse

LONDON, 16 Feb—Hundreds of works by celebrated Dutch expressionist artist Karel Appel have been discovered in a British warehouse ten years after they went missing, the *Guardian* newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Appel never recovered from the loss of his lifetime’s work of drawings, sketches and notebooks, which disappeared in Amsterdam in 2002, and died aged 85 in 2006.

The 400 pieces were found by a British storage company when it cleared out the contents of a warehouse that it had bought before Christmas, the paper reported on its website.

Intrigued staff from the unnamed business took the eight boxes of works to Bonhams auction house, who told them they were on the Art Loss Register’s (ALR) database of “most wanted” stolen art.

“After five weeks of intense negotiation with the logistics company a settlement was finally reached with the company agreeing to release their claim to the artwork,” said Christopher Marinello, ALR’s lawyer and chief negotiator.



Hundreds of works by celebrated Dutch expressionist artist Karel Appel, pictured in 1993, have been discovered in a British warehouse ten years after they went missing, the *Guardian* newspaper reported Tuesday.—INTERNET

Appel, a leading member of the avant garde Cobra group, was awarded the UNESCO prize at the 1954 Venice Biennale. His works are known for their depictions of grotesque animals using thickly-applied paint.—Internet

## One in eight US voter registrations faulty

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb—One in eight US voter registrations is invalid or markedly inaccurate, the result of an outdated and inefficient registration system, a Pew Centre on the *States* report said on Tuesday.

More than 1.8 million dead people are listed as active US voters, and about 2.75 million people have active registration in more than one state, according to the research by the non-partisan think tank.

US electoral systems “are plagued with errors and inefficiencies that waste taxpayer dollars, undermine voter confidence, and fuel partisan disputes over the integrity of our elections,” the report said.

Largely paper-based voter registration “has not kept pace with advancing technology and a mobile society.” The report ahead of the

November general elections comes as states across the country, in contentious moves, have tightened voter identification requirements.

Voter ID laws were passed in eight states last year, and the Virginia legislature is debating bills to stiffen ID requirements. The Justice Department blocked South Carolina’s ID law in December, arguing it discriminated against minority voters.

The Pew report did not identify voter fraud as a problem, saying the inefficiencies could lead to “the perception that they (elections) lack integrity or could be susceptible to fraud.”—Reuters

## India finds abandoned motorbike suspected to be used in attack on Israeli embassy car

NEW DELHI, 16 Feb—Indian police said Wednesday they have found an abandoned red motorbike suspected to have been used in Monday’s bomb attack on an Israeli embassy car, said local TV Times Now.

The motorbike was found in Lado Sarai District of the Indian Capital, police said.

Witnesses said the attacker on a red motorbike attached a stick-on bomb to the rear of the Israeli embassy car before it blew up.

The wife of the Israeli defence attaché, Tal Yehosh, was seriously injured in the explosion.

Xinhua



This file photo shows a major retrospective of Irish artist Francis Bacon, displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, in 2009. A provocative masterpiece by Bacon on Tuesday fetched £21.3 million at a London auction while a Gerhard Richter abstract netted almost £10 million.

INTERNET

## Bacon masterpiece nets £21 mln at London auction

LONDON, 16 Feb—A provocative masterpiece by Irish painter Francis Bacon fetched £21.3 million at a London auction while a Gerhard Richter abstract netted almost £10 million.

Bacon’s 1963 work “Portrait of Henrietta Moraes”, which features a naked model sprawled on a bed, was snapped up by an unnamed telephone bidder at Christie’s Post-War and Contemporary Art auction, which realised £80.6 in total.

The Bacon auction record is \$86.3 million for his 1976 “Triptych” which was

achieved at Sotheby’s New York in May 2008.

The painting sold on Tuesday was described in the catalogue as “the most seductive painting of a female figure ever realised by Francis Bacon”. Bacon died in 1992 and is now regarded as one of the 20th century’s most important artists.

German visual artist Richter’s large 1994 green, blue and pink “Abstraktes Bild” sold for £9.9 million, following on from the \$20.8 paid for one of his abstracts at a New York sale last November.

