Prime Minister U Thein Sein sends sympathy message to Japanese PM

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—** U Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, on 11 March, sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr. Naoto Kan, Prime Minister of Japan for the loss of life and property caused by earthquake and Tsunami in Sendai City, Tohoku Region and North Eastern parts of Japan.—MNA

First regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw continues for tenth day

**NAY PYI TAW, 14 March —** The first regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw continued for the tenth day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann declared that the attendance of 432 made up 99.77 percent of 433 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and the tenth-day session was therefore valid.

Afterwards, out of the questions raised by Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, permitted ones were raised, and members of the union level organizations Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung and Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein gave replies. U Aung Sein of Maung constituency asked the hluttaw to open a technological training school in Rakhine State, U Zaw Tun.

(See page 6)
**PERSPECTIVES**

Wednesday, 16 March, 2011

**Greater convenience in traveling**

To achieve smooth transport fundamental to all-round development of a nation, more and more roads and bridges are being built on a self-reliance basis with the use of domestic inputs, in spite of geographical barriers such as mountain ranges, ravines and watercourses.

Nay Pyi Taw-Taunggyo-Myothit-Kanbya (Magway) tarred road, over 106 miles long, was commissioned on 13 March. Thanks to the newly-inaugurated transport facility, the distance between Nay Pyi Taw and Magway is now just a three-hour drive.

There are three roads between the two regions, the above-mentioned is the shortest with least number of bends and slopes. It is the sixth among the seven roads passing through Yoma mountain ranges built by the Ministry of Construction.

Previous to the roads, the regions were difficult of access with slow commodity flow. Now, the region enjoys swift commodity flow due to new roads, railroads and bridges. Apart from roads, new bridges are being built and old ones, being renovated. Yin Creek Bridge near Myothit Township, Magway Region, was put into service the same day. It is the 261st among the above-180-foot bridges in the nation. The 250 feet long broad crest type facility can withstand 60 tons of loads for a vehicle.

With a growing number of roads and bridges across the nation, national races are in a position to have easy access to other regions in a short time and enjoy development at the unprecedented level.

**Present weather condition warning**

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 March — Some impacts of global climate change processes, present Lanma process in Central Pacific Ocean and abnormal weather events over the world can slightly affect over Myanmar.

Weather processes such as untimely rain or thundershowers, isolated strong wind, thunder and lightning may occur before monsoon season. Present time is not storm season but if storm may early form in Myanmar water due to climate, it will issue in time as those news and warnings, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced. — MNA

**Gallant to open engineering courses**

YANGON, 15 March — Gallant Training Centre, the approved centre of City & Guilds Institute (England) opens degree and advanced diploma courses in engineering.

Those who have finished matriculatation examination, graduates, and those who have already been working in engineering filed and wishing to get a internationally recognized diploma certificates.

The new section of diploma course in engineering will be opened on 21 March, on which day 20% discount will be offered. Those interested may contact the centre at No. 5, B (5), 4th Floor, U Tun Lin Road, Hledan, Kamayut, Tel: 73032670.— MNA

**MAT to conduct Food Science Course**

YANGON, 15 March — MAT Professional Training & Services and Guardian Independent Certification Ltd (UK) will jointly conduct Food Science Course on 20 March.

The course is open to all those interested and will cover food packaging, distribution and management. Those interested may contact MAT Professional Training & Services, Ph: 246618, 242431 and Website: www.matprofessional.com. — MNA

**Minerals Minister meets Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association**

YANGON, 15 March — The third-day session of the fifth Meeting of the sixth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders took place at Maha Pasana Cave of Kaba Aye Hill, here, this morning.

Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Sudhamajoitikadhaja Bhaddanta Pandavamsa presided over the meeting, and Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vijodhya acted at MC.

Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Manitasiribhivamsa responded to the suggestions on the annual report and sought the approval of the meeting.

Next, Chairman of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Sudhamajoitikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Kumaraabhivamsa presented certificates of Vinaya to members of the State Sangha Vinichchaya Committee and other State Vinaya Sayadaw.

The meeting came to an end after delivering an address by the Chairman of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders.

Today, (General Soe Win)-Daw Than Nwe and family, Lt-Gen Aung Htw (Retired)-Daw Khin Hnin Wai and family, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win (Retired)-Daw Khin San Yi and family, (Lt-Gen Maung Bo)-Daw Khin Lay Myint and family, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than (Retired)-Daw Marlar Tint and family, Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe (Retired)-Daw Nann Khin Hla Win and family and Lt-Gen Ye Myint (Retired)-Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and family offered meals to the Sayadaws. — MNA

**Using effectively GIS and Google Earth**

YANGON, 15 March—Myanmar Credent Technology will open Applied GIS and Google Earth course on weekends from 26 March to 9 April at the e-Learning centre of Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Info-Tech, Hline Township, here.

20% discount will be offered to staff of governmental departments, non-governmental organizations at home and abroad, members of MCF, and Myanmar Engineering Society, and students. For enrollment, contact Myanmar Credent Technology at Room-7, Building-1, Myanmar Info-Tech, Ph: 652285 by 25 March. — MNA
Blast rocks school in Afghan Jalalabad City

JALALABAD, 15 March—A bomb blast rocked a school in Jalalabad City, the provincial capital of Afghanistan’s eastern Nangarhar Province Tuesday morning, injuring at least two persons, an official said.

“A police unit reported a bomb explosion in Najm-ul Jihad high school in Jalalabad City that occurred at around 08:00 am local time, wounding two people including the principal of the school,” spokesman for provincial administration, Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, told Xinhua.

He said the injured people had been taken to hospital for medical treatment. However, a health official in the Jalalabad City hospital who declined to give his name asserted that the principal of the school succumbed to his injuries.

Meantime, a statement released to media by Nangarhar’s Provincial administration confirmed that Bahram Khan, principal of the school, lost his life in the bomb blast organized by the enemies of Afghanistan, a term used against Taleban militants by Afghan officials.

No group or individuals have claimed responsibility for the attack.

This is the second attack carried out by anti-government militants in Afghanistan since Monday.

In the previous attack a suicide bomber targeted Afghan army recruitment centre in northern Kunduz Province on Monday, leaving 35 people dead and 33 others injured.

Soldiers kill four alleged kidnappers in Mexico

MONTERREY, 15 March—Mexican soldiers killed four presumed kidnappers during a gunfight at a ranch in northeast Mexico, the army said Monday.

