**True patriotism**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Archive: Maung Nyein Aye
The Union government should construct good national transport networks through new systems in the new era. It is necessary to discuss that today's nation is being built on the bases of the State and the people. Some parents blame the lack when their children cannot do well in the examinations. In fact, too much sleeplessness makes them forget most of the lessons he has learnt.

Yes, it is true that a student should extend his learning hours when the examinations are just around the corner. At the same time, he needs to have enough sleeping time and eat well, and that is very important. Lack of sleep and energy may invite diseases to the body. Parents must know this.

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

All in all, students should have a good timetable for sleeping, dining and learning to pass their examinations with flying colors. I wish every student realize his goal.
To be able to fully apply capacity of farms completed by the former government, irrigation systems yet to be built, disqualified facilities, and dams and canal systems needing repair will continued to be implemented in order of priority with added momentum.

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

**Nav Pyi Taw, 16 Feb—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing makes clarifications.—MNA**

On 30-3-2001 when the new government took over the power, the President delivered an address that “now, it has laid sound foundations to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Thus, the people should continuously build the more peace and more developed nation by applying the sound foundations constructed of the past. In order to accomplish the demanding duties, our new government will lay down new policies and programmes and carry on according to the objective conditions of the nation.”

We all are to build the Union to achieve greater prosperity and development, conformity with the current situation with good will based on sound foundations in unity and harmony facilitated by the previous government though it had faced difficulties and sanctions.

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

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

As global countries are facing climate change day by day, the dams were constructed for storage of water from rivers and creeks to be used for drinking and agricultural purpose in addition to prevention against floods and bank erosion. For example, Kyaikbat Dam was built in Kankalu Township of Sagain Region to protect Shwebo-Myitkyina railroad against annual floods and Ma Mya Dam in Ayeyawady Region to prevent floods at Pathein-Monywa Road and railroads.

Kodukwe Dam, Salu Dam and Shwealma Dam in Bago Region is under construction to prevent annual floods in Bago, Kawk and Thanapac township, to contribute towards greening 30-mile radius Yangon and irrigate the saline farmlands in dry zones for saving declining its saltiness. As such, it should emphasize advantages of Pyunnya Dam, Khetlan Dam and Zeediai Dam in Natogyi Township of Myanmar Region for serving current and long-term interests of the new generations.

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

The responsible persons of the previous government built the dams and river water pumping projects with the aim of creating job opportunities for the local people without facing economic sanctions and financial and technological difficulties. Thus, we all are to strive for continuously implementing the projects till they become Total Solution with one voice for development of the country based of that of the agricultural sector.

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

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

According to 2011 statistics, the government had to use K 23,490 per acre as it levied only K 9900 for irrigation. It had to use K 1147.09 million for 4883 acres of farmlands. It still has to collect K 929.175 million for irrigation from farmers. Plans which will be convenient for them will be laid down. They will be allowed to grow marketable crops State-wise/Region-wise. As proposed by Public Accounts Committee, river water pumping station projects distributing under 2000 acres of farmlands will be handed over to Regions and States in 2012-2013 fiscal year. After necessary measures have been taken for thorough transfer of projects, they will be handed over. There are 270 river water pumping station projects irrigating under 2000 acres in States and Regions to hand over.

Only Shwe Hla Inn river water pumping station project in Sainkaing Township of Mandalay Region is under way although there were 41 ongoing river water pumping station projects. These 40 projects have been suspended for 2012-2013 fiscal year with no budget allotted to them.
Proposal “Citizens and service personnel’s pay, salary and allowance to be inevitably raised in coming fiscal year” a matter being taken by Union Government to be implemented

Raising salary and allowance of service personnel calls for best management of the government

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

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

Mr Speaker,

On the 6th day of third regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker made clarification of Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill-2012 and Union Budget Bill-2012 on 31 January, 2012. In drawing bills and accounts, with the endorsement of finance commission, arrangements have been made to ensure growth rate of 7% for national planning goal in 2012-2013 fiscal year for agriculture sector included in GDP, 10.5% for industrial sector, and 8.3% for service sector.

