First regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues for 16th day

Queries raised and replied, proposal discussed, approval sought

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw agrees to join ASEAN

Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) as full-fledged member

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—First regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for the 16th day at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today. It was attended by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

After taking the position, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint announced the validity and start of the 16th-day first regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as 653 out of 656 representatives attended the session, accounting for 99.54 per cent of attendance.

Members of union level organization Minis- ter for Agriculture and Irrigation U Hla Maung of Chaungzon Constituency on “losses of crops due to impact of climate change” and “to consume electricity at low price” U Min Swe of DaikU Constituency on “continued implementation of irrigation system in Bago Region”, U Tin Maung Win of Mingaladon Constituency on “issuance of citizenship scrutiny card and household registration certificate to every citizen born of Myanmar citizens” and U Ye Htun Tin of Pasawng Constituency on “upgrading of Aungban-Loikaw-Mae sei motorway and construction of Thanlwin River-crossing bridge (Pasawng)”, U Hla Maung (a) U Naing Hla Maung of Chaungzon Constituency on “issuance of citizenship scrutiny card” because his question is similar to that of U Sai Mya Maung of Kachin State Constituency No. 10 at Amyotha Hluttaw session, replied by Minister for Home Affairs U Maung Oo.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives discussed proposal submitted by Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No.4 on “call on the government to form migrant workers affairs department under an appropriate ministry” and proposal submitted by Dr Aye Maung of Rakhine State Constituency No.1 on “call on the government to pay compensation or provide cash assistance and special loans for regeneration works to national entrepreneur breeders in case of culling of poultry due to bird flu outbreak”.

Members of union level organization Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi and Minister for Live- stock and Fisheries U Maung Maung Thein explained and discussed the proposals. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw agreed the proposal.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the end of the 16th-day first regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the 17th-day first regular session will be held at 10 am on 29 March (Tuesday).

The session came to an end at 3.50 pm.—MNA
**PERSPECTIVES**

*Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views*
*Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation*
*Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State*
*Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy*

**People's Desire**

*Teach students in parallel with research*

Today, the world sees dramatic advancements in science and technology. So, every country is trying to stay in touch with such rapid advancements, using funds and natural and human resources in combination.

Participation of the entire people is to be mobilized in various sectors especially in the political, economic and social sectors. A country can enjoy sustainable progress only if it can stand on its own feet. The nation will be ready to meet the challenges of next years if intellectuals and intelligentsia and the people work in harness.

Across the nation are a massive number of new educational instigations designed to help shape the future of the nation. Each of the 24 regions for special development, for instance, has an arts and science university, a technological university and a university for computer studies. The youth of today can pursue higher education in their regions, as a result.

Teachers are behind the plan to create a society learning constantly to help achieve the Myanmar’s educational vision. Youngsters are to be trained and nurtured, and research on industry and technology is to be carried out on a wider scale to bring about well-rounded new generations.

It is, therefore, obligatory for teachers not only to teach and train students but also to do research on traditions and cultures of national races of the regions to which they are posted for scaling up well-educated population and national interests.

**Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut supervises rescue and relief works in quake-hit areas**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 28 March — Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut of the Ministry of Defence supervised repair of electricity supply system in quake-stricken Tahlay and comforted the local people yesterday evening. Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Than Tun Oo and party held a meeting with members of State level.

Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, the commander and party encouraged health staff providing health care to quake victims.

Thanks to efforts of local authorities and officials concerned, electricity and drinking water systems resumed distribution in Tahlay and other quake affected villages.

_MNA_
Afghan truck explosion kills 20

KABUL, 28 March—A team of suicide bombers shot their way into the compound of a road construction company in eastern Afghanistan and detonated a truck loaded with explosives, killing 20 people and wounding about 50, the Afghan government said Monday.

The attack occurred late Sunday in the Barmal District of Paktika Province, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

It said three attackers went up to the gate of the company where they detonated it.

The area is located on the border with Pakistan's lawless tribal regions, which serve as safe havens for militants that infiltrate into Afghanistan across the rugged and mountainous frontier.

The region has seen an escalation in violence over the past few months. Taleban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was the work of a suicide bomber. He said in an emailed statement that it was targeting a joint Afghan-NATO operating base.

Mokhlis Afghan, spokesman for provincial GovernorMohibullah Samim, said all the dead and wounded were labourers and there were no Afghan or foreign forces at the site. He added that the explosion was so powerful that little remained of the truck.

People gathered in the market after fire took place in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on 28 March, 2011. At least 108 shops and godowns were gutted in a fire, which erupted in the metropolitan’s second largest wholesale market, commonly known as the Empress Market of Saddar Town.—XINHUA

Newspaper bomb injures northern California man

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 March—Police in northern California are investigating the origins of a bomb that was concealed inside a newspaper and exploded when a man picked it up off his driveway on Sunday morning.

The man, who was not identified, was taken by ambulance to a hospital with unspecified injuries he suffered in the blast, according to a statement posted online by police in the town of Vacaville, about midway between San Francisco and Sacramento.

The man’s injuries were described as “non-fatals,” but the blast touched off a security scare that lasted several hours.

Police said they ordered the evacuation of 40 to 50 nearby homes as a precaution as investigators were called in from the Traxis Air Force Base bomb squad, the FBI, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the California Highway Patrol.

Teams with bomb-sniffing dogs and bomb-detection equipment searched the immediate vicinity for more explosives, but none were found, police said. —Reuters

Two dead, eight hurt after sailboat capsizes off San Diego

SAN DIEGO, 28 March—Two men were killed and eight of their relatives were hurt when the family’s rented sailboat capsized in San Diego Bay on Sunday evening, Harbor police said.

The 25-foot sailboat tipped over in the chilly waters between Shelter Island and Harbor Island, just south of the city’s airport, at about 5 pm local time.

“The call came in at 5:12 pm, and the harbor police arrived within five minutes,” said Marguerite Elicone, spokeswoman for the Port of San Diego, which operates its own police department.

She said patrol officers on the scene found other boaters pulling victims from the water and performing cardio-pulmonary resuscitation “to try to save people.”

Two men in their 50s or 60s perished, and the surviving eight family members, two of them children, were taken to area hospitals. Elicone told Reuters. The victims’ names were being withheld until next of kin could be notified.—Reuters

File photo shows Iraqi firefighters douse the flames following a car bomb that ripped through a crowd outside a hospital in Kirkuk. INTERNET

Bomb kills NATO soldier in Afghanistan, raises coalition death toll so far this year to 100

KABUL, 28 March—A coalition service member was killed in an attack in southern Afghanistan on Sunday, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said, raising the coalition death toll so far this year to 100.

Sunday’s toll is a grim reminder that militant groups such as the Taleban are still able to inflict heavy losses on coalition forces, but the number is lower when compared to last year. Between 1st January and 27th March, 2010, a total of 131 coalition service members were killed in Afghanistan.

The overall coalition death toll also includes casualties from non-hostile incidents such as vehicle accidents, but the vast majority of service members are killed as a result of militant attacks. Most die in the southern region of Afghanistan, mainly due to improvised explosive device (IED) attacks.

The casualty on Sunday which raised the year’s death toll to 100 was no different from most: ISAF said the service member died in southern Afghanistan as a result of an IED attack, but gave no other details.

