In order to improve the agricultural sector, the government has been harnessing land and water resources to the best of its ability

The government is in pursuit of plans to manufacture farm machinery and tools since the nation needs transformation into mechanized farming in order that seasonal crops are grown as planned

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—The following is a translation of the message sent by Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the Peasants Day (2011).

Esteemed peasantry,

Today is Peasants Day designated to honour the mass of the peasantry. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to extend my warmest greetings and wish you all in physical and spiritual well-being and greater success in your agricultural businesses.

The State Peace and Development Council is trying its utmost to transform the Republic of the Union of Myanmar into a modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

At the core of the achievement of the lofty goal lies better socio-economic life of the people. To meet this national goal calls for improving the agricultural farming, the major business of the people, with all seriousness.

The government therefore pays a serious attention to development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well.

To improve the nation’s agricultural sector, the government has been scaling up reclamation of vacant lands for agricultural purposes and boosting agricultural production, harnessing land and water resources to the best of its ability. In addition, it has been encouraging use of high-yield quality strains of crops, advanced agricultural methods and fertilizers for transition to mechanized farming, while rendering all necessary assistance for boosting per acre yields and improving the quality of crops.

In particular, the government has been pouring huge funds into projects for building dams, sluice gates and river water pumping stations and sinking tube-wells and artesian wells across the nation for supply of sufficient irrigation water, which is a must for improvement of the agricultural sector.

From 1988 to date, the government has built 233 dams, spending 298,557 million kyats, which benefit over 2.8 million acres of farmlands. And 30 more projects are underway.

River pumping projects for supply of irrigation water have brought the number of river pumping stations throughout the nation to 327, which irrigate some 500,000 acres of farmlands. Beside that, the government has sunk 8253 tube-wells to tap underground water and built 1023 small dams and lakes in rural areas.

Owing to more ways and means sought by the government to supply adequate irrigation water to farmlands the length and breadth of the nation, extensive reclamation of fallow and virgin lands, transformation of highland farmlands from slash and burn system to terrace farming, and all-round assistance for mixed- and multiple-cropping patterns, most of the farmlands are utilized all year round. In addition, crop growing capacity has increased to over 171 percent, and net sown acreage of crops, to about 34 million. In 2010, the total paddy output of the nation was about 1,500 million baskets, compared with only over 600 million baskets in 1988.

The total sown acreage is growing remarkably, and the nation needs transformation into mechanized farming in order that crops are grown as planned in their seasons. The government and the private sector are in pursuit of plans to manufacture farm machinery and tools to meet the demand.

In order to expedite tasks for improvement of the agricultural sector, the government is implementing the five rural development tasks, one of which is economic growth of rural areas, it has laid down to improve the socio-economic status of the peasantry.

So, the nation has enjoyed rapid economic development constantly.

Moreover, the State Peace and Development Council is accomplishing the State’s seven-step Road Map. Now, hluttaws are in session with representatives of the people. There will soon be a new government to be elected and approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. In that way, the State Peace and Development Council will hand over power to the people, the ultimate owner.

I would, therefore, like to cordially and respectfully urge you the peasantry, a strong force of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, to work hand in hand with the forthcoming government in building the new nation.

HONOURING THE PEASANTS DAY 2011
Work harder to boost agricultural production

The 2nd of March, 2011 (today) is Peasants Day. Agricultural farming, the major business of the nation, makes substantial contribution to the nation’s economic growth. As a gesture of honouring the peasantry working hard for national food security, the day was designated as Peasants Day.

Peasants make up the majority of the working population of the nation. Now, the government is improving the socio-economic status of rural folks who constitute over 70 percent of the nation’s population. It has been building infrastructural buildings and boosting agricultural production for development of the agricultural sector. So far, the government has built over 200 dams and sluice gates, over 300 river water pumping stations, and sunk tube-wells and artesian wells. So, the total sown acreage has increased to over 56 million.

In addition, the government is providing high-yield strains of crops and advanced agricultural methods and disseminating methods to minimize loss and wastage. Farmers have to reclaim vacant lands and boost per acre yield of crops.

Today, virgin lands are being reclaimed in plains and highlands. Paddy and other crops are grown all-year round by establishing special agricultural zones. The nation’s paddy output hits more than 1500 million, putting over 16 million acres under monsoon paddy and over 3 million acres under summer paddy.

Paddy supply has well exceeded domestic demand. But, plans have yet to be implemented to keep abreast of top paddy exporting countries. Farmers are, therefore, to work harder than ever for boosting production paddy and other highly saleable crops.

Traffic rules talks given at Yezin Agricultural Research Department

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 March—Organized by Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee, Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Police Corps gave educative talks on traffic rules at Yezin Agricultural Research Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw District yesterday afternoon.

It was attended by directors of the department, in-charges and staff. Officials gave talks on traffic rules and pamphlets were distributed at the event.

War veteran housing handed over in Myeik

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 March—A ceremony to hand over war veteran housing in Myeik of Taninthayi Region was held at Kom pauk ward of Myeik on 26 February. Chairman of Taninthayi Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Khin Maung Htay made an opening speech. A responsible person explained completion of housing estate.

After that, the commander presented permit and food stuff. Responsible persons cut the ribbon to open the housing. The commander unveiled the handing over ceremony and inspected the housing.

Commander inspects regional development tasks in Monywa, Kalay Districts

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 March—Chairman of Sagaing Region Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Soe Lwin inspected paving of Monywa-Yargyi-Kalewa road and completion of Kalay city hall on 24 February.

After that, the commander looked round local battalion in Kalay. Then, he enjoyed collective weeding in summer paddy plantations and fertilizers broadcasting ceremony and met with local farmers.

Special Refresher Course No. 15 for Faculty Members opens

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 March—Special Refresher Course No. 15 for Faculty Members was opened at Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) this morning. Deputy Minister for Education U Aung Myo Min addressed the opening ceremony on behalf of Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Chief Justice U Klin Maung Latt, Members of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Nye Tun and U Kyaw Aung, departmental heads and personnel, members of State/Region/District/ Township State Peace and Development Councils, the rector of Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar), pro-rectors, deans, heads, instructors and trainees.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Minister U Aung Myo Min said that in today’s Knowledge and IT Age, complete transformation to education-centered society was the sole approach for Myanmar peoples to keep abreast of global nations. Continuous emergence of human resources is fundamental in growth of a nation. With regard to this, the government had been implementing 30-year long-term national education promotion programme with 12 objectives.

The deputy minister then quoted Head of State Senior General Than Shwe as saying, “Education sector is human resources development programme always connecting with national characteristics. Development of national economy capability depends on development of national education.” He urged the trainees to try hard to turn out able and highly qualified human resources with strong sense of national prestige and integrity.

Afterwards, the deputy minister and members cordially greeted trainees. A total of 531 faculty members from universities and colleges in the Upper Myanmar are attending the four-week course.
Militants kill four on spying charges in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 1 March—Taleban militants killed four people in northwest Pakistan for allegedly spying for the United States, local officials said Tuesday. Residents saw four bullet-ridden bodies dumped on the road in North Waziristan tribal region and informed the authorities.

Written notes in native Pashto language were attached to the bodies, saying that the men were punished for spying for the US troops in Afghanistan. The note warned of such punishment to those who were found guilty of espionage for the US and Pakistan forces. Those killed could not be identified. The Taleban claimed that the alleged spies passed on information about the hideouts of its militants in Pakistan’s tribal belt to the US authorities in Afghanistan for drone strikes.