The Defence Department said in a statement that gunmen opened fire on troopers who were investigating a tip about suspicious activity Saturday night at the ranch in the town of Chia, near Texas.

It said two adults and two children who had apparently been kidnapped were freed, and two other suspects were detained.

And authorities reported Monday that nine people were shot dead Sunday in the resort city of Acapulco, located in Guerrero State.

Guerrero State police said in a statement that the victims include a woman and her two children. Six others, including a retired navy captain, died in four separate attacks.

Also Monday, an inmate stabbed to death the acting warden of a prison in the city of Nuevo Laredo, across the border from Laredo, Texas.

Warden Rebeca Nciaio Vazquez was on an inspection tour of the prison when the inmate approached her and stabbed her in the neck, according to a statement from the Attorney General’s Office of Tamaulipas State.

The inmate was restrained by guards after the attack. The warden had been inspecting the cell blocks to ensure prisoners had no hidden weapons.

Roadside bomb kills Afghan Provincial Council member

MEHTERLAM, 15 March—A member of Provincial Council was killed as a roadside bomb struck his car in Laghman Province 260 km east of capital City Kabul on Tuesday, an official said.

“A roadside bomb went off near the vehicle of Mohim Malang a member of Provincial Council at around 8:30 am local time killing him on the spot,” spokesman for provincial administration, Kochi Nasri told Xinhua.

Malang’s father was injured in the blast that occurred in provincial capital Mehterlam City, he added.

On the other hand, Taleban militants claimed responsibility for the explosion.

Zabihullah Mujahid who claims to speak for Taleban outfit in talks with media from undisclosed location said that Taleban fighters Organizerized the roadside that killed a provincial council member along with three of his bodyguards.

Eastern Afghan Provinces have been seeing increasing Taleban- led violent activities over the past couple of months.

A bomb blast inside a school in the neighbouring Nangarhar Province also killed one person and injured another Tuesday morning—Xinhua

Civilian killed, 10 wounded in Baghdad’s bomb attacks

BAGHDAD, 15 March—A civilian was killed and ten people were wounded in separate bomb attacks in Baghdad on Monday, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Four passersby were also wounded by the blast, which caused damages to several nearby shops and buildings, the source said.

In the city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, unidentified gunmen planted bombs in three houses belonging to policemen late Monday, wounding six people, including two women, a local police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Four bomb attacks were carried out in the Iraqi cities despite the dramatic decrease of violence over the past few years.—Xinhua

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Four bomb attacks were carried out in the Iraqi cities despite the dramatic decrease of violence over the past few years.—Xinhua

13 people wounded in bomb attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 March—Thirteen people were wounded in separate bomb attacks in Baghdad and the city of Fallujah in Iraq’s western province of Anbar, official and police sources said Tuesday.

In Baghdad, two roadside bomb went off in a quick succession near a police patrol in the southern district of Doura, damaging a police vehicle and wounding a police officer and two policemen aboard, an Interior Ministry source added.

In the city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, unidentified gunmen planted bombs in three houses belonging to policemen late Monday, wounding six people, including two women, a local police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Insurgents frequently attack Iraqi security forces, their homes and families as part of attempts to reassert the insurgents’ control in some areas where they have been limited in freedom of movement, the source said, adding that the three bomb attacks are under investigation.

Violence and sporadic high-profile bomb attacks continue in the Iraqi cities despite the dramatic decrease of violence over the past few years.—Xinhua

Civilian killed, 10 wounded in Baghdad’s bomb attacks

BAGHDAD, 15 March—A civilian was killed and ten people were wounded in separate bomb attacks in Baghdad on Monday, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

A roadside bomb went off in a thoroughfare in Baghdad’s western District of Amryah, killing a civilian and wounding two others, along with damaging several nearby shops, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Another roadside bomb detonated near a police patrol in al- Ameen District in southeastern Baghdad, damaging a police vehicle and wounding three policemen aboard, the source said. Two passersby were also wounded by the blast, the source added.

A third roadside bomb ripped through Baghdad’s southern District of Doura, wounding two civilians, while a fourth roadside bomb detonated at an intersection in Karrada District in southern the capital and wounded a civilian, the source said.—Xinhua
New explosion, higher radiation at crippled Japanese nuclear plant

Tokyo, 15 March—A fresh explosion rocked the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant, raising radiation in the area to dangerous levels, the Japanese government said Tuesday.

The explosion was heard at the No 2 reactor of Fukushima No1 nuclear power plant at 6:10 am (2110 GMT on Monday) and a fire later broke out at the No 4 reactor, causing more radiation near the complex.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan warned of further leaks and told people living within a radius of 30 km of the troubled plant to stay indoors.

Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO), owner and operator of the Fukushima complex, said it was evacuating all staff except those working to cool the reactor, signalling a deterioration in the situation.

The latest blasts come after previous explosions at its No 1 and No 3 reactors, caused by damage from Friday’s earthquake and tsunami, which devastated much of north-west Japan.

Radiation fears spark panic buying, evacuations in Tokyo

Tokyo, 15 March—Panic swept Tokyo on Tuesday after a rise in radioactive levels around an earthquake-hit nuclear power plant north of the city, causing some to save the capital or stock up on food and supplies.

Embassies advised staff to leave affected areas, tourists cut short vacations and some multinational companies told staff to move from Tokyo out after low levels of radiation were detected in one of the world’s biggest and most densely populated cities.

In one sign of the panic, Don Quixote, a multistory, 24-hour general store in Tokyo’s Roppongi District, was sold out of radios, flashlights, candles, fuel cans and sleeping bags on Tuesday as a Reuters reported visited the shop.

Tourists such as Christy Niver, of Egan, Minnesota, said they had enough. Her 10-year-old daughter, Lucy, was more emphatic.

“I’m scared. I’m so scared I would rather be in the eye of a tornado,” she said. “I want to leave.”—Reuters

Fire at Japan reactor extinguished

Vienna, 15 March—A fire at a spent fuel storage pond of the quake-damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan has been extinguished, the UN atomic watchdog said Tuesday.

Japanese authorities have confirmed that the fire at the spent fuel storage pond at the Unit 4 reactor of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant was extinguished at 02:00 UTC (Coordinated Universal Time), the International Atomic Energy Agency said in a statement.

Earlier, the IAEA had said it had been informed by the Japanese authorities that the spent fuel “is on fire and radioactivity is being released directly into the atmosphere.”