The nationality of the fallen service member was also not immediately disclosed. “It is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities,” an ISAF statement said.—INTERNET

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A & I Minister replies to “damage of crops due to impact of climate change in Myanmar”

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo replies to questions.—MNA

Nav Pyi Taw, 28 March—For his part, explained that it is needed to weekly bring the facts about region-wise paddy growing and harvesting before the ministry after conducting daily surveys at local Land Records Departments. Conducting crops surveys is a necessary procedure the ministry needs to carry out at all times. In December 2010 in Mon State, it was learnt that there were 492 inches of rainfall in average three days and higher than normal rainfall 1.3 inches by 3.62 inches. As the farmers in Mon State needed to grow cold season crops and beans and pulses on schedule, they used to pile harvested paddy on embankment and ground before thrashing. Due to collaborative efforts of local authorities, departmental personnel and farmers, there was only slight damage to paddy fields although the paddy in Chaungzon and Mudon townships caught the rains. To take a look at the damages to paddy fields, there were 200 acres in Chaungzon Town-ship and about 150 acres in Mudon Township.

Despite rainwater on recently broadcasting 120 pea acres in Kautmupon village and Kanhwaw village in Maday, Pade and Bwetkyi Dam Projects are being constructed with loans of Sudi, and that dam would irrigate a total of 10000 acres of farmland; that in Sagaing Region, Myaukyama irrigation system dam project that would irrigate a total of 10000 acres of farmland; that in Ayeyawady region, Ma Mya Dam Project with irrigation system under construction would irrigate a total of 10000 acres of farmland and Kanyin Dam Project with irrigation system is being constructed with loans of Sudi, and that dam would irrigate a total of 25000 acres of farmland; that in Mon State, Kadike and Kanyin Dam Project with irrigation system is being constructed and they would irrigate a total of 6000 acres of farmland; that in Shan State (North), Moneyin Dam Project with irrigation system under construction would irrigate a total of 2600 acres of farmland; that in Kayin State, Yebot Dam Project with irrigation system that would irrigate a total of 3000 acres of farmland is under construction.

The Minister said that there would be 498919 acres nationwide upon completion of a total of 23 dam projects with irrigation system; that as a result, not only weather changes would be overturned but the farmers would get many benefits by upgrading irrigation systems. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation would carry on its sectors annually depending on the State’s budget.—MNA

Immigration & Population Minister answers question about issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to citizens born to Myanmar nationals and Household Registration Certificates

Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Oo replies to question.—MNA

Nav Pyi Taw, 28 March—U Tin Maung Win of Mingladon Constituency raised questions at today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session. U Min Swe of Daik Constituency said that he had known that the government is implementing many dams for irrigation water; that despite having constructed dams in Bago Region, but no irrigation system; that he would like to know whether they would be implemented or not, and how to implement if so.

For his part, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo said that the irrigation systems are being implemented although dams were constructed in Bago Region, that eight dam projects with irrigation system namely Kawiya, Bieda, Alieni, Min Hia, Bawbin, Gamone, Khaboung and Yewe Dams are being implemented in that region; that those dams will irrigate a total of 278230 acres of farmland; that those dams will irrigate a total of 5000 acres of farmland; that in Ayeyawady region, Maday, Pade and Bwetkyi Dam Projects are being constructed with loans of OPEC and they would irrigate a total of 88500 acres of farmland.

Mr. Hla Maung (a) U Naing Hla Maung of Chaungzon constituency put questions to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session today, stating that recently harvested paddy were in rain due to the rain in December 2010. He asked whether to conduct survey of crops damages or not, and preparedness measure against future climate change.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo, for his part, explained that it is needed to weekly bring the facts about region-wise paddy growing and harvesting before the ministry after conducting daily surveys at local Land Records Departments. Conducting crops surveys is a necessary procedure the ministry needs to carry out at all times. In December 2010 in Mon State, it was learnt that there were 4.92 inches of rainfall in average three days and higher than normal rainfall 1.3 inches by 3.62 inches. As the farmers in Mon State needed to grow cold season crops and beans and pulses on schedule, they used to pile harvested paddy on embankment and ground before thrashing. Due to collaborative efforts of local authorities, departmental personnel and farmers, there was only slight damage to paddy fields although the paddy in Chaungzon and Mudon townships caught the rains. To take a look at the damages to paddy fields, there were 200 acres in Chaungzon Town-ship and about 150 acres in Mudon Township.

Despite rainwater on recently broadcasting 120 pea acres in Kautmupon village and Kanhwaw village in Maday, Pade and Bwetkyi Dam Projects are being constructed with loans of Sudi, and that dam would irrigate a total of 10000 acres of farmland; that in Sagaing Region, Myaukyama irrigation system dam project that would irrigate a total of 10000 acres of farmland; that in Ayeyawady region, Ma Mya Dam Project with irrigation system under construction would irrigate a total of 10000 acres of farmland and Kanyin Dam Project with irrigation system is being constructed with loans of Sudi, and that dam would irrigate a total of 25000 acres of farmland; that in Mon State, Kadike and Kanyin Dam Project with irrigation system is being constructed and they would irrigate a total of 6000 acres of farmland; that in Shan State (North), Moneyin Dam Project with irrigation system under construction would irrigate a total of 2600 acres of farmland; that in Kayin State, Yebot Dam Project with irrigation system that would irrigate a total of 3000 acres of farmland is under construction.

The Minister said that there would be 498919 acres nationwide upon completion of a total of 23 dam projects with irrigation system; that as a result, not only weather changes would be overturned but the farmers would get many benefits by upgrading irrigation systems. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation would carry on its sectors annually depending on the State’s budget.—MNA
Immigration & Population Minister answers questions...

The lists of temporary citizenship scrutiny cards and household registration are systematically recorded in the office of every township department of the ministry. Those temporary cards were issued for those who have moved to other places without full necessary documents. The ministry staff members are going down to wards and villages for issuing those cards and certificates for those with complete documents.

According to the township level organizational setup, an A-level township office has 18 staff members including a staff officer. The pay scale of the staff officer with the highest rank is K 100,000-2000-110,000 and that of a record keeper with the lowest rank, K 41,000-1000-46,000.

At present, the strength of staff members is only 75 percent of the organizational setup. The strength of staff members disproportionate to the area of township they are assigned to and its population cause delays sometimes. Costs in applying come from photos and other necessary documents of an applicant himself. If preparations are made for necessary documents, there will be few costs and delays.

Measures are being taken to ensure no staff member of the ministry takes bribe. It was already announced at all the township offices on 14-4-2007 that a complaint may be lodged to the director-general of Immigration and National Registration Department, Nay Pyi Taw in person or by letter, by phone or by fax if an applicant does not obtain the citizenship scrutiny card within 28 days from the applying date with complete documents. It has been announced many times in newspapers and journals. In connection with cases of staff member’s violation of the rules and regulations, action has been taken.

With the Notification No.435/3(8)/NaYaKa date 29-4-2007, the State Peace and Development Council assigned duties to form scrutinization committees with heads of township departments of the five municipalities in every township in order to promptly issue citizenship scrutiny cards to those with the characteristics of a citizen in line with the 1982 Myanmar citizen law. Besides, measures have been taken for everyone who has come of age to be able to hold a certain form of card staring 12-4-2007. And now has reached project level-4. Measures are also being taken to issue the cards to those who have difficulty in submitting complete documents with the endorsement letters of townships people concerned.

Therefore, it is the task that can be accomplished correctly and easily through cooperation of applicants, ward/village people and the ministry staff, the minister concluded.

EP-2 Minister replies to query on “to consume electricity at low price”

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 March — At today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session, U Hla Maung (U) Min Aung Hlaing Minister for Electric Power No-2 U Kyaw Maung Myint replied that Chaungzon Township Electrical Engineer’s Office put a question about whether or not there is any plan to be implemented for consuming electricity at low price by the multiparty democracy government like the Parliamentary Democracy Government.