American pilotless aircraft regularly launched missile attack on the hideouts of suspected militants in the rugged tribal regions bordering Afghanistan.—Xinhua

Italian service member killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 1 March—A 37-year-old Italian lieutenant was killed in Afghanistan on Monday by roadside bomb, the coalition said. In Rome, Italy’s Premier Silvio Berlusconi said four other Italian soldiers were wounded, including three seriously, in a bomb blast about 16 miles (25 kilometres) north of Shindand District of Herat Province in western Afghanistan. Berlusconi said the attack made him wonder if Italy’s sacrifice in Afghanistan was worth it, given how “medieval” the nation is. Still, he said the Italian mission in Afghanistan must continue.

Fighting accelerated between Taleban insurgents and coalition and Afghan forces last year after 30,000 US reinforcements finished arriving in Afghanistan in the summer. The latest deaths bring to 34 the number of NATO service members killed this month.—Internet

Grenade blast kills one in Indian Kashmir

SRINAGAR, 1 March—One person was killed and three others wounded when suspected militants threw a grenade at a police near a busy bus terminal in the main city of Indian Kashmir, police said Tuesday. The incident took place in the crowded Batmaloo neighbourhood of Srinagar, the summer capital of Indian Kashmir, late on Monday night.

“Militants hurled a grenade injuring four persons including two police officials,” a police officer said. One of the victims — a government engineer — died of head injuries at a hospital Tuesday morning, he added.

The grenade attack was the third incident this week after a truck driver and shopkeeper were shot dead by gunmen in separate attacks on Sunday and Monday.

A separatist insurgency has raged in Indian Kashmir, a Muslim-majority state, for over 20 years. Attacks normally increase after winter ends in the Himalayan region. Indian authorities are on the lookout for signs of unrest after mass street protests last summer that brought the region to a standstill and left 114 people dead, mostly due to firing by security forces.—Internet

British Airways worker guilty of plane terror plot

LONDON, 1 March—A Bangladeshhi militant working for British Airways has been found guilty of plotting to blow up a plane after conspiring with radical US-Yemeni cleric Anwar al-Awlaki. Rajib Karim, 31, was “committed to an extreme jihadist and religious cause” and was “determined to seek martyrdom,” jurors at Woolwich Crown Court in London were told.

The jury convicted Karim of four counts of preparing terror attacks on Monday.

The IT worker, who moved with his wife and son to Newcastle in 2006, had admitted being involved in the production of a terrorist group’s video, fundraising and volunteering for terror abroad. Karim, a privately educated member of a middle-class family in Dhaka, was lured into becoming a staunch supporter of a radical organisation called Jamayetul Mujahdeen Bangladesh by his younger brother, Tehzeeb.

The trial heard that Karim first planned to attack BA’s computer systems, but then offered to attempt to plant a bomb on a US-bound plane. Police arrested him before an attack could be carried out.

Colin Gibbs, a counter-terrorism lawyer for the Crown Prosecution Service, described Karim’s determination to plan an attack as “frightening”.

“The most chilling element of this case is probably the fact that Karim tried to enroll as cabin crew and anyone can imagine how horrific the consequences of this could have been, had he succeeded,” Gibbs said.—The jury found Karim guilty of plotting to blow up an aircraft, sharing information of use to Awlaki, offering to help financial or disruptive attacks on BA and gaining a job in Britain to exploit terrorist purposes.

He will be sentenced on 18 March.—Internet

Mexico nabs alleged head of ‘Resistance’ drug gang

MEXICO CITY, 1 March—Mexican police have captured the alleged leader of a drug gang that calls itself “The Resistance,” a group that operates in western Mexico, officials said on Monday.

Victor Torres Garcia was detained in the Michoacan State city of Uruapan, along with two alleged associates, several guns and bags of drugs, federal police announced.

Torres Garcia allegedly led a gang whose members came several other cartels and who grouped together to resist the incursion of the Zetas drug gang. It also sought to fill a vacuum left by the death or capture of top members of the Beltran Leyva cartel in 2008 and 2009.—Internet

Residents and policemen inspect the site of a bomb attack in Muqadiya, 80 km (50 miles) northeast of Baghdad recently. A car bomb exploded at a car showroom in the Iraqi town of Muqadiya, killing at least 13 people and wounding 33 others, security sources said. Internet
The peasantry held in high esteem across the nation

Hlaing Bwa (Parami)

It was very pleasant to view the scene of vast tracts of summer paddy fields in the sun with Shan Yoma mountain ranges in the background. I had not been to Mandalay for a long time, so I was in a hurry in my trip from Yangon to Mandalay on a vacation. The fine straight tarred road lies between two long paddy fields. I have ever passed through the place several times, and it is amazing that the areas on both sides of the fine road are always covered with lush and green crops. The area of the farmlands along the highway is on the increase.

Long ago, the fields along the road were not put under any crops in summer. My younger brother and I used to collect cow dung in paddy fields for agricultural purpose. In those days, in the paddy fields in summer none other than cow droppings and paddy stubble. If my father were still alive, he would be amazed at the thriving plantations of various crops in summer.

Now, the government has built a massive number of irrigation facilities to supply adequate irrigation water to enable the peasantry to grow crops all-year round and to boost agricultural production. Unlike in the past, now farmlands can be put under any crops in summer due to supply of irrigation water. In the past, paddy could be grown only once in a year: in the rainy season. But, now it was just in the past. To put an end to that barrier is a formidable task. From 1988 to date, the government has built 233 dams across the nation, spending over 298,557 million kyats. The prudent plan benefits more than 2.8 million acres of farmlands. Thirty more dam projects are underway now.

In addition, the government established river pumping stations and sank tube-wells and artesian wells in plains, where dams cannot be built, to increase supply of irrigation water. In that regard, the government has built 327 river pumping stations that benefit about 500,000 acres of farmlands and sank 8253 tube-wells and artesian wells that benefit over 100,000 acres of farmlands. Previously, such water sources were not exploited, but in the time of the ruling government, those water sources can be harnessed in an effective way. Then, the government took all possible measures to put all arable lands both in highlands and in plains under suitable crops and to replace slash and burn system with terrace farming to avoid soil degradation. As a result, the nation’s total sown acreage has jumped to 34 million, and the paddy output, to about 1500 baskets. The total sown acreage of beans and pulses was only 1.8 million. Now, thanks to agricultural methods, high-yield strains of crops and fertilizers provided by the government and the practice of the market economy, the sown acreage of peas has surged to over 11 million. Many of the farmers have bought cars, motorbikes and houses with the profits they have made from farming of beans and pulses. The per acre yield of groundnut has increased to over 52 baskets; pigeon pea, to nearly 17 baskets; green gram, nearly 15 baskets; and black gram, over 20 baskets.

Beyond the fields of beans and pulses were thick plantations of sugarcane plants that were swaying in the breeze. High-yield quality strains of sugarcane, an industrial crop, are now in place of old ones. The sugarcane sown acreage across the nation has gone up from only over 120,000 to over 370,000.

Then, I was greeted by thriving plantations of chili and sunflower grown as mixed crops. Long ago, many parts of the arid zone were overgrown with thorny bushes. Now, those areas can be put under edible oil crops including sunflower owing to the assistance rendered by the government, and the efforts farmers have made to keep a good balance between national interests and their own. Sown acreage of edible oil crops has mounted from over 5 million to over 8.6 million. Output of edible oil crops of the nation except some regions where arable lands are scarce is very heartening. So far, edible oil sufficiency of the nation is 160 percent.