Internet

**ENGAGEMENT**

We are happy to announce the engagement of

**Kadoe Wailin Naing**

the son of (Rev. Wailin Naing) and Daw Ahnaw Byu Naing residing at 1181 N. Lyman Ave, Covina, CA 91724, USA to

**Pwint Yee Soe**

daughter of U Maung Maung Soe and Daw May Tin Oo of No. 42, Kinmonchan Road, 10 ward, Hlaing Tsp. 11051, Yangon, Myanmar on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011 in the presence of Rev. Dr. A Ko Lay and relatives from both sides.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV KOTA MACHAN VOY NO (341)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MACHAN VOY NO (341) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV PHUONG NAM-69 VOY NO (2)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM-69 VOY NO (2) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-3 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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

**Malnourished Wisconsin girl abused for years**

MILWAUKEE, 16 Feb—A severely malnourished Wisconsin teenager found walking barefoot in pajamas outside in the cold last week had been forced to stay in an unfinished basement for years and an alarm would sound if she went upstairs, police records say. The 15-year-old told authorities she ate what she could find in the garbage and on the floor of

her father and stepmother's Madison home. Sometimes she was made to eat her own feces and drink her urine, according to a police affidavit.

When Mike Vega found the teen on 6 February, he says she was crying and walking barefoot in thin pajamas. She was bleeding from a gash on her nose and other small scrapes and was

so scrawny he mistook her for an 8-year-old. "It was the most shocking thing I have ever seen," Vega, 31, said on Wednesday, recalling the afternoon when he found her. "A little girl looking like that. I've never seen anybody look like that to be honest."

Her 40-year-old father and 42-year-old stepmother, whom *The Associated Press* is not naming to protect the girl's identity, were arrested Friday on suspicion of child abuse and neglect, and a judge set their bail Tuesday at \$20,000 each. A hearing was set for Thursday to review the bail and discuss the status of the potential charges, Dane County District Attorney Ismael Ozanne said. He said he was waiting to receive the evidence and couldn't comment on when charges might be filed. Madison police spokesman Joel DeSpain said the girl was getting follow-up medical treatment and remained in protective custody.

Internet



Mike Vega points to the area of sidewalk in Madison, Wis, on 15 Feb, 2012, where he discovered a starving 15-year-old after she escaped from her abusive father and stepmother last week. — INTERNET



Trash and inorganic debris in the ocean directly impact the health of seals and other marine life.—XINHUA

**500m children 'at risk of effects of malnutrition'**

LONDON, 16 Feb—Half a billion children could grow up physically and mentally stunted over the next 15 years because they do not have enough to eat, the charity Save the Children says in a new report. It says much more needs to be done to tackle malnutrition in the world's poorest countries. The charity found that many families could not afford meat, milk or vegetables. The survey covered families in India, Bangladesh, Peru, Pakistan and Nigeria.

One parent in six said their children were

abandoning school to help out by working for food. A third of parents surveyed said their children complained about not having enough to eat. The survey was carried out in the five countries — where, the agency says, half the world's malnourished children live — by international polling agency Globescan.

Save the Children said that a year of record food prices had worsened child malnutrition and could hit progress reducing child deaths. "The world has made dramatic progress in reducing child deaths, down from 12 to 7.6 million, but this momentum will stall if we fail to tackle malnutrition," said Save the Children chief executive Justin Forsyth. The agency wants the UK to lead the way in reducing hunger and protecting children from food price rises — starting with a Hunger Summit when world leaders are in London for the Olympics.— Internet

**London 2012: Call for Olympic tickets transparency**

LONDON, 16 Feb—Unnecessary secrecy risks jeopardising public confidence in the ticketing arrangements for the 2012 Olympics, the London Assembly has warned. Games organizers' refusal to provide a detailed breakdown of how many tickets have been sold at what price for each event was also criticised in a report. Locog said 75% of Olympic tickets would be sold to the British public.

It said it would provide a breakdown once the final three million Olympic and Paralympic tickets had been sold. Locog has previously said 28% of 8.8 million Olympic tickets available would cost less than £20, but it has not said whether cheap tickets would be available for all events, or just those where supply exceeds demand. "We are committed to providing a full breakdown of ticket sales, and believe the best time to do this is once we have completed the final sales process," said a spokeswoman.— Internet



Locog has been plagued by problems throughout the ticket selling process. INTERNET

**Trinidad Moruga Scorpion wins hottest pepper title**

ALBUQUERQUE, 16 Feb — There are super-hot chile varieties. And then there's the sweat-inducing, tear-generating, mouth-on-fire Trinidad Moruga Scorpion. With a name like that, it's not surprising that months of research by the experts at New Mexico State University's Chile Pepper Institute have identified the variety as the new hottest pepper on the planet.

The golf ball-sized pepper scored the highest among a handful of chile breeds reputed to be among the hottest in the world. Its mean heat topped more than 1.2 million units on the Scoville heat scale, while fruits from some individual plants reached 2 million heat units. "You take a bite. It doesn't seem so bad, and then it builds and it builds and it builds. So it is quite nasty," Paul Bosland, a renowned pepper expert and director of the chile institute, said of the pepper's heat.—Internet



**Coal mine accident kills 15**

CHANGSHA, 16 Feb — Fifteen miners have been confirmed dead, and three others injured, following a coal mine accident on Thursday morning in central China's Hunan Province, local authorities said.