The authorities had also informed the IAEA that there had been an explosion at around 6:20 am local time at the unit 2 reactor at the same plant, which may have been caused by a hydrogen explosion, the watchdog said.

“Dose rates of up to 400 millisievert per hour have been reported at the site,” it added.

California official says tsunami damage exceeds $40 million

Santa Cruz, 15 March—A California official on Monday estimated that statewide damage from last week’s tsunami triggered by a massive offshore earthquake near Japan exceeds $40 million.

Mike Dayton, acting secretary of the Emergency Management Agency, gave the estimate after touring Santa Cruz Harbor, where 18 vessels sank, about 100 were damaged and another 12 remained unaccounted for.

The damage in Santa Cruz Harbor alone is estimated at $17 million.

Meanwhile, engineers were using sonar on Monday to scour the bottom of Santa Cruz Harbor for missing vessels sunk by the surge.

Slight temperature rise at two Japan reactors

Tokyo, 15 March—There has been a slight rise in temperature of two more reactors at a quake-hit Japanese nuclear plant, where engineers are battling to avert meltdown, the chief government spokesman said Tuesday.

There have already been explosions at four of the reactors at the Fukushima No1 plant 250 kilometres northeast of Tokyo, after Friday’s earthquake and tsunami knocked out cooling systems.

Spokesman Yukio Edano said the slight temperature rise was at the number-five and number-six reactors, where problems had not previously been reported.

Debris is pictured floating in the Pacific Ocean, in this photograph taken on 13 March, 2011 and released on 14 March.—Xinhua

Vehicles damaged during the tsunami are seen in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan, on 15 March, 2011. Damages and ruins can be seen everywhere in coastal areas of northeastern Japan as the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and massive tsunami hit these areas.—Xinhua

Japan imposes fly ban within 30-km radius of Fukushima nuke plant

Tokyo, 15 March—Japan’s transport ministry on Tuesday banned aircraft from flying within 30 kilometres of the Fukushima No 1 nuclear power plant amid escalating nuclear crisis, according to Kyodo news agency.

The move excludes aircraft engaged in search and rescue operations, and is not expected to have a large impact on scheduled commercial flights in the country, the report said.

Trains carriages are seen overturned on the ground after being swept by tsunami in the town of Hachinohe, Aomori Prefecture, Japan, on 12 March, 2011.—Xinhua

Internet

A boat ripped from its anchor by a tsunami surge crashes into boats on the harbor in Santa Cruz, Calif. A ferocious tsunami unleashed by Japan’s biggest recorded earthquake slammed into its eastern coast Friday, killing hundreds of people as it carried away ships, cars and homes, and triggered widespread fires that burned out of control. Hours later, the waves washed ashore on Hawaii and the US West coast, where evacuations were ordered from California to Washington but little damage was reported. The entire Pacific had been put on alert — including coastal areas of South America, Canada and Alaska — but waves were as bad as expected.—INTERNET

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Hluttaw candidates, election agents declared as persons of distorted qualification

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—The Union Election Commission issued Notification No.7/2011 today. The translation of the notification is as follows:-

The Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No.7/2011
11th Waxing of Tabauang, 1372 ME
(15 March, 2011)

Hluttaw candidates and their election agents failed to submit election expenses in the prescribed period declared as persons of distorted qualification

1. According to Section 55 of the respective Hluttaw Election Laws and paragraph 77 of Rules, Hluttaw candidates and their election agents who run for Multi-party Democracy General Election held on 7 November, 2010 are to submit election expenses to the respective sub-commissions in line with the laws during 60-day as of the date the name of representatives-elect are announced.
2. To be able to decide whether those who fail to submit election expenses in accord with the law should be designated as persons of distorted qualification or not, the Union Election Commission formed election tribunals and ordered them to check with them.
3. The Election Tribunal found that the following Hluttaw candidates and their election agents failed to submit the election expenses during the prescribed period, and in accord with the respective Hluttaw Election Rules Paragraph 83 (a), designated them as persons of distorted qualification.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr Hluttaw candidate</th>
<th>Election Agent</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) U Saw Nwe Shwe Maung</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Putao Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) U Kyaw Oo</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Amoitha Hluttaw Constituency No.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) U Hla Ngwe</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Mogau Township Constituency No.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>(d) U Aung Ni</td>
<td>U Win Naing</td>
<td>Phakant Township Constituency No.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>(e) U Tun Tun Oo</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Bhamo Township Constituency No.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(f) U PS Khan Do Nan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Tididim Township Constituency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(g) U Lain Kee</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Kanpetlet Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency</td>
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<tr>
<td>(h) U Byat Kham</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Amoitha Hluttaw Constituency No.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>(i) U Lan Zman</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Amoitha Hluttaw Constituency No.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>(j) U Lun Kho Han</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Amoitha Hluttaw Constituency No.7</td>
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<td>(k) U Htan Kee</td>
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<td>Amoitha Hluttaw Constituency No.8</td>
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<td>(l) U Lain Paing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Amoitha Hluttaw Constituency No.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>(m) U Kyaw Kyaw Phyu</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Amoitha Hluttaw Constituency No.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>(n) U Hon Htan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Kanpetlet Township Constituency No.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>(o) U Hla Mar</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Haka Township Constituency No.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>(p) U Lyan Chun</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Haka Township Constituency No.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>(q) U Kan Llyan Htan</td>
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<td>Tididim Township Constituency No.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>(r) U Htwan Gohtan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Tididim Township Constituency No.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>(s) U Daing Lyan Paung</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Tonzang Township Constituency No.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>(t) U Twar Dopaung</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Tonzang Township Constituency No.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. The Union Election Commission announced that the above-mentioned Hluttaw candidates and their election agents are persons of distorted qualification according to Paragraph 84 of respective Hluttaw Election Rules after judging the decision of Election Tribunal.
5. It is hereby announced that Hluttaw candidates and election agents who are declared as persons of distorted qualifications, in accord with the Section 88 of the respective Hluttaw Election Law, shall not contest in the election as a Hluttaw candidate, from the date of this declaration, in the existing Hluttaw term and the next Hluttaw term.