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

The President had set up principles of the Union government in his first address in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw that decisions would be made to shore up socioeconomic life of farmers and workers, to generate job opportunities for workers and odd-jobbers, to make commodity price stable, and to have social welfare in workplace. And arrangements would be made to ensure lowest pay scale to be agreeable to current situation. A government service would make strenuous efforts for farmers and workers, who are major class of the country, to own comfortable living standard without worrying about their future.

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

I would like to further explain that successive governments changed and increased salary and pension of government employee starting from post independence period of 1948. Government carried out plan for increase in salary and wage, granting cost of living allowance and extra fund on 1 October 1972, on 1 July 1976, on 1 April 1981, and on 1 August 1988. After 1988, salary, looking forward to welfare of government employees, pension and wage rates were increased on 1 April 1989, on 1 April 1993, on 1 April 2000, on 1 April 2006 and on 1 January 2010. The age of the Union government now reached 11 months. The new government after taking office has been implementing procedures step by step. All Hluttaw representatives can see undertakings carried out by the government. As addressed by the President, the Union government increased pension rate of retirees beginning 1 July 2011. So, pension allowance for 2011-2012 fiscal year amounted to K 261.018 billion, higher K 174.651 billion than previous allowance. The pension allowance for 2011-2012 fiscal year was just for nine months. In coming 2012-2013 fiscal year, pension allowance for 12 months will account for K 335.415 billion. If salary rate of government employees is increased, pension rates for retirees are to be increased.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. Region/State</th>
<th>Socially inaccessible townships</th>
<th>Number of staff members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Kayah State</td>
<td>1208</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Kayah State</td>
<td>1052</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Kayin State</td>
<td>2986</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Sagaying</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Taninthay</td>
<td>1258</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(f) Rahkine</td>
<td>1256</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(g) Yunnan</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(h) Shan State</td>
<td>5873</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>37817</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Mr Speaker and Hluttaw representatives

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

If rates of wage, salary and cash reward are granted as rates in 1959-1960, it is needed to be increased as prices of paddy, rice, gold, wage and salary at that time. At that time, one hundred baskets of paddy cost K 350, rice one pty of P 88 and one tical of gold cost K 129.661 billion when adding salaries and expenses of K 911.385 billion. In doing so, salaries of pensioners are to be increased along with staff salary. A total of K 1,925.282 billion is to be spent on it. So, it would amount to K 1,589.867 billion more than the existing salary and expenses of K 335.415 billion.

Likewise, the total amount would be K 1,290.661 billion when adding salaries of staff who are serving duties in remote areas. So, an extra K 10.072 billion are to be spent on that.

Budget deficit for 2012-2013 financial year is K 2,517.888 billion. Budget deficit would amount to K 6,012.728 billion if the salary rates as in 1959-1960 are increased.

So, deficit and GDP ratio would be 12.87%.

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

(a) the lowest rate would be K 70,000 and the highest rate, K 420,000. So, a total of K 1,182,770 billion are to be spent on it.

(b) an extra K 911.385 billion is to be spent more than the present salary and expenses.

(c) A total of pension salary of K 670.830 billion is to be spent. So, an extra K 335.415 billion is to be spent more than the present salary and expenses.

(d) Likewise, the total amount would be K 45.178 billion when adding salaries of staff who are serving duties in remote areas. So, an extra K 22.589 billion is to be spent on that.

(2) Deficit would amount to K 3,787,277 billion if the current salary rate is calculated multiplying by 100%. The ratio of deficit and GDP would be 7.37%.

When current salaries of staff are multiplied by 50 %, the results would be as follows:

(seen page 7)
Industrial development project to create synergic benefits such as creation of jobs for the people, development of advanced technologies, independent production of machines, SME development by manufacturing production lines on industrial scale nationwide and technical expertise to fulfill the industrial requirements of the nation on own in the future

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker,

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

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

An address on policy and stance and programme of the Union government delivered by the President at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 3-1-2013 was as follows:-

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

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

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

It can be seen that the industrial development policy of the Union government included in the address of the President is in conformity with actual situations of Myanmar as well as current international and regional issues. All developed nations are industrialized ones. GDP of Thailand contains 45.6% ratio of industrial sector worth US$ 267.63 billion. If the ratio of industrial sector in Thailand is compared with 24.3% ratio of Myanmar’s industrial sector worth US$ 18.58 billion to its GDP, everybody can clearly know the situation for enhancement of the present industrial development status.