The accident happened in the wee hours of Thursday in the Nanyang township of the Leiyang city, after a tramcar carrying miners derailed in a coal mine, according to Hunan Provincial Administration of Coal Mine Safety.—Xinhua

This undated image provided by New Mexico State University shows the Trinidad Moruga Scorpion, the new hottest pepper on the planet, as identified by NMSU's Chile Pepper Institute.—INTERNET



### Man suffers heart attack while eating at Heart Attack Grill

Millions of Americans watch what they eat. But one Las Vegas man has painfully discovered that where you eat can have a big impact on your health as well. In a story almost too bizarre to be true, a man suffered a heart attack after eating a "triple bypass burger" at the Heart Attack Grill in downtown Las Vegas, local affiliate Fox5 reports. As comically tragic as that may sound, no one can sue the restaurant for not issuing fair warning. Its website proudly proclaims the menu offers, "Taste Worth Dying For!" (Fortunately, the man in question survived his attack.)

Still, it was the first actual known cardiac incident at the Heart Attack Grill. "He was having the sweats and shaking," "Nurse" Bridgett, who was working at the restaurant at the time of the incident, told Fox5. (Employees at the restaurant are given fake medical titles, including the establishment's owner, "Doctor" Jon Basso.) "I actually felt horrible for the gentleman because the tourists were taking photos of him as if it were some type of stunt.



Two Mursi girls. When a girl reaches 15 years of age, her lower lip is pierced to wear traditional plates.

### Simpsons fans break Guinness world record

Two Simpsons fans have broken the Guinness world record for continuous television viewing. Jeremiah Franco and Carin Shreve, both from California, watched consecutive episodes of The Simpsons for 86 hours and 37 minutes. 100 fans took part in The Simpsons Ultimate Fan Marathon, which was held in Los Angeles at the weekend. Contestants were allowed to eat and drink throughout the challenge but not fall asleep.

Franco and Shreve each won Simpsons merchandise along with a cash prize of \$10,500

### Babies may be smarter than you think

Babies can understand many words sooner than they can actually say them, a new study indicates. Researchers from the University of Pennsylvania say 6- to 9-month old babies learn the meaning of the words for certain foods and body parts through their daily exposure to language. They said most psychologists don't think this type of word comprehension is possible until a child is closer to 1 year.

"I think it's surprising in the sense that the kids at this age aren't saying anything, they're not pointing, they're not walking," said the study's co-author, Erika Bergelson, a doctoral student in Penn's department of psychology, in a university news release. "But actually, under the surface, they're trying to put together the things in the world with the words that go with them." In conducting the study, researchers had 33 babies between 6 and 9

months old view a screen with a picture of a food and a body part while sitting with their parents. The parents were given phrases to say to the child, asking them to find the apple, for instance. An eye-tracking device revealed the babies' responses to the phrases. In a second test, the children went through the same process but saw pictures of typical food scenes and a whole person, not just body parts.



The show's creator Matt Groening attended the celebrations in Los Angeles.

### News Album

### Singer Shakira 'attacked' by sea lion

LONDON, 16 Feb — Pop star Shakira has described how a sea lion "tried to bite" her as she took a picture on her mobile phone. During a holiday in Cape Town the singer wrote about how the animal "got about one foot away from me, looked me in the eye, roared in fury". She said: "My brother 'Super Tony' jumped over me and

literally saved my life, taking me away from the beast."

Shakira and her brother suffered "scratches" from rocks "while trying to protect ourselves". In a blog post on her Facebook page titled "Special report: Attacked by a sea lion", the Colombian singer included a photo of a minor cut sustained on her hand. "Everyone there

screamed, including me. I was paralyzed by fear and couldn't move." Shakira, currently visiting South Africa, explained that she thought the animal had become confused.

"I believe what happened is that it confused the shiny reflection of the BlackBerry I was taking these pics [sic] with, with some sort of fish," she wrote. "It probably thought I was teasing it with food and then taking it away from it." The 35-year-old star is best known for having international hit singles such as Wherever Whenever, She Wolf and Underneath Your Clothes. Her most recent Sale el Sol was released in October 2011. — Internet



Shakira wrote about her encounter with a sea lion in South Africa. — INTERNET

### Jonny Lee Miller cast in US Sherlock Holmes update



Miller and Cumberbatch (l) alternated roles last year in a stage version of Frankenstein. — INTERNET

LONDON, 16 Feb — Jonny Lee Miller will play Sherlock Holmes in a US TV update of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous detective stories. The British Trainspotting star will play the sleuth in a pilot episode of proposed CBS show Elementary, to be set in contemporary New York. If the pilot is picked up, a series will be made in time for the autumn.