According to him, his ministry is studying the situation when the plan will start if there is, saying that local people of Chaungzon Township in Belukyun of Mon State had made some progress in their cottage industries to a certain extent as the region fully enjoyed electricity in the time of the Parliamentary Democracy Government. Now, electricity insufficiency had weakened the cottage industries, leading to a decline in their living standards.

Regarding the question, Minister for Electric Power No-2 U Kyaw Maung Myint replied that Chaungzon Township Electrical Engineer’s Office was opened on 23-12-1955 in the time of the Parliamentary Democracy Government. With the installation of more transformers in the township, electricity is supplied to five urban wards two hours a day and to nine villages every two days. Chaungzon Township has used 22800 gallons of diesel a year, distributes electricity at a loss of K 67.03 million a year and spends K 7.2 million a year for the salary of 10 employees of the ministry.

The section in Kayah State stretching from Loikaw and five furlongs, to laterite gravel ones and 115 miles upgraded to tarred ones; 43 miles long section for three miles and six furlongs long part was rebuilt.

Five bridges: Tarpar Bridge (600 feet) in Shan State (South), Tarkaw Bridge (2252 feet) in Kayin State, and Mawlamyine Bridge (11575 feet) in Mon State were upgraded.

The Thanlwin River is about 1,800 feet wide in Pasawng, and a Z-craft makes eight runs a day. So, there is not any plan yet to build Thanlwin Bridge (Pasawng) at present. But, if the route copes with greater traffic, a proposal may be submitted to the government for putting the dream into reality.

In Kayah State, 237 miles of roads have been upgraded to tarred ones; 43 miles and five furlongs, to gravel ones and 115 miles and five furlongs, to gravel ones, and 124 miles and three furlongs, to laterite ones, totaling 520 miles and five furlongs, 371 bridges were built.

In conclusion, the minister said that Aungban-Pinlaung-Loikaw-Mae-sei Road will be upgraded annually to a tarred one, but there is not any plan yet to build Thanlwin Bridge (Pasawng) for the time being.

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Minister for Labour responds to question of Dr Myat Nyana Soe

Minister for Labour Aung Kyi responding to question.—MNA

U Paik Htwe of Kanna Constituency discussed the proposal, saying that the government is sending workers to foreign countries through overseas licensed employment agencies under a foreign employment law.

According to provisions of Foreign Employment Law (99) Section 25, Sub-section (d), these licensed agencies take responsibilities of the workers to enjoy the rights, fully, when they are deprived of rights in foreign countries.

Most of migrant workers who went abroad through brokers and through borders are facing many difficulties.

The government is providing necessary assistance to them. First, for instance, about 1000 Myanmar workers are working at fishing net factory in Khon Kaen, Thailand. They demonstrated on 9-10, 2010 because of not getting salary from the factory.

Officials from Myanmar embassy in Thailand helped them.

Second, some of the 600 illegal Myanmar workers who are working at garment factory in Amman of Jordan quarreled with the government. As result, the workers got damages and compensation. And they have to continue working there.

Third, more than 2700 illegal workers detained at immigration camps in Malaysia were sent to Myanmar in cooperation with respective ministries.

It is obviously seen that the government is undertak- ing migrant workers’ affairs within the framework that should be. So, regarding the proposals of Dr Myat Nyana Soe, no need to continue to discuss, he said.

Afterwards, U Win Oo of Yebyu Constituency said that many of Myanmar citizens go abroad as workers and scholars. Myanmar embassies in respective countries are they get good reputations and well-paid jobs.

In the world of internation al citizens, Myanmar sailors earn good reputation and salaries because respective governments and private sector open Maritime University and Maritime Training Institute. To enjoy the rights fully, respective ministries and MOSA are supervising their affairs.

In addition, civil aviation such as cockpit crew and cabin crew will be conducted. To get job opportuni ties of international airlines, respective departments will conduct the courses in cooperation with private schools.

Many national experts and skilled workers are working in Thai- land for well-paid jobs. The government is establish- ing port terminals, industrial zones and factories in the na- tion to create remuneration jobs and to improve the living sta- tus of the people. Dawei Deep Sea Port Project, the largest of its kind in Myanmar is on schedule to be completed in 10 years and will create about over 200,000 jobs.

The government is safeguarding the rights of the people, training national workers for overseas jobs for reasonable taxes to the na- tion, so the proposal should not be under discussion any more.

U Kyi Myint from Latha Constituency said that the “overseas worker” should be used as “Myanmar citizens working abroad for earnings”. A migrant worker is a person who has decided to live in a foreign country for good. He may send remittances to his family or relatives, but illegally. The remittance of a citizen staying abroad for his own country, in the guidance of the Head of Ministry of Home Affairs is regarded as a helping hand.

It is not difficult to establish a department in this regard, but national workers in foreign countries still need to declare all facts truly.

He disclosed that he is in support of the proposal in principle, but to execute it, a related department will come true only if legal or illegal national workers in foreign countries declare all facts truly.

Minister for Labour Aung Kyi said that the proposal is composed of four points. Regarding the first point, in 2010, the State got 26.92 million US dollars from migrant workers as income taxes. Income taxes stated by the proposer on the 15th session are, indeed, remunera tions.

Regarding the second point, migrant workers should be termed documented migrant workers or undocu- mented migrant workers. The ASEAN Declaration issued at the 12th ASEAN Summit manifests that receiving states have to protect migrant workers in accordance with the law.

Sending states are also protecting their national mi- grant workers through MoUs with receiving states con- cerned. Myanmar government and Thai government signed an MoU on appointment of workers and coopera- tion on 21 June 2003. Under the MoU, temporary Myanmar passport centres at Myawady, Kawhmoung and Tachileik in Myanmar and at Ranong in Thailand. From 10 July 2009 to 28 February 2011, temporary Myanmar passport centres were issued to 408,160 workers.

More workers are being sent to Thailand through the centres according to the orders.

In 2001, MoUs were signed between Shwe Inwa Agency Co Ltd of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization and agencies in Malaysia to send Myanmar workers to work in. According to the MoU signed between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea, Myanmar has been sending national workers with Employment Permit System (EPS) since 2009. Organizations for pro- tecting Myanmar workers were formed in Malaysia and Thailand in 2009. A Myanmar official of the Ministry of Labour was sent to ROK in January 2011 to provide as- sistance to national workers there.

Regarding the third point, Overseas Employment Law was promulgated in 1999 and the people were allowed to form overseas job hunting agencies. It prescribes that agencies that are responsible of sending workers in coordina- tion with the foreign com- panies concerned if a national worker is deprived of rights.

In 2010 alone, the two training centres under the minis- try and four training centres of agencies trained 5210 skilled workers. Skilled workers were sent only 1.8% of the migrant workers in 2001, and 19.46% in 2010.

The minister expressed thanks for the min- ister and the representatives for their assessments. He said that he has known well that the government has made all necessary arrangements in that regard. All concerned have to do their bit in the tasks for institutional develop- ment and culture.

He pledged that he will relay the minister’s clarification to the people. He reported that his proposal should be discus- sed and it should not go on.