Sd/ Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Amytha Hluttaw Bill Committee, Public Accounts Committee, Hluttaw Rights Committee, Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee hold meetings

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First regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw continues…
(from page 1)
of Momaunk constituency asked the Hluttaw to draft a bill that would let students choose a literature of one of national races as an optional subject on the school curriculum. U Aung Tun Tha of MraukU constituency asked the Hluttaw to upgrade No.2 Basic Education Middle School in MraukU to the higher one and U Aung Sein of Manaung constituency asked the Hluttaw to maintain basic education schools and to establish a university of arts and science or a college for towships in southern Rakhine State. Afterwards, the agree-to-discuss proposals submitted by U Tun Myint Oo of Mongpan Constituency on taking census across the country and a proposal of U Khin Maung Yi (a) Rhine Maung Yi of Ahlon Constituency to prescribe a compulsory education system “Duty to Educate Children” at the primary and middle school levels for 100 per cent literacy and new syllabuses and policies comprising examination systems for students to continue education in international universities in which the government and private education centres can participate. Members of the Union level organizations Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Oo and Minister for Education Dr. Chan Nyein made reviews and discussed the proposals and the approval of Pyithu Hluttaw was sought.

Afterwards, U Soe Win of Sanyo Township constituency submitted a proposal to review the pension scheme as there is a wide gap between the pension and current commodity prices and suggested to make pension salary grades depending on ages. U Aung Zin of Pauzandaung Township constituency submitted a proposal to draft a bill that would allow farmers to keep their crops at governmental organizations and private garage at reasonable prices, paving ways for the farmers to earn stable price from crop production. Pyithu Hluttaw held discussion if the new two proposals should be brought to the Hluttaw or not.

 Afterwards, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw announced that the tenth day session ended and the eleventh-day session would be held at 10 am tomorrow. The session ended at 1.45 pm.

Education Minister replies to Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Zaw Tun’s question.

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—U Zaw Tun of Momaunk Constituency questioned at today’s Pyithu Hluttaw regular session whether there is only plan to drapt law to teach a language of national race as optional subject in addition to teaching Myanmarsas main subject in government schools in respective Regions and States or not.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein replied to the question that the ministry set syllabuses for basic education with the coordination of scholars at home and abroad and experts of UN agencies to nurture well-educated good citizens with Union Spirit and nationalistic fervor.

Myanmar, home to over 100 national races, has many languages, including different languages from the same race based on the region. There will be students of different national races in the same class of the same school as various national races inhabit in each Region/State.

Subjects which could be learnt by children at their respective age are included in the current syllabuses with respect to the education theory. Official language Myanmarsas and international language English are also included in the curriculum.

At current situation, to set respective languages of each national race is impossible in basic education curriculum as there are many national races in Myanmar. The learning of languages of national races outside school will be supported.

S & T Minister responds to question on opening of government technical training school in Rakhine State.

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—At today’s Pyithu Hluttaw session, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Sein of Manaung constituency asked whether there is any plan to build a technical training school so as to turn out skilled labours needed for industries in Rakhine State.

Regarding the query, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung said that Ministry of Science and Technology opens Government Technical High Schools in order to turn out skilled labour needed for technological development; that Government Technical High School (Sittway) was opened in Sittway and that was the school which U Aung Sein wants to set up; that a total of 131 students are attending the school in which six subjects are being conducted; that they will work as skilled labour in factory, workshop, construction site and industry after passing their respective courses; that outstanding students from this school will have a opportunity to continue to join the first year of Government Technical Institute, Government Techni col College and Technological University; and that those who have learned the courses at Government Technical High School for two years can get jobs; and that there is a plan for those who want to continue to attend advanced diploma courses.

Education Minister responds to question on difficulties of students from Shan State (North)

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—At Pyithu Hluttaw session, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein answered question on difficulties students majoring in economics from Shan State (North) raised by U Sai Boe Aung of Muse Constituency at eight-day Pyithu Hluttaw session, with the permission of Hluttaw Speaker.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein said that before 1988, students had to learn Economics only at Yangon Institute of Economics and about 1000 students were allowed there and now Institute of Economics (Meiktila) and (Monywa) in which 6400 students are accepted have been opened; that designation of Institute of Economics is based on the most easy access and cost-effective according to their region; that the factors make parallel development across the country and so education sector sees fruitful result; and that arrangements have been made to have parallel development across the country and to be able to learn education in their regions or in their nearby regions.
Three Pyithu Hluttaw representatives discuss proposal of U Tun Myint Oo to take census of the entire nation

Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Oo replies

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 March—At today's Pyithu Hluttaw session, three representatives discussed the proposal to take census of the entire nation submitted by U Tun Myint Oo of Mongpan Constituency.

First, U Sai Saw Tin of Mongyawng Constituency said that Myanmar is attempting to establish discipline flourishing democracy system and has announced to the world that she will practice market-oriented economic system that suitable for her new political system.

In practicing market-oriented economic system, it is vital to know the correct and accurate census dividing into sex, age and region so as to calculate such important data as productivity, domestic consumption and export sales. By taking census, spread of diverse national races across the nation, population density, agricultural productivity and food sufficiency of respective regions will become apparent and health, education, literature, traditional customs and administrative matters of respective national brethren will be managed correctly.

Furthermore, approximate lists of voters can be drawn up for elections. The current census is mere rough estimate one and thus he seconded the proposal of U Tun Myint Oo from Mongpan Constituency, said U Sai Saw Tin.

Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kunhing Constituency said that accurate census is instrumental in establishing a discipline flourishing democratic nation. Census was taken in Myanmar in 1933, 1953, 1963, 1973 and 1983 and since then it was not taken again.

She said that she found wrong census while going for election campaigns, and thus seconded U Tun Myint Oo's proposal.

U Tun Myint Win of Mingaladon Constituency said that the State needs correct and accurate census for it will contribute a great deal to socio-economic status of the people.

Taking census of the entire nation is massive work and it is also a national work plan that calls for participation of the entire nation. It is a work to be done simultaneously across the nation and therefore requires sufficient period of time for it calls for participation of various fields such as finance, manpower, management, security, and administration. It is unlikely that the census will be accurate and correct census if it is done in haste. And, therefore, sufficient time should be taken to take census of the entire nation for its accuracy.

In his response, Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Oo said that census means collecting complete information on a particular person in a particular region in a particular time and thus needs to be infused with four features, namely, individuality, universality, simultaneity and defined periodicity.

The Census Department conducts censuses in 252 townships in 1953 and 2143 village-tracts in 1954 as the nationwide campaign. In 1973, the census of the entire nation could be taken and lists of voters also made. To take census, 1972 Census Law of the Union of Myanmar was issued on 22 April, 1972.