Last year, Miller appeared on stage with Benedict Cumberbatch, star of the BBC's acclaimed Sherlock update, in the National Theatre's Frankenstein. The Danny Boyle production led to them being named joint winners of the best actor prize at the Evening Standard Theatre Awards. Last month, the creators of the BBC's Sherlock confirmed a third series would be made, with Cumberbatch returning as Holmes and Martin Freeman as Watson.

Miller already has a number of US TV credits under his belt, having played the title role in legal drama Eli Stone and a recurring character in the fifth season of Dexter. Dexter, about a police forensics expert with a sideline in serial killing, will begin its seventh season in the US later this year. Yet it may face some stiff competition this autumn from Hannibal, a newly commissioned drama based on Thomas Harris's Hannibal "The Cannibal" Lecter. — Internet

### The Artist dog Uggie will not participate at Oscars

LOS ANGELES, 16 Feb — Uggie, the Jack Russell star of The Artist, will not make an appearance at the Academy Awards next week, the film's distributor has announced. A spokesperson for The Weinstein Company said the 10-year-old terrier had "not been asked to participate or appear at the Oscars" on 26 February. The announcement contradicted earlier reports

that Uggie had been rehearsing a sketch with host Billy Crystal. The canine performer "retired" after completing his role in The Artist. But he has continued to make public appearances in the run-up to the Oscars, where his film is in contention for 10 awards. On Monday he was named best dog in a theatrical film at the Golden Collar awards, a new ceremony recognising Hollywood canines and their trainers.

The accolade followed the Palm Dog accolade he received at last year's Cannes Film Festival, where The Artist had its world premiere. Uggie plays Jack in the French-made film, a celebration of black-and-white silent cinema.

Internet



Uggie was also seen last year in circus drama Water for Elephants. — INTERNET



Kareena Kapoor

### Kareena Kapoor to turn director?

MUMBAI, 16 Feb — Kareena Kapoor apparently impressed director Karan Johar with her interest in scripting and editing while shooting for Ek Main Aur Ekk. The filmmaker is reportedly considering the actor for full-time direction. KJo might give a project to Kareena after her marriage to Saif Ali Khan, reports Mid Day.

A source from the production house told the tabloid, "Kareena and Karan are like soul siblings. She discusses a lot of ideas with him. And she also got to be a part of the behind-the-scenes team in EMAET. It was during the shooting that Karan realised how great an aptitude Bebo has for cinema. In fact, she gave very crucial tips for revising and improving the

script too."

"Karan has asked her to get on board as a formal assistant and then eventually direct a film," the source added. Shakun Batra, the director of EMAET confirmed to the tabloid, "There were at least five scenes where Kareena felt her character Rihanna was similar to Geet in Jab We Met. — Internet

### SRK denies tiff with Juhi Chawla!

MUMBAI, 16 Feb — Brushing aside rumours of a tiff between him and actress Juhi Chawla, superstar Shah Rukh Khan says it is the media that creates such pieces and then embarrasses a celebrity with questions about them. "There is so much tabloidism in the work we do and the unfortunate bit is that some people write it and start believing in it. Then to come back and ask us about something that does not exist is a little odd and embarrassing for us because it did not exist in the first place," the 46-year-old said at an event here.

"It's like the smallest particle of atom they are still trying to figure out. So, when you ask this to me and Juhi, all of us get a little awkward about why you are asking this, this has never been a problem," he added. — Internet



## Ferguson plays down talk of England return for Paul Scholes

LONDON, 16 Feb — Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson has played down talk of Paul Scholes earning an England recall. Scholes, 37, has caught the eye in seven matches since his surprise re-emergence from retirement in January. And Harry Redknapp, the strong favourite to succeed Fabio Capello as England coach, has suggested that the midfielder should feature at Euro 2012.

But, asked if that was a possibility, Ferguson said: "I don't think there's any chance of that." Scholes called time on his England career at the age of 29, following the 2004 European Championships. And he



Paul Scholes

rejected pleas from Capello to reverse that decision ahead of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. But Ferguson expects the veteran to have the same attitude this time around.

"His reason for refusing last time was that it was late in the day," said Ferguson. "He felt the players who got them there should be involved. "Two years on, to go back to play for England after seven years... it's a big step." Ferguson has revealed that Scholes decided to retire last summer after being told by his manager that he could only expect to play 25 to 30 games if he carried on.