The Hluttaw approved the report and confirmed that the proposal is documented and it is no longer needed to discuss the proposal.—MNA
Five representatives and Livestock & Fisheries
Minister discuss bird flu outbreak and compensation

NA V P H TAW, 28 March—At today Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s session, five representatives discussed the proposal of Dr Aye Maung from Rakhine State Constituency No(1) to “give compensation or provide cash assistance for regeneration of works to national entrepreneur breeders in case of culling of poultry due to bird flu outbreak”. U Khin Maung Aye of Sagaing Region Constituency No (7) said that there are many zootomists like amitru, rabies, tapeworm besides HSNI. There are similar cases in marine breeding industry. And giving compensation whenever there is disease outbreak is not an appropriate solution. There are also outbreaks due to one’s negligence and failure to take prevention measures.

When the epidemic began to break out, the neighbouring country observed the disease by giving compensations as a temporary solution to collect information about the pandemic disease and control it. However, they failed to fully protect from the disease. Compensations as a temporary solution to collect information about the pandemic disease and control it. However, they failed to fully protect from the disease. The procedures of the disease control. The special Bird Flu Control Committees are formed in townships, districts, states and regions with members of Myanmar Police Forces, township Development Affairs Committee, township Health Department, Livestock Breeding Federation and Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

In every township, arrangements have been made to control the disease and to take actions in case of bird flu outbreak. Township bird flu control committees are formed with three teams—surveillance team, culling team and disinfectant team. Culling team assumes responsibility of culling poultry one-mile radius of the infected layer farm. One kilogram of chicken manure can infect one million of chickens rapidly and that insecticide are sprayed in the area systematically. Complete plans have been prepared for emergency control of bird flu in line with Contingency Plan.

Myanmar saw four flu outbreaks from 2006 to 2010. As livestock breeding organizations have been set up in the country, breeders can exchange information quickly and take preventive measures in time. Giving compensation is unrealistic solution to the problem and biosecurity and disease control should be prioritized in solving the problem.

For food safety, farms are to be provided with reliable health care to ensure bio-security. Measures to be taken for that are already issued. Breeders are to cooperate with Department, and federation to gain knowledge about the disease. Bird density should be restricted in the beginning of cold season when birds come to Myanmar for hibernation.

If breeders are suspicious the poultry infected with disease, they are to report to the nearest vets and Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Departments and follow their instructions to control the disease.

Regarding bio-security, ASEAN nations have discussed and agreed common bio-security management standards scheme to harmonize the animal (both terrestrial and aquatic animals) health control for food safety, so breeders are to realize it.

HPAI disease is a problem which takes time to get stamped out and thus Livestock Breeding Federation in coordination with NGOs should provide cash assistance to the breeders other than giving compensation. Another mean is to provide assistance by setting up a fund by the private sector and the public and breeders themselves should exerted efforts to carry out breeding tasks. So, he disagree the proposal of Dr Aye Maung, said U Khin Maung Aye.

U Maung Maung Soe of Ingapu Constituency said that Dr Aye Maung proposed measures to be taken by the government; that is to systematically cull poultry in the area that requires to be under control, and to launch massive educative campaigns that help public understand and accept HPAI A1 Control. Every township now can respond quickly to the disease as swift communication network between sub-village and headquarters and local authorities at different level has been set up.

There will be no unavoidable problems between the breeders and authorities concerned because of education talks, campaigns to promote bio-security, and similar exercise did by breeders, and consumers. Sample tissues are taken from the poultry died of suspected flu, and then are tested with rapid test kit for influenza Type A and then are quickly sent to diagnostic labs in Yangon and Mandalay to confirm the disease.

As soon as the diagnosis has come out, control zones are designated and sales of chicken and related products are banned in order not to spread of disease and infection to the people.

The proposal suggested that the government should give compensation or provide cash assistance to national entrepreneur breeders. Its means while the breeder himself enjoys the profit of his business, the government has to compensate him when he suffers losses due to various reasons. At present, the State neither can give compensation nor provide cash assistance whenever its private industries suffer losses for various reasons.

Some countries that gave compensation first did not give later. Breeders can have insurance against zootomists from Myanmar Insurance. So, in stead of asking the State to compensate, breeders, sellers and consumers are to realize bio-security measures seriously so that there will be no longer be problem.

The total number of poultry culled in the flu outbreaks since 3 March, 2006 is frighteningly high. 28 townships saw five bird flu outbreaks and suffered losses of 862,000 poultry amounting for K 3878 million. It is also the losses of private sector including rural areas where poultry are breed on manageable scale.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries
U Maung Maung Thein responding to question.—MNA

It is learnt that in spite of such heavy losses, only a few compensation, financial aid and loans were provided to the breeders who suffered losses, so regeneration works were less effective and consequently, there were some problems as the public refused to cooperate with authorities concerned.

It is learnt that neighbouring nations gave compensation or special loans and supervised regeneration works and in Korea and Australia, breeders got full compensation.

Poultry breeding is vulnerable to climate change and natural disaster. If there is loss, it is the total loss and there is no recovery. So, it is risky.

Regarding profit of poultry breeders, it can be said the work is profitable. In addition to personal profit of breeders, the work supplies feed to the people daily, controlling prices of meat and fish and generating jobs.

So The State requires to lay down insurance programmes to protect livestock breeding industry. Article 356 in Chapter (8) of the constitution states that the Union shall protect according to law moveable and immovable properties of every citizen that are lawfully acquired. Dr Aye Maung’s suggestions for actions against bird flu are practical, and realistic and thus seconded the proposal said U Maung Maung Soe.

U Kyi Myint of Latha Constituency said that in market economy, each individual breeder has chosen his best occupation based on his qualification without the command of anyone else and sells eggs, fowl, and duck with the highest prices offered. If there are many buyers or there is lesser commodity, he would either store his products or simply raise the price. It is the fact that makes the interests of private and the public different.

The GDP and revenue ratio is only three per cent and the Government has to pay large amount for bridge and road construction and electricity supply from its pocket due to small amount of regional revenue. It can be learnt in the answers of respective ministers to queries raised in the first regular sessions of Hluttaws. Inflation is the root-cause of it. Large revenue can prevent from inflation. Inflation can be prevented if expenditure is leveled with revenue. It should be ended that people are bearing tax burden added to commodity prices.

Businessmen including poultry breeders are already taking necessary actions on their own accord. Businessmen can practice insurance system for agriculture, livestock breeding and trade activities. It is profitable to insure for it can increase loanable fund to other industries, benefitting the both sides. Each individual needs not to create burden to the nation even if they do nothing for the interest of the nation.

Since 1998 to date, the State has reduced taxes and created environment for greater investment of individual, with a view to economic growth through increased per capita income. Businessmen are to work for increase of spillover effect to the society. The proposal of Dr Aye Maung does not fit the market economic system of multi-party democracy system and thus be raised objection to the proposal.

See page 8
Five representatives and Livestock ...  

(from page 7)  

U Khin Maung Yi (a) Khin Maung Yi of Aihlon Constituency said that the proposal concerns the interests of the entire nation, calling for national-level programmes. It is needed to build livestock industry systematically. As 60 per cent of breeders in Myanmar are running small-scale farms, with less than 10,000 poultry and thus have difficulty in regenerating their business. He said he believed in stead of the State giving compensation, it should issue laws to set up anti-bird flu associations under the supervision of the State and seconded Dr Aye Maung’s proposal.

In his response, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Maung Thein said that the whole meat and fish sector has been privatized and Myanmar Fisheries federation and Livestock Breeding Federation have been set up as national political forces for private entrepreneurs. Today, zootomists are increasing gradually, posing changeless to humans. The ministry, holding concept that the role of vets is becoming more important gradually, is taking necessary actions.