In studying other ASEAN countries, Indonesia sets 46.4% ratio of industrial sector to its GDP, Thailand 45.6%, Malaysia 41.6%, Vietnam 41.1%, Laos 31.7%, the Philippines 31.3% and Cambodia 21.4%. Thus, degradation of industrial production in Myanmar can be reviewed.

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

According to the fifth five-year plan of the National Plan of the State, an aim was adopted to have 34.2% ratio of industrial sector to the GDP in 2015-2016 and to achieve 41.4% development annually. To be able to secure development, investment must be put in the industrial sector without fail. The policy was adopted to come out development of national industrial sector combined with State-owned sector, private sector, public- owned sector, joint venture-owned sector and foreign investment sector on a wider scale to encourage technology, techniques and local and international investments.

First priority was given to interests of the State and the people in considering the basic factors of industrial development of the project. By industrializing the nation, it considered on first priority of serving the State interest to be a modern and developed one. And there are signs of sustainable development of the nation.

Over eight million of population are residing in Myingyan, Pakokku, Magway, Minhla, Meiktila, NyaungU and Kyaukse districts which are included in about 9,443,926 acres of project area. Due to receiving 20.30 inches of rainfall on average, the region is still facing shortage of water for agricultural purpose though a total of 77 dams and 114 river water pumping projects have been implemented. The region is scare in drinking water in summer. Thus, the local people go to Shan State for plucking tea and for working at construction sites and cutting firewood and bamboo for their livelihoods.

In consequence, deforestation and environmental degradation causes climate change as the circle of misery.

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

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

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

(a) availability of raw materials
(b) supply of electricity, natural gas and water that are energy requirement
(c) status of transport
(d) availability of human resources, and
(e) connectivity with other industries.

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

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

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

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

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

With regard to requirement of human resources, seven Technological Universities, five Universities of Computer Studies, seven Technological Colleges/Institutes and five technical high schools are located in the project area, and altogether 33,434 students are attending the courses for technical certificates, diploma and degrees at the institutions. Five technical training schools in the project area can turn out about 850 (See page 8)
Union government will develop national development project (or) human resource development project with the advice of Hluttaw representatives

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

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

Inclusive growth procedures or with procedures of the Union government national development plan, it is the same countries for striving the entire nation to country which is lagged behind the other countries.

The translation of the clarification is as follow:—

Mr Speaker,

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

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

Mr Speaker,

Section 100, Sub-section (b) of 2008 constitution states, “Bills relating to national plans, annual budgets and taxation, which are to be submitted exclusively by the Union Government shall be discussed and resolved at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accordance with the prescribed procedures.”

There is no mention of national development project or human resources development project. That is why the government submitted only National Plan Bill in accordance with the Constitution.

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

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

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

In this respect, the President instructed heads of Union-level organizations and members of cabinet in his address at the President’s Residence on 31 March, 2011, “Thought it is true that the country is more developed in time of Tatmadaw government than earlier, there are still people dealing with difficulties for food, cloth and shelter, daily paid odd-job workers, and the unemployed. It is urged to emerge as a government showing sympathy to the people, safeguarding the interests of the people and serving the people.”

Mr Speaker,

When the Union government took office, national plan drawn by the former government was continuously implemented as Region-State governments were just formed. Five-year short-term plan was drafted by the Union government and Region/State governments. Annual national plans for first and second years are drawn and submitted in accordance with the latest conditions. Policies and aims are the essentials and most important things in drawing the project. These policies and aims are not new ones emerged when the national plan was drawn. The policies and aims of the Union government could be seen in address of the President to first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw regular session on 30 March, 2011, in talking about political, economic and social conditions of the country. In this address, he said that the government would prioritize narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor, bridging the gap in living standards of urban and rural people, emergence of harmonious market economy, attracting foreign investments by establishing special economic zones, building modern industrialized nation exploiting wealth from agricultural sector and local and foreign investments, encouraging the working of living standards of peasants and workers, development of agricultural sector, fetching reasonable prices for agricultural produce, improvement in quality of agricultural produce, generating plenty of job opportunities for workers and daily paid odd-job workers, stability of commodity price, providing job site welfare and social welfare provisions, adjusting the lowest pay scale with the current living cost, working to ensuring reasonable living standards of the people with no concerns for future by the government, and development of human resources of the entire nation who will undertake the duty of the future nation as many brilliant human resources intellectuals and intelligentsia are needed.