Scholes subsequently regretted that move and, after agreeing a deal for the rest of the season, returned to the United side in January's 3-2 FA Cup third-round win at Manchester City. He has been outstanding since his return, having been on the losing side just once (in the FA Cup fourth round defeat to Liverpool at Anfield), United having won four of their last five Premier League matches, as well as coming back from three down to draw 3-3 at Chelsea. — *Internet*

## Els to stage another big charity series for autism

LOS ANGELES, 16 Feb — Ernie Els is staging his "Els for Autism" golf challenge again, and this time he has backing from SAP, one of his top corporate sponsors. He describes it as the largest golf charity event in the world, a series of 30 tournaments from April through September, with



Ernie Els

the final being held 19 to 20 October at The Gallery Club in Las Vegas for the low net winning team (two players) and any team that raises at least \$10,000. In the first year, the event included 1,700 golfers, 9,000 donors and raised \$1.8 million.

"SAP has taken over the golf challenge, so they've come in all guns blazing this year, and I think we're going to have a wonderful time," Els said.

"I think we can double what we did last year." The money is going toward a \$30 million education and research facility in south Florida for children with autism. Els' son, Ben, is autistic, and Els has been driven in recent years to help families cope with children with autism and to help find a cure. Els said with his own money and separate fundraising, he has reached the \$9 million mark toward building the centre.

*Internet*

## Kurt Angle on his hardest task — making an Olympic return in 2012



LONDON, 16 Feb — Mention pro wrestling and the reaction of many is to say "ahh, but it's not real" in a tone more suited to passing on great wisdom to one's children. The tone suggests it is an activity without merit. The implication being that, because the results are predetermined, it bears no comparison with, say football, because, although that is just 22 people trying to kick a ball into a net, at least they are doing it for real.

But there is another side to wrestling, the amateur version which, while unlikely to sell out Madison Square Garden any time soon can at least point to being 100% genuine. In truth, the two do not make particularly easy bedfellows which is no doubt why almost nobody has made the transition from amateur to pro and nobody has done it the other way round.

Until now, that is. Kurt Angle won Olympic gold in 1996 before going on to enjoy huge success with the World Wrestling Federation (WWF) and then TNA Impact wrestling. Now he is going back, at least temporarily, trying to make the US team for the 2012 Olympics. Given that

fantastical storylines of pro wrestling it is tempting to think that his head has been turned by extended exposure to sports entertainment. Should he make the team he will be, at 43, six years older than anyone else to have made the US squad. — *Internet*

## Shirokov's Zenit double spells Portuguese



Zenit St Petersburg's Roman Shirokov celebrates after scoring the winning goal against Benfica during their Champions League last 16 first leg soccer match at the Petrovsky stadium in St Petersburg on 15 Feb, 2012.

*INTERNET*

ST PETERSBURG, 16 Feb — Roman Shirokov again proved the undoing of Portuguese opponents when he struck twice to power Zenit St Petersburg to a 3-2 win over Benfica in their

MILAN, 16 Feb — Zlatan Ibrahimovic inspired AC Milan to a 4-0 demolition of Arsenal in the Champions League on Wednesday, although the sorry performance of the visitors had as much to do with the scoreline as the volatile Swede's brilliance. Ibrahimovic set up two goals for Robinho and won and converted a penalty for the fourth to leave Milan almost certain of ending their dismal record against English opposition.

Kevin-Prince Boateng had fired Milan ahead with a typically emphatic effort in the 15th minute. Arsenal, who had not previously lost by more than three goals in the Champions League, never got to grips with the nimble footwork of Ibrahimovic, Robinho and Boateng, who pulled their defence all over



AC Milan's Robinho (R) celebrates with teammate Kevin Prince Boateng after scoring against Arsenal during their Champions League round of 16 soccer match at the Giuseppe Meazza stadium in Milan on 15 Feb, 2012. — *INTERNET*

the place.

The visitors were also at a loss as to how to penetrate the Milan defence where Thiago Silva had an outstanding game. Antonio Nocerino and Luca Antonini were also impressive for the

Serie A leaders. "We were never in the game, we were very poor offensively and defensively, and it was shocking to see how were beaten everywhere," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told reporters. — *Internet*

## Wozniacki ousted by Safarova in Doha 2nd round

DOHA, 16 Feb — Caroline Wozniacki failed to convert three match points and lost to Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic 4-6, 6-4, 7-6(3) in her opening match at the Qatar Open on Wednesday. Wozniacki, playing her first match since losing the No 1 ranking after the Australian Open, received a bye into the second round. She had all three match points in the 10th game of the third set.

"I am disappointed to have lost like this," said the Dane, the runner-up in Doha last year. "I had three match points but wasted them. I just want to move on from here." Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka, in her first match ranked No 1, dispatched Mona Barthel of Germany 6-1, 6-0.