Myanmar saw four bird flu outbreaks from 2006 to 2010 with outbreaks in Rakhine State in February, in Sagaing in March in 2011. In the first outbreak in S45 farms in Sagaing and Mandalay region, 60,000 chickens and quails, in the second outbreak in Yangon, Bago regions and Mon State in 76 farms, 110,000, in the second outbreak in Shan State (East) 30000, in the fourth outbreak in Yangon and Sagaing regions in 31 farms, 16000, in the fifth outbreak in Rakhine State and Sagaing region in 151 farms 97000 were killed, altogether 913000 chickens and quails were killed in 803 farms in 31 townships in five flu outbreaks. When the bird flu occurred in the first time, in 2006, assistance was rendered by Thailand, FAO, OIE, WHO and JICA which has experience in dealings the case. At first, there were some misunderstandings between breeders and authorities concerned, but later they all realized the situation had enabled authorities concerned to control the farm. Livestock Breeding and Veterinary team had to clear the mess. They did it although the job was risky and not a pleasant one.

In the second time in 2007, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department assumed responsibility to examine the cases to ensure there is no panic among the public, loss to the breeders, delay in commodity flow and harm to the consumers, and issued health certificates. When H5N1 virus outbreak in 2006 was examined, it was found to be identical to that of Hubei Region, Yunna Province of China. The virus of the second outbreak in 2007 is identical to Fujian in Fuzhan Province of China. So, it can be said that the virus did not spread from Sagaing and Mandalay to Yangon. So, the ministry educate people to pay attention to bio-security.

As the epidemic can spread rapidly with high mortality rate and can also affect to humans, it is required to control effectively and quickly. If people are infected to the disease, it will be found to die of suspected flu. If avian flu case is suspected, laboratory samples were tested with Rapid Test Kit for Influenza Type A and sent to Mandalay or Yangon Diagnosis Laboratory. Veterinary Diagnosis Laboratory underwent tests using Rapid Test Kit for Influenza Type A, RT-PCR & Real Time PCR and Virus isolation in embryonated chicken eggs methods to release confirmation of avian flu case. The Director-General submits lab result to the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries if the tests indicate bird flu and confirms the case. The press release is sent to OIE and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as well as to public via dailies, televisions and radios.

To control spreading of the virus and prevent transmission to persons, zone is designated and transfer of chicken and related product is restricted under avian flu prevention ways.

Transfer and trading of chicken and related produce, farm equipment and vehicles are limited, permitted and are restricted in infected area, restricted area and control area.

Cleaning and disinfection are carried out in farms during flu control period. Flu surveillance and public awareness measures were taken in nearby areas of infected farm.

The director-general, heads of township/district Region/State Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department report progress constantly to local authority and the ministry.

If no more flu case is reported in the area from the date of last outbreak to 21-day flu control period, the restrictions are withdrawn.

The Director-General, Office of the department carries on works to classify the area as disease free area within 90 days from withdrawal.

Considerable cleaning, spraying pesticide and disease surveillance works are completed under Contingency Plan for HPAI control during 90 days from withdrawal. Breeding is allowed only after post-outbreak surveillance shows no more flu cases.

Averting public panic, breeders’ loss and disrupted commodity flow is considering points in disease control measures.

Transmission of flu to officials, volunteers and public is cautiously controlled in disease control measures. The ministry is joining hand with international organizations — FAO, OIE, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), Care Myanmar, USAID — in taking bird flu control measures since 2006. With the cooperation with FAO in implementing eight plans for avian flu control, laboratory of Yangon Zoological Garden is upgraded to Biosafety level II (BSL II), contributing to drafting contingency plan.

Commercial breeding farms in 11 Regions/States. 28 districts and 54 townships with mass breeding coverage and trading of chicken, duck and related products are recorded. A total of 16200 plasmas and samples for tracking flu have been sent to laboratory. Flu awareness trainings were disseminated to breeders in November and December in 2009 and January in 2010. Starting in June of 2010, bird flu surveillance tasks, upgrading laboratories, public awareness measures, improving bio-safety of breeding Farms, bird flu surveillance in regions of birds hibernated, compiling trade reports of chicken, duck, pigs and related produce in markets, drawing trade amount and price map and tracking entrance of bird flu were carried out in 78 townships.

Breeding farms recording, GPS recording and inspecting bio security were being carried out.

Being bird flu resistance makes disruptions in breeding is not needed. The international community has accepted the concept of providing compensation/refund to the outbreak by breeders with the knowledge of stamping out; the compensation/refund support system can not be endured solely by the government but by private and partnership fund. He suggested the cooperation of MFF, BBTA (Yangon) and the ministry has prospects of wider development in bird flu control.

From 2003 to 2011, March, 63 countries were infected by bird flu. Avian flu broke out in Myanmar and other eight nations from January to March in 2011. From 2003 to 2011 March, 311 persons — 142 in Indonesia, 59 in Vietnam, 17 in Thailand, 11 in Cambodia and two in Laos. From bird flu outbreak in 2011, 528,000 birds were killed. Contingency plans were carried out under international norms in Myanmar, only a girl in Kengtung of Shan State (East) was infected by avian flu and there was no death. To curb breeding in wards, breeding zones had been established.

Establishment of private-public partnership fund, subcommittees, drafting of notifications, directives and regulations and disbursing loans will continue.

Areas which needs disease control had been designated under OIE Protocol, bird flu control procedures had been disseminated through media. The State will not be able to provide compensation now. Myanma Insurance provides insurance related to animals.

Appropriate assistance had been provided to breeding business and recovery works and will be through Livestock and Breeding Federation. Regarding bank loan, Myanmar Breeding and Fishery Development Bank will disburse loan in accord with banking procedures. As the complete clarification on bird flu was presented, it will not be needed to continue dealing with the proposal.

The speaker asked the will of Dr Aye Maung of Rakhine State Constituency-1, resource person, who requested the withdrawal of proposal and keeping it in record of the hltawut.

The Hltawut approved the recording of Dr Aye Maung’s proposal to deal with by next government and stated that the Hltawut need not continue acting the proposal with the volition of resource person.

MNA
NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, together with elected Vice-President Dr Sai Maung Maung, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein and officials, enquired after Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Tin Myint who is receiving treatment at Nay Pyi Taw People’s Hospital (1000-bed) here this evening.

On arrival at the hospital, the Speaker and party were welcomed by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, department heads, Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr Daw Phyu Phyu and doctors and nurses.

The Speaker and party comforted U Tin Myint from Bago Region Constituency No. (3).—MNA

Rehabilitation of earthquake-hit areas discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Secretary of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Maung Maung Swe, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Tin Ngwe, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe and Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Kyaw Maung Swe held a meeting with district and township Peace and Development Councils at Tachilek yesterday morning to coordinate rehabilitation tasks.

In his speech, the minister said that rehabilitation tasks of the victims committees in addition to state level ones. The deputy ministers held discussions about the tasks. The officials reported on work progress. The minister and deputy ministers granted necessary assistance.

MNA

Secretary of NDPCC Minister for SWRR U Maung Maung Swe presents K 30 million contributed by USDP for earthquake victims.

MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, elected Vice-President Dr Sai Maung Maung, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein and Minister Dr Kyaw Myint comfort Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Tin Myint of Bago Region Constituency No. 3.—MNA

MCG Co., Ltd opens new show room

YANGON, 27 March—Opening of MCG Co., Ltd (Chigo Air-Con family)’s new show room and service centre, was held at No. 201/A, Kyimyindine Road (lower), Ahlon Township, here, this morning. At the ceremony, Secretary U Maung Maung Lat of Yangon City Electric Supply Board, Chairman of Ahlon Township Peace and Development Council U Win Myint and Managing Director U Kyaw Swa Myint of MCG Co., Ltd cut the ribbon to open the show room.