These words are found to be policies and development and Inclusive Growth plans. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker also thanked it for ensuring peaceful transition with seven-step road map.

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

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

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

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

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

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein makes clarification.—MNA
To be able to apply full capacity of dams... (from page 3)

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

Out of 237 completed dams/diversion weirs included in the suggestion of the Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee, there are 39 facilities meeting or exceeding the target, 50 facilities irrigating 50-50 per cent of target, 20 facilities irrigating 75 per cent and 93 facilities irrigating under 50 per cent of target.

Dams which do not meet the target because irrigation systems have to be completed, which distribute low per cent in target of light in assessment on targeted area and actual irrigating area, of which dilapidated irrigation systems need repairing, which are ravaged by Malar, cyclone, Nargis cyclone and Giri cyclone and can irrigate under 50 per cent of target will be repaired in order of priorities. The Regional and State-Level agricultural meeting presided over by the Union Minister is that there is an urgent right of the includes facilities, and dams and canal systems. In 2012-2013 fiscal year, it is plann... improve performance of completed dams/diversion weirs and implement ongoing dams/diversion weirs projects to meet set standards.

To be able to apply full capacity of dams completed by the former government, irrigation systems yet to be built, dilapidated facilities, and dams and canal systems, need repair will continue to be built. It has been described that the State has to ensure the GDP growth rate, which is investment at present. Mr Speaker and Hluttaw representatives, the President, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation has made brief clarification.

Handed down by the former government, projects which would be implemented, agricultural development in sustainable national interest will be reviewed and considered in the interests of the people in light of all-fall and fisheries assessment on the reality with genuine goodwill.

I would like to wind up my clarification by informing that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation will continue to work on confirmation of the government participation and the pay rise of the civil servants may have impact on workers engaged in private businesses, we need to consider the balance between per capita income and potential situation of the pay rise, taking wages and salary of workers in the private sector into account. Moreover, before the pay rise of the civil servants, we would increase the allowances of civil servants discharging duties at far-away areas at the same rate as the people first as proposed by the MPs. The salary increase of the civil servants mainly calls for best management system of the State. To reach such stage, we have to form a team constituted with scholars at home and abroad and from government departments, copying the methods practiced internationally. That team will have to make reports on pay rise of the civil servants based on success of the national projects. Analyzing these reports, we are to take steps to increase wages, salary and allowances of the civil servants. If we allow pay rise of the 2012-2013 fiscal year, we will have to face the burden of increased salary and other spending, leading to the budget deficit.

To think income-generation methods in advance to pay for the potentially increased spending includes pay rise increasingly from sale of natural gas or increased taxation after the reforms in taxation structure).

(a) To propose to increase foreign investment and effective foreign aid including financial assistance and low-interest rate loans.

(f) Transparency and accountability of government budget.

In conclusion, I would like to say the proposal “to increase pay, salary and allowance of civil servants in coming fiscal year” included in the resolution of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is welcoming. It is the proposal the Union government is considering to realize and should be done for the civil servants. As the government has intended to increase the proportion of the private sector into account.

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Industrial development project to create synergetic benefits such as ...10 (from page 5) technicians annually for supplying adequate human resources to the project plants. Moreover, it is a good situation to create job opportunity and develop human resources at the same time by providing vocational training and occupational training to local youths.

Development of human resources, education based on human resources, creation of job opportunities and production of high quality products are inseparably related phenomena. Through education plays a crucial role in process of human resources development, vocation, profession and occupational trade are main points to contain the practical productive life. It is nature to give these subjects to the trainees in synchronization with production process.

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

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

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

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

It is real situation that a lot of factories, production lines and industries in different sectors of the country nowadays are facing such problems as long halt in production but synergetic productive paradigm as it is the production of factories, market economy, the machine parts.