Central Census Commission and different levels of census committees were formed in August, 1972 and about 13 months was taken for preparation works. The census of the entire nation was taken in 1983 and that time two years was used for preparation works.

Since the last census was taken in 1983, no new census could be taken and contributory data in population calculation were collected in cooperation with United Nations Population Fund for Population (UNFPA). In doing so, population change and birth rate data was collected in 1991 and birth rate and reproductive health data in 1997, 2001 and 2006. Sample surveys were carried out in 36 townships in 2007 and 36 townships in 2008 so as to analyze the accuracy of the census and the rate of population change after 2006. The census of whole population of 26 townships in thirteen regions and states was taken in 2009.

Primary local data were collected from Immigration and National Department in order to get correct lists of population constantly.

The previous experiences in taking census in 1973 and 1983 show that it took at least to prepare to take census and it took five days to take census. Making lists took two years and peoples cooperate in taking census as it was done massive campaign.

So, taking census takes time and calls for participation of the entire nation. Ministry of minister alone can not accomplish it and it is a time-consuming task to be undertaken by the Government at an opportune time, concluded the minister.

Next, the Hluttaw Speaker said that he hoped that every one would understand the situation now as three representatives and the minister had discussed the proposal of U Tun Myint Oo. Taking census of the entire nation should be and is to be done. He continued that he understood that it should be done at an opportune time as the work is massive and time consuming.

The Pyithu Hluttaw accepted the proposal of U Tun Myint Oo of Mongpan Constituency as hluttaw representatives agreed that the proposal should be put into practice taking time.
Construction Minister replies to question of Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Zon Hlyal Htan of Chin State Constituency-2

NAY P' TAW, 15 March — At the session of Amyotha Hluttaw held today, U Maung Tha Khin of Rakhine State Constituency 8 said that Rakhine State once can be reached from the mainland only through Taunggup-Pandaung road. Yangon-Sittway road and Thandwe-Gwa road linking with Ayeyawady Region emerged in the time of Tatmadaw government. Locals in Rakhine State have easily access to mainland thanks to emergence of road networks and bridges linking between southern and northern parts of Rakhine State.

As Rakhine State has an annual rainfall of more than 200 inches, this causes damages to roads and bridges frequently. He asked about “whether or not there is any plan to be implemented for upgrading of motorways linking between Rakhine State and mainland for better transport.”

Regarding the question, Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint replied that there are three main roads—Minbu-An-Sittway road linking with Magway Region, Pyay-Taunggup-Thandwe road linking with Bago Region and Ngathaingchaung-Gwa-Thandwe road linking with Ayeyawady Region—to link Rakhine State with other States and Regions. Under long-term plans, these roads are being upgraded.

Altogether 23 construction groups and 36 companies are carrying out the construction of three road sections of 296-mile and five-furlong-long Minbu-An-Sittway road with the help of 645 vehicles and 2360 workers. The road will be upgraded step by step up to tarred road. Wooden bridges along the road will be substituted with reinforced concrete ones.

Road accidents occur frequently on Mentaung-Than and Bago-Than road sections and the remaining 83-mile on Thandwe-Gwa road section is being upgraded by the Public Works. Plans are underway to upgrade four bridges on the roads section between Gwa and Thandwe.

Ring roads for isolated islands in Rakhine State are under construction. Maunag Island ring road and 190 bridges on it were built. Besides, construction of Yanpye-Aungblayin and Hlainggugyi island road is in progress.

MNA

Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint responds to question.— MNA
Construction Minister replies to question
(from page 8)

The plan for upgrading of all bridges in Regions and States to reinforced concrete ones has already been drawn by the Public Works of the Ministry of Construction. Wooden bridges in Rakhine State will be upgraded to reinforced concrete ones.

Upgrading of roads and bridges in Rakhine State is being carried out by 49 groups of the ministry. Wooden Works of the Ministry of Construction. Wooden bridges in Rakhine State will be upgraded to reinforced concrete ones.

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First regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw...

(from page 16)

Next, members of the respective Union level organizations Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun clarified and U Sai Win Maung of Shan State Constituency No-5 held discussions on the permitted proposal “to raise pensions of retired persons of the armed forces and government department, who did not catch up to current pay scales according to their ranks when they retired” submitted by U Zhun Khan of Chin State Constituency No-1. Then the approval of Amyotha Hluttaw was sought.

Regarding the proposals “to distribute enough basic commodities to servicemen and government personnel who are serving the interest of the nation and their families at reasonable prices” submitted by U Zhun Khan of Chin State Constituency No-1 and “to grant freedom of press to the government and private forces and government personnel who are serving the interest of the nation and their families at reasonable prices” submitted by U Paw Lian Lwin of Chin State Constituency No-9, they withdrew their proposals to Hluttaw.

The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw announced the end of the first regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw for tenth day and the eleventh-day session will be held at 10 am on 16 March (Wednesday).

The session came to end at noon.—MNA

Up to now it is too early to launch free, compulsory middle education system in Myanmar

Nav Pyi Taw, 15 March—At today’s session of Pyithu Hluttaw, four representatives held discussions about the proposal submitted by Hluttaw Representative U Khin Maung Yi (a) Khine Maung Yyi from Athlon Constituency to prescribe a new system “Duty to Educated Children” and syllabuses with an examination system in Myanmar that so Myanmar should launch the second step only after the first step has been completed; and that according to ads in journals, magazines and TV commercials, there are many private-run schools whose outstanding candidates can join the schools in foreign countries.

Daw Zar Talarm of State Constituency No-5 said that educational reforms should be made to bring about an international level education system, that basic education is free in the international level community; that it is needed to sharpen the abilities of Myanmar youths all the more; and that so he is in support of the proposal.

Dr Maung Maung Aung of Pazundaung Constituency submitted a proposal to draft a bill that would allow farmers to legally store their crops at garages of governmental organizations and private garage at reasonable prices, paving ways for the farmers to earn stable price from crop production.

The proposal was seconded by Daw Zar Talarm of Thantlang Constituency and the approval of Pyithu Hluttaw was sought to discuss it, and then the Hluttaw approved the proposal.

Nav Pyi Taw, 15 March — Today’s Pyithu Hluttaw session made decisions on whether new proposals submitted by Hluttaw representatives should be discussed or not. First, U Soe Win of Sangyang Township Constituency submitted a proposal to review the pension scheme as there is a wide gap between the pension and current commodity prices and suggested to make pension salary grades from two to three thousand for completion of basic education; that in Myanmar the second phase of the 30-year education system will it be achieved; that for instance, compulsory primary education system is exercised extensively around the world; that for instance, compulsory education system is for children aged 11 to 16 years in India, and for 11 years in Russia, and compulsory primary and middle education in China; and that so she said she is in support of the proposal.