The next plantations I saw were cotton ones. According to the farmers I had met, per acre yield of cotton has risen to nearly 500 viss from only over 200 viss thanks to the introduction of Ngwechi-6 Strain of long staple cotton. The Ministry of Industry-1 purchases the cotton at good prices. So, it is fair to say that cotton farmers have a promising future. The nation achieves bumper harvests of all 28 major crops inclusive of corn. If there is no climate change in the nation and no trade embargo against Myanmar, nothing can disrupt the prosperous future of farmers.

The government is in pursuance of the economic objective “Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well” in all seriousness. In order to achieve that objective, it has organized many agricultural seminars with participation of national agriculturists, the assistance from FAO, along with GAP, IPM and GMP standards, thereby improving the living conditions for the peasantry of the nation, as evidenced by my first-hand experiences that the great majority of the houses along the highway were found fine. Many years ago, the households in those regions hardly had bikes. But, now almost every household has at least a motorbike, and the roads in those townships cope with constant streams of motorcycles. Many of the farmers have come to use power-tillers to plough fields. Today, the living standard of the peasantry is on a par with that of urban dwellers. That indicates the government has achieved its goal of bridging the development gap between rural and urban people.

The motto laid down by the Ministry of Information “Every village must have a library” has helped expand the horizons of farmers. So, they can now get advanced agricultural methods from books, instead of asking others about them. Farmers can hold discussions about their work among themselves. Due to TV retransmitting stations and the DTH system of MRTV-4, farmers of far-flung areas have had easy access to TV programmes. Almost every house in rural areas has a TV set, saying goodbye to past conditions that the whole village had only a TV. Villages have got small-scale hydropower plants and diesel-fired power plants for electric power supply. In the near future, the areas very far from national grids will be equipped with solar system.

Myanmar is an agro-based country. So, the living standard of farmers is the indicator of national economy. However much anti-government groups and neo-colonialists are disrupting the nation from economic growth, the socio-economic status of farmers has improved gradually, thus reflecting the economic development of the nation.

Myanmar is an agro-based country. So, the living standard of farmers is the indicator of national economy. However much anti-government groups and neo-colonialists are disrupting the nation from economic growth, the socio-economic status of farmers has improved gradually, thus reflecting the economic development of the nation.

Translation: MS
Regular sessions of the First Region and State Hluttaw held
Members of Legislative Committee and National Races Affairs Committee nominated

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—The regular sessions of the First Region and State Hluttaws were held at respective regions and states this morning. At the Hluttaw sessions, speakers of the Region Hluttaws and the State Hluttaws submitted the number of members and the name that should be included in Legislative Committee and National Races Affairs Committee to the Region Hluttaws and States.

Kachin State
At the regular session of Kachin State Hluttaw, the Speaker of the State Hluttaw submitted to the State Hluttaw Legislative Committee the number of members and five suitable citizens, that those who should be included in the committee are Bamar National representative U Sein Oo as Chairman, U Saw Kode of Phayawng Township Constitution No.2 as Secretary, U Kee Rai (farmer), U Antarayramee (farmer), assistant director of Information and Public Relations Department (Retd) U Sai Khan Win, Lecturer (Retd) of University for Development of National Races Daw Than Tin (a) Daw Gyinar, U Khan Maung Gyi (farmer), U Lu Rai Bo Lu (merchant), superintendent (Retd) U Jkalat of Loikaw University as members, and the speaker also submitted duties, powers, rights and terms of the committee to the State Hluttaw.

After that, the State Hluttaw Speaker submitted to the State Hluttaw that the State Hluttaw Legislative Committee will be formed with seven members including two State Hluttaw representatives and five suitable citizens, that those who should be included in the committee are U Kyaw Lwin of Phakant Township No.1 Constituency as Chairman, U Saw Aung Lin of Hlaingbwe Township No.2 Constituency as Secretary and U Lu Rai Bo Lu as Chairman, U Saw Aung Lin of Hlaingbwe Township No.2 Constituency as Secretary and U Lu Rai Bo Lu as assistant director (Retd) of Kayin State Public Relations Personnel representatives Major Tun Tun Oo and Captain Zaw Min Tun as members, and the speaker also submitted duties, powers, rights and terms of the Committee to the State Hluttaw. The session ended at 10:10 am.

Kayin State
At the regular session of Kayin State Hluttaw, the Speaker of the State Hluttaw submitted to the State Hluttaw that the State Hluttaw Legislative Committee will be formed with seven including three State Hluttaw representatives and four suitable citizens, that those who should be included in the committee are Chairman (Retd) of Kayin State People’s Council U Saw Aung Pwint as Chairman, Law officer U Aung Kyaw Lin of Kayin State Law Office as Secretary and U Min Aung Lin of Hlaingbwe Township No.1 Constituency, Advocate U Maung Pu (a) U Kyaw Win, Advocate U Khin Si and Defence Services Personnel representatives Major Tun Tun Oo and Captain Zaw Min Tun as members, and the speaker also submitted duties, powers, rights and terms of the Committee to the State Hluttaw.

After that, the State Hluttaw Speaker submitted to the State Hluttaw that the State Hluttaw National Races Affairs Committee will be formed with seven including two State Hluttaw representatives and four suitable citizens and that those who should be included in the committee are U Yee Chat of Pruhso Township No.2 as Secretary, U Kee Khan Win, Lecturer (Retd) of University for Development of National Races Daw Than Tin (a) Daw Gyinar, U Khan Maung Gyi (farmer), U Lu Rai Bo Lu (merchant), superintendent (Retd) U Jkalat of Loikaw University as members, and the speaker also submitted duties, powers, rights and terms of the Committee to the State Hluttaw.

The session ended at 10:10 am.

Regular session of First Kayah State Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

At the regular session of First Kayah State Hluttaw, the Speaker of the State Hluttaw submitted to the State Hluttaw Legislative Committee will be formed with nine State Hluttaw representatives; that those who should be included in the committee are U An Phyaunggan of Phakhtun Township No.1 Constituency as Chairman, U Chan Tan Khin of Nagmon Township No.1 Constituency as Secretary and U Nyi Lay of Mohnyin Township No.2 Constituency as member, and the speaker also submitted duties, powers, rights and terms of the committee to the State Hluttaw.

After that, the State Hluttaw Speaker submitted to the State Hluttaw that the State Hluttaw Legislative Committee will be formed with seven including two State Hluttaw representatives and five suitable citizens, that those who should be included in the committee are U Kyaw Lwin of Phakant Township No.1 Constituency as Chairman, U Saw Aung Lin of Hlaingbwe Township No.2 Constituency as Secretary and U Lu Rai Bo Lu as Chairman, U Saw Aung Lin of Hlaingbwe Township No.2 Constituency as Secretary and U Lu Rai Bo Lu as assistant director (Retd) of Kayin State Public Relations Personnel representatives Major Tun Tun Oo and Captain Zaw Min Tun as members, and the speaker also submitted duties, powers, rights and terms of the Committee to the State Hluttaw. The session came to an end at 10:12 am.

Kayin State
At the regular session of Kayin State Hluttaw, the Speaker of the State Hluttaw submitted to the
Regular sessions of the First Region and State...