It is aimed to reach national industrialization age by making private- and public-owned production industries of the State, it is necessary to implement industrial development projects to achieve annual 14.1 per cent increase in industrial development. This would create synergetic benefits such as creation of jobs for the people, gradual development of advanced technologies, ability to produce machines independently without relying on foreign countries.

So, the government has to invest in source industry, the key to industrial development. In the future, according to the trend in market economy, the ownership can be changed as necessary.

According to the objective of the fifth phase five-year term of the national project of the State, it is necessary to implement industrial development projects to achieve annual 4.1 per cent increase in industrial development. This would create synergetic benefits such as creation of jobs for the people, gradual development of advanced technologies, ability to produce machines independently without relying on foreign countries.
Union government will develop national...

(from page 6)

6. Plans are underway to promote the living standards of Myanmar people so as to keep abreast of international countries after adopting City Development Plan, Township Development Plan and Village Development Plan by Regions and States. All these processes are National Development Plan because these processes and education and health sectors on which Hluttaw representatives put more emphasis, are aimed at ensuring human resources development and boosting socio-economic status of people. In addition to recently-submitted National Planning Law, if National Development Plan is adopted, according to section 220 of the 2008 Constitution says, the Union Government shall promulgate its policies in accord with the provisions of the Constitution. The necessary projects have to be drawn in accord with the said policies and steps will be implemented with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

So, with regard to National Development Plan, Union Government should be adopted by taking into consideration remarks and suggestions of Hluttaw representatives in accord with the Constitution Section 220. National Development Plan (or) Human Resources Development Plan is named. But if all agreed that Human Resources Development Plan should be implemented, plans are under way to implement Human Resources Development Plan by Union Government after forming committee for human resources development plan in coordination with experts from home and abroad and consultants, he said.

Mr Speaker

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

Mr Myo Myint of Amyotha Hluttaw representative said: the recently-submitted proposal, has suggested that new plans should be adopted by making in-depth observation with foreign consultants. In Parliamentary Democracy Era, it had to take two years in adopting Pyidawtha Plan in accord with the Ministry of Information, the UEC.

1. The Union Election Comission had issued the Announcement No. 61/2011 that in the interests of the country and the people, all Hluttaw representatives

2. After coordinating the manuscripts of presentation with the Ministry of Information, the UEC

3. For the political parties that are applying for the permit to be able to make presentation in turn in a comfortable manner, the UEC will coordinate the dates and time tables permitted of each political party with the relevant departments and organizations.

4. After coordinating the manuscripts of presentation with the Ministry of Information, the UEC

5. Each political party

6. The political parties shall refrain from the following prohibitions when making presentation on Radio or TV

7. Action will be taken against the political parties that fail to follow any prohibition, with the registration law.

8. Accordingly, to ensure that the by-elections will be held on 1-4-2012 (Sunday) for 48 vacant constituencies where Hluttaw representatives of the Respectful Hluttaw will stand for.

Presentation of Political parties through Radio and TV

1. The Union Election Commission issued the Announcement No 12/2012 dated 16-2-2012. The translation of the announcement is as follows:

2. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

3. Union Election Commission

4. Nay Pyi Taw

5. Announcement No 12/2012

6. Waning of Tabodwe, 1373 ME

7. (16th February 2012)

Presentation of Political parties through Radio and TV

1. The Union Election Commission had issued the Announcement No. 61/2011 that the by-elections will be held on 1-4-2012 (Sunday) for 48 vacant constituencies

2. According to the announcement, the Union Election Commission will review the applications of political parties that wish to make presentation on Radio and TV, in accord with the political parties registration law.

3. The political parties shall apply for the permit to make presentation on Radio and TV

4. The political parties shall refrain from the following prohibitions when making presentation on Radio or TV

5. After coordinating the manuscripts of presentation with the Ministry of Information, the UEC

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8. Accordingly, to ensure that the by-elections will be held on 1-4-2012 (Sunday) for 48 vacant constituencies

Sd/

Tin Aye

Chairman

Union Election Commission

Press Release

The New Light of Myanmar

Friday, 17 February, 2012

9

p9(17).pmd 2/17/2012, 9:57 AM
NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb – On the cultural preservation and conservation, due to natural disasters and climate change, the Culture Ministry has to pay more attention on preventive measures, said Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan at an international conference in Bagan on 14 February.