As a sole agent, MCG Co., Ltd imports and distributes Chigo Air-con only. The company will distribute a wide variety of new model air-con. For more information, contact No.202/A, Kyimyindine Road (lower), Ahlon Township and dial 01-705060, 216244, 227034 and 098622232 (Fax: 01-227034).—MNA

MNA
The 48th Myanmar Gems Emporium sets highest record...

(from page 16)

Lots of sizeable jade at fair floor price, lots of quality jade, display of imperial jade, precious jade lots that can be produced as bracelets and figurines were put on display at the 48th Myanmar Gems Emporium.

Deputy Director U Ye Htut of Myanmar Gems Emporium, Secretary of the Jade Subcommittee of the 48th Myanmar Gems Emporium, explained, “Display area was extended for jade lots for its increased numbers at the emporium. Local and foreign gem merchants went round all the places where jade lots were displayed and they bought jade lots. The recent emporium displayed precious and best quality jade lots like the previous emporium. The amount of proceeds was higher than the mid-year emporium. The merchants bought kinds of jade as usual depending on types of jade. Especially, the merchant purchased jade for production of finished goods and keeping them as possession.”

The emporium put on display 156 gem lots to be sold through tender system and 50 through competitive bidding totaling 206. Of them, eight gem lots were sold through tender system and 22 through competitive bidding totaling 30. Likewise, it put on display 225 pearl lots to be sold through tender system and 30 through competitive bidding totaling 285. Of them, 223 pearl lots were sold through tender system and 30 through competitive bidding totaling 253.

General Manager U Sein Lwin of Myanmar Pearls Enterprise explained, “Over 99 per cent of pearl lots were sold at the emporium. We saw competitive purchase due to larger size of pearl more than that of previous ones. Therefore, we fetched the higher prices than the street prices. Most of the buyers were from Japan. Among four pearl production countries, foreigners prefer the pearl of Myanmar. We set plans to raise sales of more pearl lots with attraction.”

China Southern Airlines, and Macao-Yangon chartered flight by Air Macau for smooth transport of foreign gem merchants. While in Nay Pyi Taw, saloon and van Parami Taxis of Bandoola Transport run for more convenience of gem merchants that the mid-year emporium.

The chairman and officials of Information Subcommittee supervised broadcast of news on gem merchants who were the highest number of guests stayed there. The Reception Subcommittee made arrangements for simultaneously serving 3575 guests at 23 canteens of 23 hotels and 31 restaurants. Especially, Pha Man Lon Restaurant was opened at Hotel Oasis beginning 8 March to focus on sales of seafoods for Chinese gem merchants. The Accommodation Subcommittee arranged Guangzhou-Nay Pyi Taw chartered flight by Myanmar Airways International, Shantung-Yangon chartered flight by China Southern Airlines, and Macao-Yangon chartered flight by Air Macau for smooth transport of local and foreign gem merchants. In addition, the Wi-Fi Internet was served to the user free of charge at Mani Yadana Jade Hall. With the assistance of Chinese language interpreter Daw Naing Maw, we had interviews with some gem merchants from China during the period of emporium.

Chinese gem merchant Hu Yuanfeng, aged 36 of Shanghai of the People’s Republic of China, said, “I have been buying gems since 1999 and now is 23th year. I have won the 10-
New app lets parents read to children from afar

LONDON, 28 March—Parents whose hectic schedules mean they can’t be at home when their children go to bed can now buy an app which enables them to read their youngsters a goodnight story or sing them a lullaby from afar.

“Nursery Rhymes with StoryTime” allows iPad and iPhone 4 users to read their children tales and rhymes like Jack and Jill, Humpty Dumpty and Three Blind Mice from their office desks or anywhere else they may be so their children don’t miss out on their bedtime ritual.

Written plans effective for asthma control

MONTREAL, 28 March—Researchers in Canada say two written action plans—one for after seeing the doctor and one for after hospital treatment—control asthma in children.

Dr Francine Ducharme of the University of Montreal’s Department of Pediatrics and the Sainte-Justine University Hospital Centre says having asthma patients adhere to their drug regimes is a major challenge for doctors—65 percent of children do not use their medication effectively.

“This research shows that, even in the emergency department setting where little time is available to provide education, the provision of a written action plan significantly improved patient adherence to prescribed inhaled and oral drugs and to physicians’ recommendations,” Ducharme says in a statement.

The asthma plans include a structured template for the management of short-term, long-term and non-drug treatment of the asthma; key health messages and a self-assessment asthma control tool. The plans have a tripartite form format that gives a copy to the patient, the pharmacist and the doctor.

“The idea is to facilitate the provision of the plan by the physician and to encourage the pharmacist in reinforcing the plan—we’re bringing the prescribing doctor, the pharmacist and the patient closer together,” Ducharme says.

The Myanmar Gems Emporium sets highest record on sales of largest amount of jade lots and values more than that of previous emporium.

As the People’s Republic of China is booming economy, jade industry develops. In consequence, the market demand of jade is higher. Although value of US dollar and Euro are declining, value of Yuan is still strong. Entrepreneurs from other fields invest in jade trade. They purchase quality jade lots for making finished goods and fetching benefit from the bought jade lots. Therefore, the gems emporiums were attended by increased numbers of merchants including new comers.

Officials presented gifts to one merchant for 40-year successive attendance and 27 for 10-year successive attendance, two for 15-year successive attendance, two for 20-year successive attendance, and one for after hospital treatment.

The 48th Myanma Gems Emporium 2011 was held for the second time in Nay Pyi Taw. It was attended by many foreign gem merchants who purchased jade, jewellery and pearl lots competitively. The 48th emporium sets the highest record on sales of largest amount of jade lots and values more than that of previous emporium.

The Myanmar Gems Emporium Organizing Central Committee formed the subcommittees and successfully held the emporiums under new plans in Nay Pyi Taw in cooperation with the Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association. As such, the foreign gem merchants can witness progress of Nay Pyi Taw of the Union of Myanmar and enjoy hospitable cultural traditions of Myanmar citizens.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV NP GLORY-4 VOY NO (001)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV NP GLORY-4 VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.3.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS FREIGHT OVERSEA EXPRESS CO LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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**Invitation To Tender**

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Tender forms and documents are available at the Procurement Department, Myanmar Ceramic Enterprise, Ministry of Industry (1), Office No. 41, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours. Tender will be accepted only from Bidder who purchased Tender Documents officially. (For further details, contact telephone number 067-408299) Myanmar Ceramic Industry

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**Derailed fuel train on fire in Ontario**

PORT HOPE, 28 March — A “red alert” issued after a freight train derailed in Canada, setting one rail car on fire and cutting a gas pipeline, was lifted on Sunday night, officials said.

The accident prompted the evacuation of 20 homes within a mile of the track in Port Hope, Ontario, but no injuries were reported. Deputy Police Chief Garry Hull told the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. The CN train derailed about 12:20 pm, Sgt. Peter Thivierge told the local newspaper, the Northumberland News. A hazardous materials team from Toronto was sent to the scene. Jim Feeny of the CN railway said up to 20 of the train’s 116 cars left the tracks. Postmedia News reported. A resident told CP24.com in Toronto that eight or nine cars were on their sides.

“Some of those cars contain dangerous commodities, (jet) fuel and propane,” he said.