Dr Daw Myint Than of Ye Constituency said that educational reforms should be made to bring about an international level education system in Myanmar; that the universities Central Council chaired by the Minister for Education is pursuing plans to improve syllabuses and curricula to the international level; that now Myanmar is a member of ASEAN Universities Network (AUN) and is dealing with syllabuses and curricula in line with Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA); that present achievement in education promotion plans is very heartening; and that the proposal should not be discussed further.

Dr Chan Nyein of Pyithu Hluttaw said that under Millennium Development Goal, every country is trying to achieve Universal Primary Education by 2015; that Article 28 (c) of the constitution says, “The Union shall implement free, compulsory primary education system”; that so, up to now it is too early to launch free, compulsory middle education system in Myanmar; that the universities Central Council chaired by the Minister for Education is pursuing plans to improve syllabuses and curricula to the international level; that now Myanmar is a member of ASEAN Universities Network (AUN) and is dealing with syllabuses and curricula in line with Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA); that present achievement in education promotion plans is very heartening; and that the proposal should not be discussed further.

Dr Khin Maung Yi (a) Khine Maung Yyi of Pyithu Hluttaw expressed thanks, submitting to the Hluttaw that the proposal does not need further discussions.

The speaker declared the Hluttaw approved his submission, so the Hluttaw does not need to discuss the proposal any longer.—MNA
Finance & Revenue Minister answers query

Nav Pyi Taw, 15 March — In the discussion of the proposal ‘to raise pensions of retired persons of the armed forces and government departments, who did not catch up the current pay scales according to their ranks when they retired’, submitted by U Zhun Khan of Shan State Constituency-1, U Sai Win Maung of Shan State Constituency-5 said the difference will come between the pension of service personnel who retired with old salaries and that of those who retired with current salaries is very big. It is true that a retired government employee with an old salary had to face economic difficulties whenever the government increased the salaries of departmental staff after 1988. However, at the moment, it is not easy to decide to increase the salaries or pensions. When occasion arises to increase them, commodity prices will skyrocket and pensioners will get no results. It is true that a retired personnel when Myanmar is able to stand tall as a democratic nation, it is hoped that new salaries the service personnel with old salaries are expecting will come at an opportune time. So, it is not possible to insist on pay rise from the State for a want, discussed U Sai Win Maung.

In his clarification, Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun said the discussion of U Sai Win Maung is perfect and complete. The pension system Myanmar is practicing is in conformity with the existing laws and rules. Unlike other nations which pay pensions to retired service personnel after cutting part of their salaries, Myanmar grants pensions from its own budget depending on the service of a staff member.

After 1948 when the nation regained independence, the government enacted laws for retired service personnel to enjoy pensions. It granted not only a service pension but also a family pension in 1956; increased the 30-year staff pension to 42-year service pension and extended the duration of family pension from 10 to 15 years in 1973; granted temporary living allowance plus pension in 1977 and granted extra cash assistance plus pension in 1988.

Measures were also taken such as granting temporary cash assistance and extra cash assistance plus original pension by abolishing the rule of not paying a pension of more than 600 kyats in 1989; increasing the pensions to up to 25 percent as necessary in 1993; granting family pension from four-thirds of staff pension, instead of a half, and increasing the duration of pension for spouses until their death, instead of 15 years, in 1994; and increasing pensions twofold in 2000.

The minister then requested the withdrawal of the proposal to increase the pensions as it is necessary to consider the situation of national development, inflation, the circulation of money, commodity prices and GDP. U Zhun Khan of Chin State Constituency-1 then submitted the withdrawal of the proposal. Later, the Hluttaw approved the withdrawal.

Proposal on upgrading of school in MraukU withdrawn

Nav Pyi Taw, 15 March — At today’s Pyithu Hluttaw session, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives U Aung Tun Tha of MraukU Constituency withdrew the question on whether Ministry of Education has any plan to upgrade No.2 Basic Education Middle School of MraukU to a High School (or) to BEHS (Branch). He said that according to the decision of No.48/2010 meeting of the government of the Union of Myanmar, No. 2 BEMS in Aungtaung ward in MraukU Township has been upgraded into BEHS with letter No. Branch (1/Aha) dated 18 January 2011 of Basic Education Department.

Foreign Affairs Minister U Nyan Win sends sympathy message to Japanese FM

Nav Pyi Taw, 15 March — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, on 11 March, sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr. Takeaki Matsumoto, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan for the loss of life and property caused by earthquake and Tsunami in Sendai City, Tohoku Region and North Eastern parts of Japan.—MNA

Finance and Revenue Minister U Hla Tun responds to question.—MNA

Proposals withdrawn by Amyotha Hluttaw representatives

Nav Pyi Taw, 15 March — Proposals submitted by representatives to Amyotha Hluttaw were withdrawn at today’s Amyotha Hluttaw sessions.

First, U Zhun Khan of Chin State Constituency No.1 withdrew his proposal on distribution of enough food stuff for service men and civil servants and their families.

Then, U Paw Hlyan Lwin of Chin State constituency No.9 also withdrew his proposal to the Hluttaw for freedom of press on education, economic and social affairs of tribes in their languages except publications that could oppose the government. He is proposal has the same opinion on the answer to the question of the minister for education submitted by Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency No.7 at Amyotha Hluttaw session held on 11-3-2011.

MNA

Mines Minister greets gems merchants

Nav Pyi Taw, 15 March — Minister for Mines U Ohn Myint cordially greeted gems merchants at sixth-day 48th Myanmar Gems Emporium held at Mani Yadana Jade hall near Myanmar Gems Museum here this morning.

Local and foreign gems merchants put proposals for jade lots into tender boxes to buy them in tender system. A total of 2589 jade lots were sold out in tender system today.

From 14 March to date, a total of 5131 jade lots had been sold out. The selling in tender system will continue on 18 March and the competitive bidding system selling will take place from 19 to 22 March. —MNA
**Claims Day Notice**

MV KOTA MACHAN VOY NO (289)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MACHAN VOY NO (289) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.3.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses 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

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**Eating fish ‘cuts women’s eyesight loss risk in old age’**

WASHINGTON, 15 March—Women who regularly consume fish and omega-3 fatty acids have a lower risk of developing age-related macular degeneration (AMD), according to a new study. Researchers at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston collected data on 38,022 women, who had not been diagnosed with AMD.