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

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

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

Culture Ministry and Nalanda Sriwijaya Centre (ISEAS Singapore) co-sponsored the conference held at Bagan Archaeological Research Museum in Bagan Archaeological Region, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region, on 13 and 14 this month.

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

Participants included officials of Myanmar Historical Research Commission, officials of Culture Ministry, professors and PhD candidates of Ministry of Education, Head of Department of the centre Mr Tansen Sen and others, resource persons of Indonesia, Ecole francaise d’Extreme-orient of France, University of Sydney of Australia, the Heritage Museum of Russia, University London and Manchester Metropolitan University of Britain, Nanyang Technological University of Singapore, Thammasat University of Thailand, Institute of Chanderanagor of India, National Centre for Scientific Research of France, Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka. Myanmar and international scholars presented 18 research papers. — MNA

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

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

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

Translation: TS

Archive: Maung Nyein Aye
Obama touting manufacturing at Wisconsin plant

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

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

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

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

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

Internet

Obama vows to push more voter ID laws

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb—One in eight US voter registrations is faulty, says President Barack Obama in appearing before a Washington, D.C., audience.

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

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Tens of billions at stake in BP oil spill trial

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb—Tens of billions of dollars will be at stake when BP heads to a US court this month to determine how much it owes for the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill and how much it can shift to subcontractors.

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

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

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

"There's only one path for BP to take — blame it on as many other people as possible and make sure it's not cast as gross negligence," said Blaine LeCesne, a law professor at Loyola University in New Orleans who has been following the case closely.

"That way they may be able to limit their cost to $30 to $40 billion as opposed to $100 billion," he argued.

Judge Carl Barbier — an expert in maritime law — is expected to have largely, if not entirely, settled the claims in the挽回 of $20 to $25 billion, Morgan Stanley estimated in a recent report.

Bacon masterpiece nets £21 mln at London auction

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

The painting sold on Tuesday was a Gerhard Richter abstract netted almost £10 million.

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

The Bacon auction record was £86.3 million for his 1976 "Triptych" which was achieved at Sotheby's New York in May 2008.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Internet

Stolen Dutch artworks found in British warehouse

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

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

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

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

"A long and intense negotiation with the logistics company a settlement was finally reached with the company agreeing to release their claim to the artwork," said Christopher Marmello, ALR's lawyer and chief negotiator.

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

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

We are happy to announce the engagement of
Kadoe Wailin Naing
the son of (Rev. Wailin Naing) and
daw Ahlaw Byu Naing
residing at 1381 N. Lyman Ave, Covina,
CA 91724, USA
to
Pwint Yee Soe
daughter of U Maung Maung Soe and
Daw May Tin Go
of No. 42, Kimmochon Road, 10 ward, Haing
Tsp. 11051, Yangon, Myanmar
on 31st December, 2011 in the presence of Rev.
Dr. A Ko Lay and relatives from both sides.

Malnourished Wisconsin girl abused for years

MILWAUKEE, 16 Feb — A severely malnourished Wisconsin teenager found walking barefoot in pajamas outside in the cold last week had been forced to stay in an unfinished basement for years and an alarm would sound if she went upstairs, police records say. The 15-year-old told authorities she ate what she could find in the garbage and on the floor of her father and stepmother’s Madison home. Sometimes she was made to eat her own feces and drink her urine, according to a police affidavit.

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

London 2012: Call for Olympic tickets transparency

LONDON, 16 Feb — Unnecessary secrecy risks jeopardising public confidence in the ticketing arrangements for the 2012 Olympics, the London Assembly has warned. Games organizers’ refusal to provide a detailed breakdown of how tickets available would cost less than £20, but it has not said just those where supply exceeds demand. “We are committed to providing a full breakdown of ticket sales, and believe the best time to do this is once we have completed the final sales process,” said a spokeswoman.