Safarova saved the match points with groundstroke winners, then broke Wozniacki and forced a tiebreaker. At 3-3, Safarova had three winners from the baseline against a tiring Wozniacki to pull away, and she won on her first match point after nearly 2 1/2 hours. Safarova will meet Svetlana Kuznetsova in the third round on Thursday. Kuznetsova beat fellow Russian Maria Kirilenko 6-4, 6-4.

Shahar Peer of Israel beat Jelena Jankovic 7-6(4), 6-2, and defending champion Vera Zvonareva retired while trailing Monica Niculescu of



Caroline Wozniacki

Romania 7-5, 3-2 because of pain in her left hip. No 4-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska and No 5 Marion Bartoli also won in straight sets, but No 7 Francesca Schiavone lost to Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium 7-6(6), 6-4. — *Internet*

## International Sports

### United up for the cup says Hernandez

LONDON, 16 Feb — Manchester United striker Javier Hernandez says the English giants are determined to launch a full-blooded assault on the Europa League as they prepare to make their debut in the competition on Thursday. After the shock of failing to qualify for the knockout stages of the Champions League, United travel to Amsterdam this week to face Ajax in their first ever Europa League game.

United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has pledged to field a full-strength side in the competition after initially describing the tournament as a "penalty" for missing out on the Champions League.

And Hernandez is adamant that United are determined to go all the way in the Europa League, which climaxes with a final in Bucharest on 9 May. The



Manchester United's player Javier Hernandez stretches during a training session on the eve of an UEFA Europa League round of 32 football match against Ajax Amsterdam at The Amsterdam Arena.

*INTERNET*

Mexican striker said he was looking forward to United's meeting with Ajax, four-time winners of the European Cup. "Both teams have come out of the Champions League and they both have a great history," Hernandez said.

*Internet*



## DISTRICT NEWS

### Paddy purchased for reserve storage

PAUNGDE, 16 Feb—To be able to keep the reserve rice for the State, Paungde Township Reserve Paddy Purchase Committee of Ayeyawady Region opens the purchase centre No. 1 at Five Star Ricemill on Shwedaung Road and the purchase centre No. 2 at Myinthida Ricemill on 21<sup>st</sup> Street.

The centres buy 46 pounds of Emahta strain paddy per K 330,000.

Township IPRD

### Emergency traditional medicine kits handed over

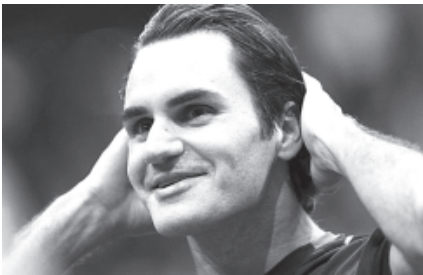
PONNAGYUN, 16 Feb—A ceremony to hand over emergency traditional medicine kits of Traditional Medicine Department was held at Township General Administration Department in Ponnagyun Township on 16 January.

Head of Township TMD Daw Nant Tin Tin Aye explained usage of the kits and then handed over 40 traditional medicine kits to village administrators of 40 villages.



Township IPRD

### Federer shrugs off pressure to win on Dutch return



Swiss player Roger Federer smiles after he defeated French player Nicolas Mahut 6-4, 6-4 during the ATP Rotterdam tennis Open in Rotterdam.—INTERNET

ROTTERDAM, 16 Feb—Former world number one Roger Federer admitted he felt the mighty weight of expectation as he returned to the ATP Rotterdam Open here on Wednesday seven years after last playing the indoor event. The Swiss walked away in 2005 with the title and marked his return with a 6-4, 6-4 win over French world number 83 Nicolas Mahut on Wednesday.

But the 67-minute victory was far from routine, with the top seed admitting that he had little choice but to win convincingly in front of a sold-out-record crowd of more than 9,900—a figure which surpassed the 2011 final won by Robin Soderling. “I was trying hard to win, that’s the rule out there,” said the 16-time grand slam champion who played the Rotterdam qualifiers as a teenager in 1999 and reached the quarter-finals.

“It doesn’t matter how ugly or pretty, it’s about coming through and see what can improve in the next round. “It’s trying to manage nerves and expectations.” Federer, who lost both of his weekend Davis Cup matches in a defeat by the US, got a hero’s welcome as he entered the court to a standing ovation, leaving it the same way after defeating Mahut for the third time without a loss. “There were a lot of expectations for me in the first round. not having been here for so long,” he said.—Internet



Customers buy fruits at a wet market in Klang, outside Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 16 Feb, 2012. Malaysia’s central bank said Wednesday economic growth slowed sharply to 5.1 percent last year and warns prospects for 2012 are clouded by Europe’s ongoing debt crisis.