Information on their eating habits, including their intake of omega-3 fatty acids and fish consumption of omega-3 fatty acids and fish consumption of omega-3 fatty acids and fish consumption, indicated that the risk of incident AMD, “significantly reduced the risk of incident AMD,” said lead author William G. Christen.

“The prospective data from a large population of women with no prior diagnosis of AMD indicate that regular consumption of omega-3 fatty acids and fish significantly reduced the risk of incident AMD,” concluded the authors.

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**Further probe opened in Berlusconi sex scandal**

ROME, 15 March — Italian prosecutors are looking into a newspaper report alleging that two Italians offered cash to a Moroccan official to change the birth certificate of the teenage girl at the centre of Premier Silvio Berlusconi’s prostitution scandal. Berlusconi faces trial on charges he paid for sex with a Moroccan girl nicknamed Ruby, who at the time was a minor.

Italian, a leftist newspaper, has opened an investigation into allegations that two Italian men traveled to Morocco in February and sought to bribe a registry office employee into changing Ruby’s year of birth from 1992 to 1990.

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**London stock market sharply falls in early trading**

LONDON, 15 March—London stock market sharply fell on Tuesday with the leading FTSE 100 index down by 81.4 points, or 1.4 percent, to 5,693.84 points in early trading.

Nearly all the shares in the FTSE 100 were down, with mining shares among the biggest fallers. Eurasian Natural Resources Group and Kazakhmys were down 4.70 percent and 4.16 percent separately.—Xinhua

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**Western Union to the US Embassy in London.**

“We those seeking to participate in the US visa lottery are advised not to send money to any address,” the statement said.—Xinhua

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**People of Tibetan ethnic group move a giant prayer wheel in Dukzong ancient City of Shangri-La County, Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Deqen, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 14 March, 2011.**

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**The carnival starting at 4 am Monday morning kicked off three days of events for revelers.**

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**Internet**

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**Local residents cook together after the earthquake damaged their living places in Yingjiang County of southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 14 March, 2011.**——Xinhua

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Marijuana bales found in clogged Ariz sewer line

Authorities in a southern Arizona City near the Mexico border have found two feet-covered bales of marijuana tied to a rope feeding into a sewer system.

Nogales police say public works employees hauled out an estimated 39 pounds of pot while investigating a clogged sewer line on Wednesday.

Investigators told the Nogales International newspaper that the bales were smaller than the size of a suitcase and tied to 900 feet of rope in a narrow pipe that connects systems in the US and Mexico.

Police Lt Carlos Jiminez says it’s the first time they’ve discovered marijuana tied to a rope they believe smugglers were planning to maneuver through the line. Police say a search at the Rio Rico sewer plant, where the feed ends, did not turn up more drugs. The drugs’ street value was estimated at more than $20,000.

Charlie Sheen shows sell out in 18 minutes

LOS ANGELES, 15 March—Tickets for Charlie Sheen’s Chicago tour Thursday on Twitter. Ticketmaster listed seat prices as $35–70, not including fees. His official website added that $1m from every ticket sold will be donated to the Red Cross to earthquake victims in Japan.

Actor Charlie Sheen. Internet

Steven Soderbergh plans to retire from filmmaking

LOS ANGELES, 15 March—Steven Soderbergh says he’s done with Hollywood.

The Oscar-winning director — whose credits include “Traffic,” “Erin Brockovich” and “Ocean’s Eleven” and its sequel — said in an interview with “Studio 360”’s Kurt Andersen that after he shoots his next two movies he’s planning to retire from filmmaking.

“When you reach the point where you’re, like, ‘if I have to get into a van to do another scout I’m just going to shoot myself,’ it’s time to let somebody else who’s still excited about getting in the van, get in the van,” Soderbergh, 48, said in the interview that aired Friday on “Studio 360.”

“And so it’s just time. For the last three years, I’ve been turning down everything that comes my way, so you’re not going to have Steven Soderbergh to kick around anymore,” he quipped.

Soderbergh said he’s got two more movies to shoot — “Liberace,” starring Damon and Michael Douglas, and “Man From UNCLE,” starring George Clooney — and then he’s going to call it quits.

“That’s a great way to sort of step off,” he said. —Reuters

60s LSD figure Owlsley Stanley dies in Australia

CANBERRA, 15 March—Owlsley “Bear” Stanley, a 1960s counterculture icon who worked with The Grateful Dead and was a prolific LSD producer, died in a car crash in Australia, his family said Monday. He was 76.

Lyrics sung by The Grateful Dead, Jimi Hendrix and Frank Zappa reference Stanley and his brushes with the law, underlining his influence.

Stanley produced an estimated pound (half a kilogramme) of pure LSD, or roughly 5 million “trips” of normal potency of the hallucinogenic drug, after enrolling in 1963 at the University of California at Berkeley and becoming involved in the drug scene that underpinned the hippie movement, according to the BookRags.com website.

He was an accomplished sound engineer who worked for the psychedelic rock band The Grateful Dead.

Sam Cutler, a firm friend of Stanley since 1970 when Cutler became the band’s tour manager, described him as was “a wonderful man and a great teacher.”

“He’s death is a grievous loss to his family and the tens of thousands of people from the 60s on who were influenced by his work with The Grateful Dead,” Cutler said.

Charlie Sheen shows sell out in 18 minutes

Actor Charlie Sheen. Internet

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Soderbergh said he’s got two more movies to shoot — “Liberace,” starring Damon and Michael Douglas, and “Man From UNCLE,” starring George Clooney — and then he’s going to call it quits.

“That’s a great way to sort of step off,” he said. —Reuters

60s LSD figure Owlsley Stanley dies in Australia

CANBERRA, 15 March—Owlsley “Bear” Stanley, a 1960s counterculture icon who worked with The Grateful Dead and was a prolific LSD producer, died in a car crash in Australia, his family said Monday. He was 76.

Lyrics sung by The Grateful Dead, Jimi Hendrix and Frank Zappa reference Stanley and his brushes with the law, underlining his influence.

Stanley produced an estimated pound (half a kilogramme) of pure LSD, or roughly 5 million “trips” of normal potency of the hallucinogenic drug, after enrolling in 1963 at the University of California at Berkeley and becoming involved in the drug scene that underpinned the hippie movement, according to the BookRags.com website.