The Speaker also said that the National Races Affairs Committee of Region Hluttaw will be formed with five Region Hluttaw representatives and that those who should be included in the committee are U Saw Lin Aung of Nyaunglebin Constituency (1) as Chairman, U Win Myint of Ottwin Township Constituency (2) as Secretary, and U Aung Myint of Pyu Township Constituency (2) as member. He also submitted duties, powers, rights and terms of the committee.

_The regular session of First Mandalay Region Hluttaw in progress._

_The regular session of First Kayin State Hluttaw in progress._

_The regular session of First Magway Region Hluttaw in progress._

_The regular session of First Taninthayi Region Hluttaw in progress._
Regular sessions of the First Region and State...  

(from page 6) 

Magway Region  
At regular session of Magway Region Hluttaw, the Region Hluttaw Speaker submitted to the Region Hluttaw that the Legislative Committee of Region Hluttaw will be formed with nine members including seven Region Hluttaw representatives and two suitable citizens and that those who should be included in the committee are U Han Maung of Magway Township Constituency (2) as Chairman, U Chan Thin of Myothit Township Constituency (1) as Secretary, U Win Myaung of Salin Township Constituency (2), U Hla Pyone of Ngaphe Township Constituency (1), U Myint Ngwe of Hsinbaungwe Township Constituency (2), U Tin Maung Kyaw of Yesagyo Township Constituency (2), Defence Service Personnel Hluttaw Representative Maj Moe Kyaw Tum, Deputy Region Law Officer U Maung Shwe of Magway Region Court and Assistant Director U Kyi Myint of Magway Region General Administration Department. He also presented duties, powers, rights and term of the committee.

The Speaker also said that the National Races Affairs Committee of Region Hluttaw will be formed with nine Region Hluttaw representatives and that those who should be included in the committee are U Kyi Thin of Taungdwingyi Township Constituency (1) as Chairman, U Thein Lwin of Pyigyidagun Township Constituency (1) as Secretary and U Ko Lay of Madaya Township Constituency (2), U Shwe Nan of Mahtlaing Township Constituency (2), U Htay Lwin of NyangU Township Constituency (1), U Aung Myint Thein of Kyaukse Township Constituency (1) and U Kyi Pe of Natogy Township Constituency (1) as members. He also presented duties, powers, rights and term of the committee.

The Speaker also said that the National Races Affairs Committee of Region Hluttaw will be formed with five Region Hluttaw representatives and that those who should be included in the committee are U Tin Hla Hla of Thayet Township Constituency (2), U Myint Aung of Gangaw Township Constituency (1), U Thein Swe of Htun Township Constituency (1), U Htay Lwin of Saw Township Constituency (1) and Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative Maj Min Han Zaw as members. He also stated duties, powers, rights and term of the committee.

The regular session of First Magway Region Hluttaw concluded at 10.17 am.

Mandalay Region  
At regular session of Mandalay Region Hluttaw, the Region Hluttaw Speaker submitted to the Region Hluttaw that the Legislative Committee of Region Hluttaw will be formed with seven Region Hluttaw representatives and that those who should be included in the committee are Dr Kyaw Hla of Chanayethazan Township Constituency (1) as Chairman, U Myat Thu of Ngazun Township Constituency (2) as Secretary and U Gon Go Hlyan of Mogok Township Constituency (1), U Nyi Nyi of Singaung Township Constituency (1) and U Moe Myint Thein of Thazi Township Constituency (1) as members. He also stated duties, powers, rights and term of the committee.

The regular session of First Mandalay Region Hluttaw concluded at 10.10 am.

Mon State  
At regular session of Mon State Hluttaw, the State Hluttaw Speaker stated that the Legislative Committee of State Hluttaw will be formed with nine members—five State Hluttaw Representatives and four suitable citizens—and that those who should be included in the committee are U Tin Aung of Taungup Township Constituency (2), U Hla Tun of Pabedan Township Constituency (1) as Secretary and U Aung Mya Oo of Chaungzon Township Constituency (1), U Chan Myint of Pyaung Township Constituency (1), U Chan Myint of Pyaung Township Constituency (1) as Secretary, U Aung Naing Oo of Chaungzon Township Constituency (1), U Chan Myint (Merchant), Vet U Myo Chit (Retd), Staff Officer U Ba Chit (Retd) of Ministry of Cooperatives, Director U Soe Hnin (Retd) of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise and Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw Representative Maj Hla Moe Thin. He also presented duties, powers, rights and term of the committee.

The regular session of First Mon State Hluttaw concluded at 11.10 am.

Rakhine State  
At regular session of Rakhine State Hluttaw, the State Hluttaw Speaker stated that the Legislative Committee of the State Hluttaw will be formed with five members—three State Hluttaw representatives and two suitable citizens—and that those who should be included in the committee are U Tin Aung of Thandwe Township Constituency (2) as Chairman, U Za Hein Gh (a) U Aung Myo Min of Maungtaw Township Constituency (1) as Secretary, U Poe Min (a) U Bo Min of Yathedaung Township Constituency (2), Deputy Director U Kyaw Tha (Retd) of the Supreme Court and Deputy State Law Officer U Maung Tha Hla (Retd) as members. He also presented duties, powers, rights and term of the committee.

The regular session of First Rakhine State Hluttaw concluded at 10.10 am.

Yangon Region  
At regular session of Yangon Region Hluttaw, the Region Hluttaw Speaker stated that the Legislative Committee of the Region Hluttaw will be formed with nine Region Hluttaw representatives and that those who should be included in the committee are U Tin Aung of Pabedan Township Constituency (1) as Chairman, U Win Naing (a) Win Naing Oo of Lammadaw Township Constituency (1) as Secretary, and U Kyaw Hla of Thayet Township Constituency (2), U Myint Aung of Gangaw Township Constituency (1), U Thein Swe of Htun Township Constituency (1), U Htay Lwin of Saw Township Constituency (1) as Chairman, U Thein Lwin of Pyigyidagun Township Constituency (1) as Secretary and U Ko Lay of Madaya Township Constituency (2), U Shwe Nan of Mahtlaing Township Constituency (2), U Htay Lwin of NyangU Township Constituency (1), U Aung Myint Thein of Kyaukse Township Constituency (1) and U Kyi Pe of Natogy Township Constituency (1) as members. He also presented duties, powers, rights and term of the committee.

The Speaker also said that the National Races Affairs Committee of Region Hluttaw will be formed with five Region Hluttaw representatives and that those who should be included in the committee are U Tin Aung of An Township Constituency (2) as Chairman, Daw Than Sein of Taungup Township Constituency (1) as Secretary and U Aung Mya Kyaw of Sittway Township Constituency (2), U Aung Gyi of Maungu Township Constituency (1) and Defence Service Personnel Hluttaw Representative Maj Thin Tun as members. He also stated duties, powers, rights and term of the committee.

The regular session of First Yangon State Hluttaw concluded at 10.10 am.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 2 March, 2011
Second-day regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

Regular sessions of the First Region and State...
(from page 7)

U Than Hlaing of Dalla Township Constituency (1), U Aye Thein of Tamway Township Constituency (2), U Nan Nyunt Win Maw of Latha Township Constituency (2), Dr Thein Zaw Myint of Twantay Township Constituency (1), U Thein Naing of Hline Township Constituency (2), U Aung Than Oo of Thanlyin Constituency (1), U Htein Lin of Kyimyindin Township Constituency (1) as members. He also submitted duties, powers, rights and term of the committee to the Region Hluttaw.