INTERNET

### Focus Myanmar TV Programme

#### MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(17-2-12 09:30 am ~ 18-2-12 09:30 am) MST

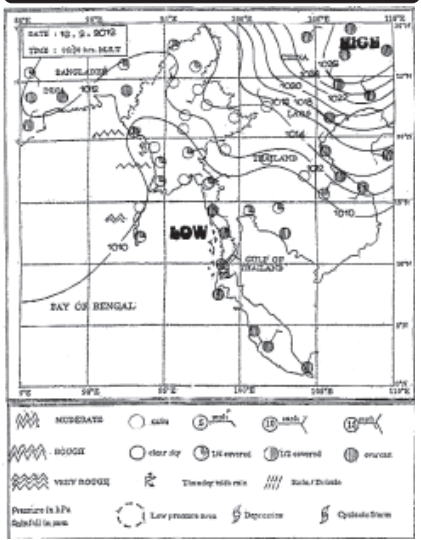
- Oversea Transmission**
- \* News
  - \* Pyu Burial Urns and Custom of Pyu People
  - \* News
  - \* Sons of the lake
  - \* News
  - \* Music Gallery
  - \* News
  - \* World Wetlands Day & Workshop on Designation of Gulf of Mottama as a Ramsar Site
  - \* News
  - \* Fortune of Human correlated with Astro Science (12 Sign Ascendants in February 2012)
  - \* News
  - \* Culture Stage
  - \* News
  - \* Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax
  - \* News
  - \* The Road to 4th Yangon Photo Festival
  - \* Fish Culture in Myanmar
  - \* Myanmar Movies
  - “The Spouse And The Lover”

#### MYANMAR TV

(17-2-2012) (Friday)

- 7:25 am
- 1. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:40 am
- 2. Nice & Sweet Song
- 7:50 am
- 3. Health Programme
- 8:00 am
- 4. The Mirror Images Of The Musical Oldies
- 8:15 am
- 5. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 8:45 am
- 6. Musical Programme
- 4:20 pm
- 7. Dance Of National Races
- 4:30 pm
- 8. 2012 University Entrance Examination (Geography)
- 5:00 pm
- 9. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:15 pm
- 10. Songs Of Yester Years
- 5:25 pm
- 11. Myanmar Language
- 5:40 pm
- 12. Sports Highlight
- 6:20 pm
- 13. Internet Garden
- 8:00 pm
- 14. News
- 15. Just For Laughs (Gags Asia)
- 16. TV Drama Series
- 17. Song Lovers

### Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



### Weather forecast for 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2012

Sr 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	31/88	09/48	Partly cloudy	
3	Kayah	37/99	18/64	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	60%
4	Chin	22/72	07/45	Partly cloudy	
5	Upper Sagaing	31/88	14/57	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	60%
6	Lower Sagaing	35/95	18/64	Partly cloudy	
7	Tanintharyi	36/97	20/68	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	60%
8	Bago	36/97	18/64	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	37/99	18/64	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	35/95	17/63	Partly cloudy	
11	Mon	38/100	20/68	Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers	60%
12	Yangon	37/99	20/68	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	32/90	17/63	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	26/79	10/50	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	29/84	05/41	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	30/86	10/50	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyawady	34/93	21/70	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	38/100	16/61	Partly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	37/99	20/68	Partly cloudy to cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	35/95	17/63	Partly cloudy	

During the past (24) hours, rain has been isolated in Tanintharyi Region and weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin State and generally fair in the remaining Region and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperature in Magway Region and Rakhine State and about February average temperature in the remaining Region and States. The significant night temperatures were Nanshan and Peihsang (3°C) each and Heho (5°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthoong (0.87) inch.

Bay: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy 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 isolated light rain in Southern Myanmar areas.

### Wenger slams Arsenal’s ‘worst’ European performance

MILAN, 16 Feb — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger branded his side’s 4-0 defeat by AC Milan on Wednesday their worst ever performance in Europe. “We were never in the game, we were very poor offensively and defensively, and it as shocking to see how were beaten everywhere,” he told reporters after the Champions League round of 16 first leg at the San Siro. “It was our worst performance in Europe by far, there was not one moment we were really in the game.”

The north London side went behind to a stunning early strike from Kevin-Prince Boateng before two goals from Robinho and a Zlatan Ibrahimovic penalty piled on the misery. “We had to chase the game, open up our game. It was always the same for us, balls over the top, it’s difficult to analyse. It’s better not to talk too much and to analyse with a cool head,” Wenger added. “We will focus on our next games and although the result is a disaster, the season is not finished.”