He was an accomplished sound engineer who worked for the psychedelic rock band The Grateful Dead.

Sam Cutler, a firm friend of Stanley since 1970 when Cutler became the band’s tour manager, described him as was “a wonderful man and a great teacher.”

“He’s death is a grievous loss to his family and the tens of thousands of people from the 60s on who were influenced by his work with The Grateful Dead,” Cutler said.

Charlie Sheen shows sell out in 18 minutes

Actor Charlie Sheen. Internet

Steven Soderbergh plans to retire from filmmaking

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Barca star Messi in doubt for Getafe match

MADRID, 15 March — Barcelona’s top scorer Lionel Messi bruised his right knee during a weekend Spanish league match and is in doubt for the club’s match at home against Getafe, the league leaders said on Monday.

The 23-year-old Argentinian international hobbled off the pitch unaided at the end of his side’s 1-1 draw away to Sevilla on Sunday after he clashed with keeper Javi Varas just before halftime.

“Messi suffered a bad knock on his right knee and his availability for Saturday’s game will depend on his progress during the week,” Barcelona said in a statement.

The World Player of the Year is tied on 27 goals as the top scorer in La Liga with Real Madrid’s Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo.

Barcelona also said that forward Pedro was in “serious doubt” for the match against Getafe because he is suffering from a sports hernia.

The Catalans are now just five points behind nearest rivals Real Madrid before the two sides go head-to-head next month at the Bernabeu.

Ibrahimovic suspended for Milan derby

ROME, 15 March — Serie A leaders AC Milan’s Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic was ruled out on Monday of their crucial derby with Inter Milan as he was handed a three-match suspension for his red card in last weekend’s match with Bari.

Ibrahimovic will miss the match on April 3 after being sent-off for aiming a karate chop into the ribs of Bari defender Marco Rossi in the 74th minute of the 1-1 draw last Saturday.

Woźniacki ends Martinez jinx, Soderling crashes at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, 15 March — Top seed Caroline Wozniacki stepped up her bid to win her first Indian Wells title by brushing aside Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez to reach the fourth round on Monday.

The 20-year-old Woźniacki, who lost to Martinez Sanchez in their three previous matches, swept past the Spanish in straight sets 6-1, 6-3 in the $9 million dollar WTA and ATP Masters 1000 hardcourt tournament.

Wozniacki, who needed a strong showing in Indian Wells to hold onto her No. 1 ranking, dispatched Martinez Sanchez in just 71 minutes, winning 85 percent of her second-serve opportunities and saving two break points.

Van Gaal dreaming of Inter’s downfall

PARIS, 15 March — If Bayern Munich succeed in knocking titleholders Inter Milan out of the Champions League it will spark a day of rejoicing at the Bavarian giants, coach Louis van Gaal said on Monday.

Van Gaal’s men go into Tuesday’s last 16 tie at their Allianz Arena as favourites after taking the first leg in Milan 1-0, but despite that advantage van Gaal sounded a note of caution.

“My team have regained their confidence (after hammering Hamburg 6-0 in the league on Saturday). “But Inter are difficult rivals, we have to pay attention.”

Barca, Valencia reject doping claims

Barcelona supporters are seen in 2009.

MADRID, 15 March — Spanish football giants Barcelona and Valencia on Monday rejected allegations by a Spanish radio station that they may be involved in doping.

Barcelona “welshes “to publicly express its total indignation at these unfounded references which link the club to doping practices” while Valencia described the allegations on the Catholic radio station Cadena Cope as “false”.

Cadena Cope on Sunday quoted a “representative” of Real Madrid, who was not identified, as saying the club planned to “ask the Spanish football federation for serious anti-doping controls.”

It said Real could not understand how Eufemiano Fuentes, a doctor who was one of six people charged in December with trafficking offences in an athletics doping probe dubbed Operation Galgo, could have worked for “a first division club, specifically Valencia, curiously when it won two championships.”

We won’t choke, says Ferguson

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson.—INTERNET

MILAN, 15 March — Sir Alex Ferguson believes he has mixed time with his Manchester United side can cope with the pressure and demands as they target winning further silverware at Old Trafford this season.

With United fighting on three fronts, Ferguson says his trophy-chasing side will announce on Friday whether he intends to challenge Sepp Blatter for the FIFA presidency.

He will hold a news conference at the headquarters of the Asian Football Confederation in Kuala Lumpur on Friday.
Teen cancels Facebook party with 200,000 ‘guests’

SYDNEY, 15 March — An Australian schoolgirl had to cancel her 16th birthday party after her Facebook invitation went viral and close to 200,000 people said they would turn up at her house, reports said Tuesday.

The Sydney girl who wanted her schoolmates to attend, and by Tuesday almost 200,000 had initially been unaware of the settings required to stop them from doing so. But within 24 hours more out of hand,” she wrote, adding that she had not had time to cancel her 16th birthday party after her Facebook invitation went viral and close to 200,000 people said they would turn up at her house, reports said Tuesday.

“(It’s an) open house party as long as it doesn’t get out of hand,” she wrote, adding that she had not had time to cancel it. Within 24 hours more than 200,000 people had replied to the public event to say they were attending and by Tuesday almost 200,000 potential partygoers had reportedly accepted the invitation.

The girl’s father, who asked not to be named, said his daughter had invited “a few friends” over Facebook but had initially been unaware of the settings required to stop strangers from viewing the information.

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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

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

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

First regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw continues for tenth day
Raising and replying to queries, holding discussions on proposals and withdrawal of some proposals carried out

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 March — The first regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the tenth day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

The Speaker announced that the tenth-day session was valid as the attendance of 222 made up 99.55 per cent of 223 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

Of the questions submitted by Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, members of the respective Union level organizations Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw Win of the State Peace and Development Council Office responded to the permitted ones about “whether or not there is any plan to be implemented for upgrading of motorways linking Rakhine State and mainland for better transport” raised by U Maung Tha Khin of Rakhine State Constituency No-8 and “whether or not there is a plan to build border trade routes linking with India and Bangladesh in order to transport products of Chin State to all corners” and “whether or not there is a plan to build Union Highways linking with all towns in Chin State” raised by U Zon Hlyal Htan of Chin State Constituency No-2 and “whether or not Chin State includes in the 24-Special Regions” raised by U Paul Thang Thaing of Chin State Constituency No-3.

(See page 10)