The Speaker also said that the National Races Affairs Committee of Region Hluttaw will be formed with nine Region Hluttaw representatives and that those who should be included in the committee are Kayin national representative U Saw Tun Aung Myint as Chairman, U Maung Maung Win of Shwepyitha Township Constituency (1), Rakhine national representative U Zaw Aye Maung, Dr Khin Maung Tun of Dagon Myothit (South) Township Constituency (1), U Win Hein of Tamway Township Constituency (1), Dr Saw Hla Tun of Mingala Taungnyunt Township Constituency (1), U Khin Maung Htoo (a) U Ko Ko of Dagon Myothit (East) Township Constituency (1), Daw Tin May Than of Nwe of Dagon Township Constituency (1) as members to the Region Hluttaw. He also submitted duties, powers, rights and term of the committee to the Region Hluttaw. The regular session of First Yangon Region Hluttaw concluded at 10:05 am.

Shan State

At regular session of Shan State Hluttaw, the State Hluttaw Speaker submitted that the Legislative Committee of the State Hluttaw will be formed with eleven State Hluttaw representatives and one suitable citizen and that those who should be included in the committee are U Sai Nu of Kunhein Township Constituency (2) as Chairman, U Aung Kyaw Nyunt of Yaksaw Township Constituency (1) as Secretary, U Aung Kyi Win of Nyaungshwe Township Constituency (2), U Sai Lwin of Langkho Township Constituency (2), U Kyaw Mya of Naungcho Township Constituency (1), U Myat Soe of Kalaw Township Constituency (2), U Sai Ba Oo of Loilem Township Constituency (2), U Ahr Pa of Kengtung Township Constituency (2), Daw Nan Ngwe Ngwe of Muse Township Constituency (1), U Khin Zaw Win of Momene Township Constituency (1) and Law Officer U Tin Oo (Reid) as members to the State Hluttaw. He also submitted duties, powers, rights and term of the committee to the State Hluttaw.

The Speaker also said that the National Races Affairs Committee of Region Hluttaw will be formed with eleven Region Hluttaw representatives and that those who should be included in the committee are U Sai Hla Win of Mongping Township Constituency (2) as Chairman, U Zaw Oo of Namtu Township Constituency (1) as Secretary and U Keng Meng of Muse Township Constituency (2), Daw Aye Cho Sein of Pekhon Township Constituency (1), U Maw Shae of Monghay Township Constituency (2), Daw Tin May Tun of Tachilek Constituency (1), Dr U Tun Aung of Nyaungshwe Township Constituency (1), U Kun Digol of Loilem Township Constituency (1), U Sai Kyaw of Lashio Township Constituency (1) and U Saw Lon of Mongnai Township Constituency (1) as members to the State Hluttaw. He also submitted duties, powers, rights and term of the committee to the State Hluttaw.

The regular session of First Shan State Hluttaw concluded at 10:25 am.

Ayeawady Region

At regular session of Ayeawady Region Hluttaw, the Region Hluttaw Speaker submitted that the Legislative Committee of the Region Hluttaw will be formed with nine Region Hluttaw representatives and that those who should be included in the committee are U Pyone Cho of Myaungmya Township Constituency (1) as Chairman, U Naing Win of Danubya Township Constituency (1) as Secretary, U Soe Paing of Kyangin Township Constituency (2), U Thein Naing of Kyaukse Township Constituency (2), U Aung Zaw Hlaing of Mawlamyinegwn Township Constituency (1), U Myo Win of Bogale Township Constituency (2), U Thaung Han of Yekyi Township Constituency (2), Dr Khin Khin Si of Pathein Township Constituency (1), U Thein Lin of Labutta Township Constituency (2) as members to the Region Hluttaw. He also submitted duties, powers, rights and term of the committee to the Region Hluttaw.

The Speaker also said that the National Races Affairs Committee of Region Hluttaw will be formed with nine Region Hluttaw representatives and that those who should be included in the committee are Daw Khin Saw Mu of Kangyiu Township Constituency (2) as Chairperson, U Myat Soe of Ingapu Township Constituency (2) as Secretary and U Saw Lay Hlaw of Thabaung Township Constituency (2), Dr Thein Soe of Hinthada Township Constituency (2), U Nyen Shwe of Einme Township Constituency (1), U Aung Win Soe of Myawun Township Constituency (2), U Hla Win Bo of Pyopun Township Constituency (1), U Kyaw Lwin of Wakaung Township Constituency (2) and U Nyen Myaung of Pantaw Township Constituency (2) as members to the Region Hluttaw. He also submitted duties, powers, rights and term of the committee to the Region Hluttaw.

The regular session of First Ayeawady Region Hluttaw concluded at 10:20 am.

Respective Hluttaw speakers announced that Hluttaw representatives wishing to discuss regarding appropriate number of committee members, nomination of chairman, secretary and members, duties, powers, rights and term of the committees that they submitted in regular sessions of Region Hluttaw and State Hluttaw in accord with Region or State Hluttaw Rule 62, may hold discussion at respective sessions of Region and State Hluttaws to be held on 3rd March and Hluttaw representatives willing to discuss may report to the respective Hluttaw Offices this evening.—MNA
Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee formed

First regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw in its second day

Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint making clarifications on formation of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—The second-day regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw was held at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 11 am today. It was attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint announced the validity and start of the second-day session as well as the absence of the following members of the Bill Committee:

(1) Daw Nan Wah Nu Kunhing Constituency
(2) U Thaung Mawlaik Constituency
(3) U Ba Shein Kyaukpyu Constituency
(4) U Ngon Maung Dagon Constituency
(5) Daw Dwe Bu Maung Gyi Constituency
(6) U Nanda Kyaw Swar Dagon Constituency
(7) U Ti Khan Myat Hlaing Tharyar Constituency
(8) U Saw Hla Tun Taung U Constituency
(9) U Khin Maung Myint Zeepon Constituency
(10) U Khin Maung Nyo Pyin Oo Lwin Constituency
(11) U Khin Maung Shwe Hlaing Tharyar Constituency
(12) U Soe Yal Myaung U Kusngyi Constituency
(13) U Stefan Kengtung Constituency
(14) U Thein Tun Oo Aung Kyiwar Constituency
(15) Dr Soe Moe Aung Bilin Constituency

U Zeepon of Kusngyi Constituency will be assigned as Committee Chairman and U Ti Khan Myat of Kuthai Constituency as Secretary. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker sought approval for the inclusion of committee members, names of the members, names of the committee chairman and the secretary and duties, powers and rights of the committee from the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and then announced the approval.

In his clarification, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said that the Hluttaw has already prescribed the formation, duties, powers and rights of Hluttaw committees. All Hluttaw representatives, counting himself, were not well-experienced enough to deal with procedures in Hluttaw, he explained.

They are, though, arranged in accord with the Constitution and Pyithu Hluttaw Laws and Rules in addition to the interior and exterior knowledge. He highlighted the cooperation of Hluttaw representatives so that the Hluttaw procedures went well.

He continued to say that basic qualifications considered in assigning members of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee and three other committees were education, experience, constituency (Region or State), parties in Hluttaw and gender. In a discussion with the designated representatives at interval, they would do their duties with cooperation; would work in the interest of the State, the Union and the citizens with no attachments of party, belief, region, ethnic and religion; took pride of designating and would make their all-out efforts. The Speaker revealed his pleasure of having the same voice among them and called for continued cooperation.