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**Dairy products crackdown**

BEIJING, 28 March — At least 20 percent of domestic companies will be kicked out of the dairy market at the end of this month following the latest inspection by the central government of China’s fresh milk and infant formula producers, official sources revealed.

To help Chinese companies win back a bigger share of the domestic market, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) ordered its local branches to reinspect dairy enterprises that had already obtained production licenses. The deadline to do so is 31 March.

According to data released in late February by four provinces and an autonomous region that had completed the reinspection Fujian, Guangdong, Shaanxi, Sichuan and Ningxia all but Sichuan saw 30 percent of its dairy companies fail. Those companies will have their licenses revoked by the government. In Sichuan, less than 20 percent of dairy enterprises failed. Mu Jinguan, secretary-general of the China Dairy Industry Association, said it is now time to clarify the situation and air the facts.

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**Uncompleted building collapse leaves 1 dead, up to 9 trapped in China**

GUIYANG, 28 March — One person has been confirmed dead and at least six others were trapped after a building under construction collapsed Monday in south-west China’s Guizhou Province, local work safety authorities said.

The accident happened around 11 am when a four-story residential building toppled in Yangguan Village in the provincial capital of Guiyang City, said a spokesman with the provincial administration of work safety.——Xinhua

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**Mine gas leak kills 8, injures three in SW China**

GUIYANG, 28 March — Eight workers were killed and three injured in a coal mine gas leak in southwest China’s Guizhou Province early Monday, local authorities said.

The accident occurred at about 3:30 am at Luoduo Coal Mine in Yuni Township of Panxian County in Liupanshui City when 95 mine workers were underground.

Eighty-four miners escaped by themselves or were rescued out, said Tan Bo, a deputy director of Panxian county publicity department.

The mine was under technological renovation to expand annual capacity to 300,000 tonnes from 60,000 tonnes, Tan said.

Local work safety authorities were investigating cause of the accident.——Xinhua

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Local work safety authorities were investigating cause of the accident.——Xinhua
**Fan throws banana at Brazil striker Neymar**

A banana was thrown on to the pitch towards Brazil striker Neymar during Sunday’s 2-0 friendly win over Scotland at the Emirates Stadium.

The 19-year-old, who scored both goals, had been regularly jeered by Scotland fans unhappy at what they considered his feigning of injury in the early stages.

He said he did not see the banana being thrown but saw it on the ground next to him as he was near the touchline.

“It’s said that these things happen but I’m not going to worry about it too much,” Neymar told Reuters.

“It was a marvellous day and certainly one to remember.”

Brazil coach Mano Menezes said he had not seen the incident but that if it had happened it was “lamentable.”

Midfielder Lucas Leiva, who plays in England for Liverpool, told Brazil’s Globo TV Sports channel: “There is no room for racism nowadays.

“Europe, which is considered the first world, is the place where this thing happens more. Today, colour and race shouldn’t mean anything.”

**Indonesia airport foils smugglers with 40 pythons**

Indonesian airport officials said they had foiled an attempt by two Kuwaitis to smuggle 40 pythons in their luggage.

Suspects Yaqub Ebrahim and Ali Hasan were caught Friday at Jakarta’s international airport as they tried to carry the sedated serpents onto an Emirates Airlines flight to Dubai.

“From many foiled cases, people often use the flights to Dubai to smuggle illegal animals,” Salahuddin Rafi, operational and technical director at airport operator Angkasa Pura II, said in an emailed statement to AFP.

He said the suspects usually sedated the animals so officers could not detect them.

“For the sake of flight safety and security, no animals are allowed to be brought onto aircraft without permission and special handling. Especially pythons, which are considered as wild animals,” Rafi said.

The two suspects were questioned by airport authorities and the pythons were taken to the animal quarantine centre at the airport.

**NY zoo closes reptile house after cobra disappears**

A poisonous cobra has vanished from an enclosure outside public view at the Bronx Zoo, and its Reptile House remained closed Sunday as a precaution while zoo workers searched for the missing reptile.

While the roughly 20-inch-long Egyptian cobra — a highly venomous species of snake — has been unaccounted for since Friday afternoon, zoo officials say they’re confident it hasn’t gone far and isn’t in a public area. Its enclosure was in an isolation area not open to visitors.

“To understand the situation, you have to understand snakes,” zoo Director Jim Breheny said in an email Sunday.

**Reese Witherspoon weds agent beau in California**

LOS ANGELES, 28 March—Reese Witherspoon has walked down the aisle.

A spokeswoman for the actress says the “Walk the Line” star wed her fiancé, Holly-wood agent Jim Toth, in Ojai, Calif, about 90 miles north of Los Angeles. Publicist Nicole Perna did not reveal details about the Saturday ceremony.

Usmagazine.com first reported the nuptials.

The Oscar-winning actress and Toth announced their engagement in December.

Toth is an agent for Creative Artists Agency, which represents Witherspoon through another agent.

The 35-year-old actress won an Acad-emy Award for her portrayal of June Carter in 2005’s “Walk the Line.” Witherspoon’s other film credits include “Legally Blonde,” “Four Christ-mas” and the forthcoming “Water for Elephants.”

She was previously married to actor Ryan Phillippe, with whom she has two children: 11-year-old daughter Ava and 7-year-old son Deacon.

**Antoine Fuqua to direct Chinese concubine romance**

HONG KONG, 28 March—“Training Day” director Antoine Fuqua has signed on to direct a Chinese biopic about a legendary concubine.

The as-yet Untitled film will tell the tragic love story involving imperial consort Yang Guifei, one of the four famed beauties of ancient China, and 8th century Emperor Xuanzong, the longest reigning monarch of the Tang Dynasty. Their love affair has been widely celebrated by classical poets and is the subject of paintings, Chinese operas, books and television shows in the subsequent millennium.

The $30 million Chinese-language project has been in development for two years. The script is now being finalized and casting is underway. Production will begin in locations across China later this year for a targeted 2012 release. Fuqua is also slated to direct Morgan Creek’s Tupac Shakur biopic in late spring/early summer.—Reuters

**Arcade Fire, Justin Bieber win Canada music awards**

TORONTO, 28 March—Fresh from their surprise win of the top prize at the Grammys last month, indie Montreal rockers Arcade Fire took home four prizes at Canada’s Juno Awards in Toronto.

But the band didn’t have the spotlight all to itself on Sunday: Justin Bieber took home his first-ever trophies.

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**Anti theft measures**

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**Marseille president confident Deschamps will stay**

**PARIS, 28 March — Marseille president Jean-Claude Dassier tried to allay fears of Didier Deschamps leaving the club by saying Sunday that he “did not doubt for one second that the coach would stay put next year.” “I’ll do what I must so he stays,” Dassier told Canal Plus. “I’ve seen that the transfer market opened early at Marseille. This is a clear understanding of destabilisation of the club and it must stop.” Dassier added: “I’m convinced that he (Deschamps) will stay with us.” Another coach who has been subject of much transfer rumour is Lyon’s Claude Puel, but his club president Jean-Michel Aulas said he would “in principle” fulfil his contract. “There’s one year left on his contract and there’s no reason in principle that things don’t carry on as are for the last year of his contract.”**

**New captain for England again as Terry released**

**LONDON, 28 March — England coach Fabio Capello will have to choose another captain for Tuesday’s friendly with Ghana as he released John Terry for the match because he has Champions League commitments the week after. Terry’s Chelsea team-mates Ashley Cole and Frank Lampard — a scorer in the 2-0 win over Wales in their Euro 2012 qualifier on Saturday — Spurs central defender Michael Dawson and Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney were also allowed to leave. All five players played in the Wales game, but Capello has retained Dawson’s Spurs teammates Peter Crouch, Jermain Defoe and Aaron Lennon as they didn’t make an appearance. Capello, who attracted severe criticism in the manner he handled the reap-pointment of Terry in place of Rio Ferdinand as skipper, is likely to field a completely different line-up to the one that eased to victory in Cardiff.**