He said he did not feel Arsenal had made big tactical mistakes but acknowledged there was almost no hope of reversing the scoreline in next month’s second leg. “We did not have many other choices, we were weak in some departments, and I knew we could have some problems in



Arsenal’s coach Arsene Wenger reacts during their Champions League round of 16 soccer match against AC Milan at the Giuseppe Meazza stadium in Milan on 15 Feb, 2012. —INTERNET

some areas but I did not feel we would not score a goal tonight,” the Frenchman said. “Let’s be realistic, we don’t play in dream world, maybe there is a two percent or five percent chance statistically, realistically we are out of this competition.”—Internet

## President U Thein Sein receives Chair of the ASEAN Parliamentary Group of the Parliament of FRG and party

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a goodwill delegation led by Chair of the ASEAN Parliamentary Group Dr Thomas Gamke of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Residence, here, this noon.

Also present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for Labour

and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi and departmental heads.

The German delegation led by Chair of the ASEAN Parliamentary Group Dr Thomas Gamke of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany was accompanied by German Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Christian-Ludwig Weber Lortsch.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on promotion of cooperation between the two countries and cooperation between the Federal Republic of Germany and ASEAN region.

MNA



President  
of the Republic  
of the Union of  
Myanmar U  
Thein Sein  
shakes  
hands with  
Chair of the  
ASEAN  
Parliamentary  
Group Dr  
Thomas Gamke  
of the  
Parliament of  
the FRG.

MNA

## Members of Union level organizations take part in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 12<sup>th</sup> day session



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives sign in the attendance book.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb —The 12<sup>th</sup> day session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was held at the Pyidaungsu Hall of the Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today, attended by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and 550 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives.

Concerning the proposal submitted by U Thurein Zaw of Kawkaik constituency on 10 February and discussed by nine representatives on 14 February, urging the Union Government, in the interest of the people, to take action on suggestions of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee on the findings of the Union Auditor-General over the river water pumping stations, reservoirs, dams, diversion weirs built by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation as the suggestions are crucial issues for the people and urged the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to approve it. U Aung Thant of Patheingyi constituency seconded the assessment of the Public Accounts Committee as it serves the people's interest.

U Thurein Zaw's proposal is connected with a subject contained in the message the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker sent to the President on 3 February and the discussion at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 7 February, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing made clarification. (*The clarification is reported separately*)

U Thurein Zaw said that the Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee did not propose to stop the existing irrigation works. It suggested to take time in systematically running them, to enable them to run at full capacity and to submit a new project to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw only after making a feasibility study from all angles.

This practice will directly contribute to boost agriculture production and implement Millennium Development Goals, ensure every penny of the State budget is used effectively, saying the committee is doing its duty well as it includes the task of presenting of the Union Auditor-General Office report to the Pyithu Hluttaw

after scrutinizing it. He asked for the decision of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

U Thurein Zaw's proposal was approved by 399 votes in favour, 63 abstentions, and 53 against.

Members of Union level organizations on behalf of the President discussed the suggestions of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker on the bills on national plans in accord with rule 127 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

As regards the proposal urging the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to increase pay, salaries, allowances and rewards for government staff without fail beginning the coming fiscal year, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, on behalf of the President, made clarification. (*The clarification is reported separately*)

Concerning the proposal on industrial development policies and matters related to the nation which are connected to the bills on national plans, Union Minister for Myanmar Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay gave a reply on behalf of the President. (*The clarification is reported separately*)

Concerning the need to include national development projects for the national interest in bills on national plans and a call for investments for ever flourishing of national development projects or human resources development projects that benefit the nation and the people at present and in the long and short terms, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein, on behalf of the President, made clarification. (*The clarification is reported separately*)

U Sai Thiha Kyaw of Mongyal constituency on 13 February submitted a proposal on adopting National Transport Network Policy that can cover the whole country, drafting of new projects after carrying out detailed examinations – whether or not new projects are beneficial, whether or not it can actually benefit people and whether or not it can meet the expectations, and urged the Union Government to publicize the allocation of money for respective projects for transparency. It was made clarification by 10 representatives.

U Tha Sein of Kyauktaw constituency said that a requisite for the country is to pave a network of village and town roads that will fulfill public transport needs. So road networks should be built for development of villages.

Daw Nan Seawa of Hpa-an constituency said transport is the base for regional and town and village development. Good transport will help fulfill the adopted policies. Myanmar now has Yangon-Mandalay expressway and a large road network with Nay Pyi Taw as the centre. Actually, they are a national transport network. But roads

(See page 2)