The Speaker announced the end of the second-day meeting of the First Pyithu Hluttaw Session and the third-day meeting will be held at 10 am on 3 March (Thursday). The meeting concluded at 1.25 pm.

MNA
First regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw...

(From page 9)

agreements and MoUs, and whether or not the bill harms the State sovereign,

(j) Whether or not the bills carry all related points on policy,

(k) Whether or not provisions of the bills are practicable or not,

(l) Whether or not the bills carry all provisions to implement their purposes,

(2) Committee members, when assigned duties by the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, shall serve as members of the joint bill committee to be formed with the approval of the Pyiduangsu Hluttaw Speaker,

(3) According to Paragraph 2, proposals and suggestions of the committee must be ones related with matters described in the bill. In addition, those

(2) Committee meetings are to be held in accord with Amyotha Hluttaw. However,

(a) There is no need to ascertain support regarding tabling motions and submitting suggestions,

(b) Committee members have the right to hold discussions more than one time in a matter.

(c) Regarding bills, experienced officials may be invited in coordination with the departments and organization concerned for advice.

(5) What a committee member says or does and discussions at a committee meeting shall not be leaked out. All the discussions held in committee meetings shall be recorded and approved by the committee. Meeting minutes shall not be handed out. A copy of the report to Amyotha Hluttaw shall be dispatched to Hluttaw Office in order that the case can be kept in the case file together with meeting minutes.

Powers of the committee are—

(1) Committee meetings are to be held in accord with Article 43 of Amyotha Hluttaw Bylaws.

(2) With regard to bills, the committee—

(a) has the right to submit proposals for the interests of the nation and the people to Amyotha Hluttaw,

(b) has the right to submit legal advices, and comments made by the peoples and experts to Amyotha Hluttaw after having analyzed,

(c) has the right to propose amendments to Amyotha Hluttaw, (d) has the right to amend writing and usages that are out of date, from legal point of view.

(4) When the committee has finished drafting the bill, (a) the committee chairman shall draft report and submit it at the committee meeting,

(b) if the committee agrees the bill, the committee chairman shall sign the bill and submit it to the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker,

(c) a committee member who presides over the meeting shall submit the bill if the committee chairman is absent,

(d) if there is no special instruction of the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, the committee is to submit its report to him within seven days (exclusive of holidays) commencing the day on which the bill is handed over to the committee,

(e) in doing so, committee members are to sign that he or she agrees the report. If there is any exception or disagreement, it shall be written down and enclosed in the report with signature,

(f) the committee chairman or person who is assigned by the committee chairman is to read out and explain the report.

(5) Committee members—

(a) have access to freedom of speech and right to cast vote if not violate from constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Amyotha Hluttaw Rules,

(b) have the right to join two Hluttaw Committees of Amyotha Hluttaw at the most.

(c) have the right to hand in his resignation from the committee to the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker with valid reasons.

Privileges and rights of a committee member

(1) Committee members, being Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, have right to enjoy relevant privileges described in law on allowance and expense as well as privileges granted by the Government of the Union while they are at the committee head office or on a duty trip to carry out duties of the committee or to attend committee meeting.

(2) Committee members—

(a) shall not be taken action against others laws except under Amyotha Hluttaw Law regarding discussions held at committee meetings,

(b) shall not be arrested while the committee is in session without the prior approval of the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker through the head of the organization concerned.

(c) shall, if he is arrested under a crime, have the right to attend committee meetings with the approval of the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, until a verdict is delivered against him.

Afterwards, the session was adjourned for discussion with Amyotha Hluttaw representatives who are joining the bill committee. The session was resumed at 1.05 pm and the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker submitted nomination of number of members of the bill committee, committee members, committee chairman and committee secretary to Amyotha Hluttaw in accord with Amyotha Hluttaw Law 21, Bylaw 33 and 40.

Persons designated as members of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee are:

(1) U Mya Nyein Yangon Region Constituency (7)

(2) U Khat Htain Nan Kachin State Constituency (1)

(3) Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye Kayin State Constituency (6)

(4) U Mann Aung Tin Myint Kayin State Constituency (12)

(5) U Sun Dot Kyint Chin State Constituency (6)

(6) Dr Hla Thein Mon State Constituency (6)

(7) U Than Myint Thaninthayi Region Constituency (10)

(8) U Myint Tun Bago Region Constituency (10)

(9) U Soe Myint Magway Region Constituency (6)

(10) U Zaw Myint Pe Mandalay Region Constituency (5)

(11) Dr Myat Nyamina Soe Yangon Region Constituency (4)

(12) U Tin Yu Yangon Region Constituency (11)

(13) U Kyaw Tun Aung Rakhine State Constituency (5)

(14) U San Tun Kachin State Constituency (11)

(15) U Sai Paung Nut Shan State Constituency (12)

(See page 11)
First regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw...

(from page 10)

U Mya Nyein of Yangon Region Constituency (7) will be assigned as Committee Chairman and U San Tun of Kachin State Constituency (11) as Secretary.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker sought approval for numbers of committee member, names of the committee chairman and the secretary and duties, powers and rights of the committee from the Amyotha Hluttaw representatives and then announced the approval.

The Speaker announced the end of second-day meeting of the First Amyotha Hluttaw Session and the third-day meeting will be held at 10 am on 3 March (Thursday).

The meeting concluded at 1.15 pm.

Contract on 10-15 ton truck production project signed

The project will be completed during this year. Upon completion, the project will mainly produce machineries such as 10-15 ton (6x4) trucks, water tankers, oil tankers and concrete mixers, and fire engines etc. The 90 percent of machine parts used in the production will be from factories of the Ministry of Industry-2.

Kunchaung Hydropower Project shaping form

After hearing reports on progress of the works, the minister gave instructions on timely completion of remaining works, worksite safety and using quality materials. He inspected inflow and storage of water in the dam, progress of the main works, the minister gave instructions on timely completion of remaining works, worksite safety and using quality materials. He inspected inflow and storage of water in the dam, progress of the main dam and installation of low-pressure steel pipe lines. The minister then looked round the plant equipment, transformer yard and switch yard. The whole hydropower project has so far been completed by 93 per cent and is a project with installed capacity of three 20-megawatt turbines will be able to generate 190-million KWh electricity yearly upon completion.
**Robotic arm breakdown adds swashbuckl drama**

WASHINGTON, 1 March—Two US astronauts on Monday wrapped up the first spacewalk of the Discovery shuttle mission at the International Space Station after a robotic arm breakdown left one of them stranded for almost 20 minutes.

“How much longer?” asked veteran astronaut Steve Bowen after the Robotic arm operators Scott Kelly and Mike Barratt had to continue their work.

Robotic arm operators Scott Kelly and Mike Barratt had to continue their work.

**Over 60 percent of US older adults has hearing loss**

WASHINGTON, 1 March—Nearly two-thirds of Americans aged 70 and older have hearing loss, but those who are of black race seem to have a protective effect against this loss, according to a new study led by Johns Hopkins University and the National Institute on Aging researchers.

These findings, published online Monday on the Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences, provide what is believed to be the first nationally representative survey in older adults on this often ignored and underreported condition.

**Japan ruling party passes budget**

**Activists fight plan to deport Moscow’s stray dogs**

Moscow, 1 March—Scroungy and street smart, Moscow’s 26,000 stray dogs roam the Russian capital, bedding down in subway stations and even learning to ride the trains.