**Sao Paulo defeat Corinthians as Ceni scores 100th career goal**

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 March — In the classic match against rivals Corinthians, Sao Paulo won 2-1 on Sunday in the 16th round of the Sao Paulo state championship. Veteran goalie Rogerio Ceni scored his 100th career goal for Sao Paulo, aiding his team to victory, marking his team’s first win over the rivals in four years. Sao Paulo scored the game’s first goal in the 39th minute. Controlling the ball from outside the penalty box, Dagoberto pelted a shot that sailed into the upper left corner of the Corinthians goal. Goalie Rogerio Ceni scored his team’s second goal in the 53rd minute. Commanding a free kick at the top of the penalty box, Ceni drove the ball with perfection into the right angle of the goal.**

**Inter: Sneijder not to join Manchester United**

**ROME, 28 March — Inter president Massimo Moratti has denied midfielder Wesley Sneijder will leave the San Siro and join Manchester United. Sneijder will end his contract with Inter in 2015, and Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson has seen him as a replacement for Paul Scholes. Manchester United, however, may be dissuaded from making a bid following the 26-year-old’s valuation of 40 million pounds along with a wage of 140,000 per week, according to some reports. “The interest from Manchester United in Sneijder is real,” Moratti was quoted as saying.**

**Laird survives early collapse to win Bay Hill**

**ORLANDO, 28 March — All that stood between Martin Laird and victory at Bay Hill were two putts from just inside 90 feet on the 18th hole, which didn’t seem all that long considering what he already had been through on Sunday. First came a stunning collapse that took him from a three-shot lead to a three-shot deficit in a span of seven holes. He was five shots behind when he walked off the 14th green, two shots ahead as he headed to the 17th tee. Laird knocked the first putt up to 3 1/2 feet, then jabbed his fist when he rolled in the par putt to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational. “That was a hell of a day,” Laird said.**

**Sandra Gal wins Kia Classic right edge and span out. “It was big pressure, she was so close to the hole,” Shin said. “I was thinking I had to make it.” Gal closed with a 2-under 71 to finish at 16-under 270 on the Industry Hills Golf Club course at Pacific Palms. She set up the winning birdie with a sand wedge shot from 83 yards on the par-5 18th. “I was trying to hole it,” Gal said. “I came close. I thought I made it.”**

**Drogba spells double trouble for Benin**

**MIAMI, 28 March — Chelsea striker Didier Drogba scored twice as Ivory Coast hit back to defeat Benin 2-1 and maintain their perfect record in 2012 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers. Recalled after missing Group H victories over Rwanda and Burundi, Drogba levelled on the stroke of half-time and snatched the 74-minute winner in Ghana capital Accra. Benin had stunned the ‘Elephants’ by taking an early lead through Seadad Tchongo as they chased a victory that would have lifted them into first position on the table. The fixture was moved on Sunday from Abidjan for security reasons as Ivory Coast has seen increasingly violent unrest following a disputed presidential election result with incumbent Laurent Gbagbo refusing to accept defeat.**

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**Drogo's story**

**What was a tough fight out there. It was a battle out there, but you know, it makes it even sweeter at the end when I got this trophy.**

**Del Potro bounces Soderling from Miami Masters tennis event**

**MIAMI, 28 March — Former US Open champion Juan Martin Del Potro stormed further down his comeback path Sunday, the unseeded Argentinian stunning fourth seed Robin Soderling 6-3, 6-2 in the Miami WTA and ATP Masters. Del Potro, who beat Roger Federer for the 2009 US Open crown but then missed eight months in 2010 as he recovered from wrist surgery, thrilled his fans at Crandon Park as he beat one of ATP’s standouts to reach the fourth round. No one had won more matches this year than Sweden’s Soderling, who has claimed 20 matches and three titles. But now Del Potro has pulled alongside as he produced his 20th win of 2011. Del Potro, ranked 51st but climbing fast, has won five of his last seven matches against top-four players and has now beaten Soderling in their past three encounters. Spain’s David Ferrer, the world number six, also produced a third-round victory as he defeated Indian Somdev Devvarman 6-4, 6-2. Mardy Fish kept the US flag flying as he defeated Frenchman Richard Gasquet 6-4, 6-3.**

**Por Hacas (L) fights with Morocco’s Selimani during their Group D qualifying match for the African Cup of Nations CAN-2012 held in Annaba, east of Algeria, on 27 March, 2011. Algeria won by 1-0.**

**Internet**
Hip-hop DJ Megatron shot dead in NYC

New York, 28 March — A Staten Island disc jockey and popular hip hop TV personality was shot dead early Sunday in a possible gang hit, New York police said.

DJ Megatron, 32, whose given name was Corey McGriff, was on his block when his killer came upon him about 2 a.m. and fired a single shot, police told the New York Daily News.

A witness who heard the shot called 911, but when medics arrived at the scene, he was dead.

Forensics teams combed the crime scene for more than 4 hours, and police appealed for witnesses to come forward.

“I can’t see it being a personal thing because I don’t know of anybody who had a personal issue with him,” one friend who asked not to be identified said.

A few months ago, a person claiming to be owed money by Megatron began posting hostile, threatening messages on his YouTube videos.

Police could not say whether the commenter is related.

In a separate development, police said the killer has been identified as Keenan Alexander, 21, a friend of Megatron's, who was arrested on rape, robbery and assault charges.

Alexander is being held without bail.

In New York, police said the killer came to Megatron’s apartment, where he was shot in the neck.

Police said the killer had差距 Megatron.

A Memphis police said a man had died at a local hospital.

Police said Megatron was killed in the early hours of Sunday.

His death was confirmed by the New York Police Department.

Megatron's death was the latest in a string of gun violence in New York City.

In January, a man was shot and killed in the Bronx, while in February, a man was shot and killed in the Brooklyn borough.

Megatron was a well-known figure in the hip hop community, having worked on several TV shows and radio programs.

He was a former DJ at New York’s Hot 97 radio station and a regular on BET’s "106 & Park."
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

48th Myanma Gems Emporium sets highest record on sales of largest jade lots

Article: Tin Htwe (MNA); Photos: Ko Htwe & Htein Nan Naw (MNA)

The Myanma Gems Emporium held for the second time in Nay Pyi Taw has completed successfully. The 48th Myanma Gems Emporium, which took place at Mani Yadana Jade Hall near the Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw from 10 to 22 March, has set records on display of the largest jade lots and needed more place than that of the 2010 Mid-year emporium. Therefore, jade lots were displayed not only around Mani Yadana Jade Hall but also near the car parking and around the Gems Museum (Nay Pyi Taw).

In the 48th Myanma Gems Emporium, 13380 lots of jade were sold through tender and 228 lots of jade through competitive bidding system, totalling 13608 lots. Indeed, these lots were larger than the previous emporiums. Jade lots were sold two times more than the previous year and amount of proceeds and higher than that of previous emporiums. Moreover, prices of quality jade lots were in high.

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(See page 10)

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced today that according to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area forms over south of Andaman Sea. This system is under watch further intensify.

Influence of the low pressure area, squall with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Tanyintayi coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (35) to (40) m.p.h.—MNA