But some are aggressive, traveling in packs and attacking people. Now authorities want to round the strays up and send them to an isolation facility outside the city a plan that has appalled dog lovers and animal rights activists. Prominent actors and musicians have petitioned City Hall to abandon the idea. Speaking at news conference on Monday, actor Yevgeny Mironov compared the planned facility to a “concentration camp.”

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**INTERNET**
**Cookie sales barred at Girl Scouts founder’s home**

Girl Scouts are no longer able to sell their famous cookies outside the historic Savannah home of the woman who founded the organization almost a century ago.

A complaint last year ended the long-standing practice of selling the cookies on the public sidewalk outside the home of Juliette Gordon Low at the busy intersection of Bull Street and Oglethorpe Avenue. Peddling on a public sidewalk is a violation of a city ordinance. One city alderman said he thinks the city should consider a temporary exception for cookie season.

The city’s zoning administrator, Randolph Scott, said he investigated the matter and tried to find a solution. He said he called for a survey, hoping there would be some private space between the home and the sidewalk. He said there wasn’t any.

Scott said they also looked at allowing the Scouts to sell from a small courtyard on the side of the house, but fire marshals told the Scouts they would block an exit route. The home is a National Historic Landmark open for tours. “I know it doesn’t look good,” Scott told The Savannah Morning News. “However, other businesses won’t care if it’s the Girl Scouts or March of Dimes. They’re going to say, ‘Why can’t I sit out front and solicit business?’”

City Alderman Van Johnson said he thinks the city council should consider a variance to allow temporary sales during cookie season, which usually happens in the first few months of the year.

“Juliette Low brings thousands of tourists from around the country. Juliette Low is known for Girl Scouts, and Girl Scouts are known for cookies,” Johnson said. “Let’s be reasonable. Let them sell their cookies.”

Scouts have since started selling near some other high-traffic intersections. Girls used to be able to sell about 250 boxes in three hours outside the Low home, said Jan McKinney, who heads product sales for the Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia.

**Kylie Minogue doesn’t copy Lady Gaga**

Singer Kylie Minogue admits she gets annoyed when people accuse her of copying the style of Lady Gaga.

“Of course it annoys me when people say I copied Lady Gaga. I think she’s amazing, but she’s a totally different artist to me,” femalefirst.co.uk quoted Minogue as saying.

“Back in the day, I was accused of copying Madonna - but my approach is very different to hers,” she added. The 42-year-old singer also reveals she only ever wears sexy outfits when she is being “tongue in cheek”.

**Charlie Sheen gives interview to ABC**

BEIJING, 1 March—Trouble maker Charlie Sheen is scheduled to give an interview to ABC on Tuesday, according to ABC.

Sheen will talk to ABC News’ Andrea Canning in a one-hour edition of “20/20,” which is to be broadcast at 10 pm EST on 1 March.

Part of the interview will also be aired on “Good Morning America” Monday and Tuesday.

Sheen, 45, will reportedly discuss his insulting remarks about Chuck Lorre, the executive producer of his sitcom “Two and a Half Men”.

He called Chuck Lorre a “contaminated little maggot” on a radio programme and in a letter posted on the TMZ website. Sheen’s controversial rant led to the suspension of the production of “Two and a Half Men” earlier last week.

**Parent-child monkeys embrace each other in snow at Xiangshan Zoo in Huabei, east China’s Aihui Province.**

**Many twins no longer surprising**

An Ohio school has 13 sets of twins — unofficially tying the 2010 Guinness World record for the most sets of twins in a single grade, the principal said. Keven Fancher, the principal at Loveland Primary School in Loveland, said, “I knew we had a lot of twins, but I never paid attention to how many. I’m sure if I put it in someone’s hands, the staff would want to pursue (sharing a world record),” the Cincinnati Enquirer reported on Saturday.

The official Guinness record of 13 sets of twin in a grade was set in January last year at Pomperaug High School in Southbury, Conn, the Enquirer reported. Doctors said the number of multiple births has risen sharply in the last few decades due to fertility drugs, medical advances leading to high survival rates for premature infants, and women delaying bearing children.

**Malin Akerman joins Nicolas Cage thriller**

LOS ANGELES, 1 March — Malin Akerman is in negotiations to join Nicolas Cage in “Medallion,” a kidnap- ping thriller with shades of the Liam Neeson hit “Taken.”

Cage stars as a former master thief who has only a few hours to find his daughter.

The movie will shoot in New Orleans starting in mid-March. Simon West, who previously worked with Cage on “Con Air,” will direct the Nu Image/Millennium Films project.

Akerman’s recent credits include “Watchmen” and “Couples Retreat,” and she is one of the stars of Josh Radnor’s feature directorial debut, “Happy ThankYouMorePlease,” which opens in March.

**Golf on Lake Erie a cool fundraiser**

Too eager to wait for spring, golfers in Erie, Pa, have taken to the ice to raise funds for a lakeside park.

Elmer Keisel, owner of Joe Root’s Grill, organized Joe Root’s Frostbite Open, a nine-hole charity tournament on the frozen bay that raised about $6,000 for Presque Isle State Park 20 Feb.

The restaurant and tournament are named for Joe Root, who lived on the Presque Isle peninsula more than a century ago. Turf mats from an old driving range, nailed into the ice, were the tees. Pieces of carpet made the greens, and golf holes and pins were put in but kept above ice level so they would not fall into the water. All 36 foursome tee times sold out within 16 days of Keisel’s announcement.
Pato inspires Milan to crucial Serie A win over Napoli

MILAN, 1 March—A brilliant performance by Brazilian striker Pato saw AC Milan inflict what could prove to be a fatal blow to Napoli’s Serie A title hopes on Monday after the leaders cruised to a 3-0 win.

The 21-year-old—a somewhat controversial omission from last year’s World Cup finals squad—set up Ghanaian Kevin-Prince Boateng for Milan’s second goal and then added a glorious third two minutes later to give them a five point lead over champions Inter Milan while Napoli are six points adrift of the leaders.

Swedish international striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic had opened the scoring for Milan early in the second-half from the penalty spot—a harsh call by referee Gianluca Rocchi for handball on Napoli defender Salvatore Aronica, who while the ball clearly hit his arm it did not seem to be deliberate on his part.—Internet

Alves coy on Barca contract renewal

BARCELONA, 1 March—Barcelona defender Dani Alves has played down the importance of renewing his contract with the Spanish league leaders, saying on Monday “life will go on” if the two sides fail to agree terms.

The 27-year-old Brazilian international’s contract runs out in June 2012 and renewal talks have dragged on amid reports of a possible move to Manchester City.

Sports daily Mundo Deportivo reported last month that Alves turned down the chance of a contract extension to 2015 that would have placed him in the same wage bracket as teammates like captain Carles Puyol.

But Alves seems in no hurry.—Internet

Arsenal posts financial loss after Wembley defeat

LONDON, 1 March—Premier League club Arsenal on Monday posted a loss in the six months to end-November, largely on the back of reduced player revenues and lower property sales on the site of its former ground.

A 2.5 million-pounds ($4 million) loss contrasts with a 29.2 million pound profit recorded in the corresponding period in 2009.

While Arsenal made 33.9 million pounds from player sales in the 2009 offseason, primarily from the transfer of Kolo Toure and Emmanuel Adebayor to Manchester City, it only garnered an equivalent 4 million pounds in 2010.

The results were announced a day after Arsenal lost to Birmingham in the League Cup final at Wembley Stadium to leave the club still chasing its first trophy since 2005. But the Gunners are still in the Champions League and the FA Cup, while sitting second in the Premier League they haven’t won since 2004.—Internet

Querrey out for US-Chile Davis Cup tie

NEW YORK, 1 March—Sam Querrey, ranked 24th on the ATP Tour, will not join the United States team for its trip to Chile this week for a first-round Davis Cup tie, US captain Jim Courier said on Monday.

A right shoulder injury will sideline Querrey, who joins 15th-ranked Mardy Fish in skipping the showdown on clay in Santiago. Fish is suffering from a thyroid issue.

Tigana to stay on as Bordeaux coach

BORDEAUX, 1 March—Bordeaux announced Monday that Jean Tigana will stay on as coach after the club’s management rejected his offer to step down.

Bordeaux, the 2009 champions, had won just one of their last 10 league games prior to Saturday’s 3-0 win at home to Auxerre.

A report in Monday’s edition of French sport daily L’Equipe, meanwhile, claimed Tigana had already cleared his desk and bid farewell to the players.

However, club president Jean-Louis Triaud said the former France international had “the full and complete support of the professional team” and said there would be no changes to the coaching staff.

Triaud said Tigana’s offer to resign had been “obviously refused”—Internet

Donald wins Match Play in record fashion

MARANA, 1 March—The weirdest week ever at the Match Play Championship ended with what must have felt like a strange sensation for Luke Donald.

He was posing with a trophy on American soil.

It had been five years since Donald last won a PGA Tour event, though it certainly was not from a lack of effort. Players don’t crack the top 10 in the world without doing something right. But this was a week when almost nothing went wrong.

When he closed out Martin Kaymer on the 16th hole Sunday, the 33-year-old Englishman had won his first World Golf Championship with a performance that is stunning by the numbers alone:

• He played 89 holes in six matches, the fewest ever in the 13-year history of this event, and became the first player to never trail after any hole in any match. Donald led his opponent after 81 of those 89 holes.

• He made 32 birdies, which is slightly better than one every three holes.—Internet

Memphis Grizzlies’ Marc Gasol, of Spain, right, and referee Olandis Poole, middle right, watch as San Antonio Spurs’ Tony Parker, of France, is helped up by Spurs’ Tim Duncan, left, after suffering a left calf injury during the first half of an NBA basketball game, on 27 Feb, 2011, in San Antonio.—Internet

Spurs’ Parker out 2-4 weeks with calf injury

SAN ANTONIO, 1 March—Spurs point guard Tony Parker will likely miss two to four weeks with a sore calf muscle, handing the NBA’s top team its first significant injury after coasting all season with unusually perfect health.

Parker strained his left calf in Sunday’s win over Memphis. He had started every game during a blazing start for the NBA-best Spurs (49-10), who can already match their win total from last season Tuesday when they play the Grizzlies again.

Parker is averaging 17.1 points and 6.6 assists, piloting a refreshened offense that is quicker, higher-scoring and no longer revolving around Tim Duncan.

“When Tony’s on the floor the whole dynamic of the team changes,” Spurs guard Manu Ginobili said after Sunday’s victory. “He’s so good at breaking the first line and finding open teammates or finishing. He gives us another great weapon offensively.”—Internet

Barcelona’s Brazilian defender Daniel Alves month that Alves turned down the chance of a contract extension to 2015 that would have placed him in the same wage bracket as teammates like captain Carles Puyol.

But Alves seems in no hurry.—Internet

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger reacts during their English League Cup soccer match final against Birmingham.—Internet

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Luke Donald of England

2-3-2011 NL.pmd 3/2/2011, 7:53 AM

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Brazil to continue to increase minimum wage's purchase power

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 March — Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff said Monday that the government will continue with its policy of increasing the purchasing power of the minimum wage.

In her weekly radio show, Rousseff said that the recently-signed Minimum Wage Valorization Law, which foresees the regulations for the minimum wage rises in the next five years, is important to bring stability to the economy.

“With the law, everyone knows the rules and criteria to raise the minimum wage beforehand,” she said. According to the president, the minimum wage must keep up with the Brazilian economy’s growth. “The minimum wage must have real gains,” she said. The law, which takes effect on March 1, raises the country’s minimum wage from 540 to 545 reais (325 to 328 US dollars) this year.

Yangon (Kaba-Aye)

Maximum temperature on 28-2-2011 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 1-3-2011 was 64°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 1-3-2011 was (54%). Rainfall on 1-3-2011 was (Nil).

The sun sets out over the Gulf of Mexico. The US government has awarded its first permit for deepwater drilling in the Gulf since a moratorium was lifted after the BP oil disaster last year, a senior official said Monday.

INTERNET

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 2 March, 2011

WEATHER

Tuesday, 1st March, 2011

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T.

During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Taninthayi Region and weather has been partly cloudy in Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Regions, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above March average temperature in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State. (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Southern Shan, Rakhine and Mon States and about March average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Chauk (40°C) and Aunglan (39°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.08) inch.

Nay Pyi Taw

Maximum temperature on 28-2-2011 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 1-3-2011 was 71°F Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 1-3-2011 was (70%). Total sunshine hours on 28-2-2011 was (9.5) hours (Approx).

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INTERNET

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Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful
Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution
VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

People’s Desire
■ We favour peace and stability
■ We favour development
■ We oppose unrest and violence
■ Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

Second day regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw held
Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee formed

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 March—The second day regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw was held at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 11 am today.
It was attended by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann announced the validity and start of the second-day session as 430 or 99.08 % of the 434 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives were present.
The speaker made clarifications regarding formation of the Bill Committee; and the deputy speaker, duties, powers and rights of the committee.
The duties of the committee are:
(1) The committee shall vet the bills based on the following points.
(a) Whether or not bills conform with the State policies and objectives,
(b) Whether or not bills conform with provisions of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and existing laws,
(c) Whether or not bills are designed to safeguard the interests of the nation and the people,
(d) Whether or not bills carry points that can harm State perpetuation and security,
(e) Whether or not bills conform with objective conditions of the State,
(f) Whether or not bills harm security of the public and their property,
(g) Whether or not bills carry words and terms that can harm national unity,
(h) Whether or not powers between a ministry and another, and between a governmental department and enterprise and another are mingled,
(i) If a bill is drawn according to responsibilities enumerated in international or regional agreements and MoUs, or international or regional agreements between regions, whether or not the bill conforms with the points agreed by Myanmar in the agreements and MoUs, and whether or not the bill harms the State sovereignty,
(j) Whether or not the bills carry all related points on policy relevant law,
(k) Whether or not provisions of the bills are practicable or not,
(l) Whether or not the bills carry all provisions to implement their purposes,
(2) Committee members, when assigned duties by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, shall serve as members of the joint bill committee to be formed with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker,
(3) The committee shall carry out duties occasionally assigned by Pyithu Hluttaw,
(4) The committee shall assess bills as the same ways in Pyithu Hluttaw. However,
(a) There is no need to ascertain support regarding tabling motions and submitting suggestions,
(b) Committee members have the right to hold discussions more than one time in a matter,
(c) Regarding bills, experienced officials may be invited in coordination with the departments and organizations concerned for advice.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann makes clarifications on formation of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee.—MNA