Trinidad Moruga Scorpion wins hottest pepper title

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

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

Coal mine accident kills 15

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

The accident happened in the wee hours of Thursday in the Nanyang township of the Lanyang city, a former area carrying mines derailed in a coal mine, according to Hunan Provincial Administration of Coal Mine Safety.

This undated image provided by New Mexico State University shows the Trinidad Moruga Scorpion, the new hottest pepper on the planet, as identified by NMSU’s Chile Pepper Institute.
Singer Shakira ‘attacked’ by sea lion

LODNON, 16 Feb — Pop star Shakira has described how a sea lion “tired to bite” her as she took a picture on her mobile phone. During a holiday in Cape Town she sang about how the incident took place when she was taking a picture on her mobile phone. During a holiday in Cape Town she sang about how the incident took place when she was taking a picture on her mobile phone.

Guinness world record

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The Artist dog Uggle will not participate at Oscars

LODNON, 16 Feb — Uggle, the Jack Russell star of The Artist, will not make an appearance at the Academy Awards this year, the film’s distributor has announced. A spokesperson for The Weinstein Company said the 10-year-old terrier had “not been asked to participate or appear at the Oscars” on 26 February. The announcement contradicts earlier reports that Uggle had been rehearsing a sketch with host Billy Crystal. The canine performer “retired” after completing his role in The Artist. But he has continued to make public appearances in the run-up to the Oscars, where his film is in contention for 10 awards. On Monday he was named best dog in a theatre, Uggle, in the Golden Collar Awards, a new ceremony recognising Hollywood canines and their trainers.

Uggle was also seen last year in an advertisement for Elephants.—INTERNET

SRK denies tiff with Juhi Chawla!

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

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

Babies may be smarter than you think

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shakira said: “My brother ‘Super the eye, roared in fury”. She told Fox5 that her mobile phone was attacked by a sea lion when she was taking a picture on her mobile phone. During a holiday in Cape Town the singer included a photo of a sea lion, saying it was the “tiniest” animal she had ever seen. She added: “This is the first I’ve heard of a sea lion attacking a person.”

Still, it was the first actual known cardiac incident at the Heart Attack Grill. “He was having the longest day of his life,” said Jon Basso, the restaurant’s owner. “I actually felt bad for him. He was going through the most bizarre scenario, a man suffering ‘scratches’ from a sea lion. It’s almost too bizarre to be true.”

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

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

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

Jonny Lee Miller cast in US Sherlock Holmes update

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

The accolade followed the tour and he received at last year’s Cannes Film Festival, where The Artist lost out to Uggie’s performance in The Artist. The canine performer ‘retired’ after completing his role in The Artist. But he has continued to make public appearances in the run-up to the Oscars, where his film is in contention for 10 awards. On Monday he was named best dog in a theatre, Uggle, in the Golden Collar Awards, a new ceremony recognising Hollywood canines and their trainers.

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Paul Scholes

2004 European Championships. And he ended his England career at the age of 29, following the chance of that. Scholes called time on his career, Ferguson said: “I don’t think there’s any chance of Paul Scholes earning an England recall.”

Ernie Els

Els is staging his “Els for Autism” golf challenge again, and this time he has backing from SAP, once of his top corporate sponsors. He described it as the largest golf charity event in the world, a series of 30 tournaments from April through September, with the $9 million mark toward fundraising, he has reached $1.8 million. In the first year, any team that raises at least $10,000.In the first year, any team that raises at least $10,000.

Caroline Wozniacki

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

Manchester United striker Javier Hernandez says the English giants are determined to launch a full-blooded assault on the Europa League as they prepare to make their debut in the competition on Thursday. After the shock of failing to qualify for the knockout stages of the Champions League, United travel to Amsterdam this week to face Ajax in their first ever Europa League game. United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has pledged to field a full-strength side in the competition after initially describing the tournament as “penalty” for missing out on the Champions League. And Hernandez is adamant United are determined to go all the way in the Europa League, which climaxes with a final in Bucharest on 9 May. The

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The central midfielder, who netted a double against Porto in the group stage in September, scored in the 27th minute shortly after Maxi Pereira had put the visitors ahead following a free kick, scoring the second goal of the game with two minutes from time.

Substitute Sergi Samak had fired the hosts in front midway through the second half with a neat backheel before Oscar Cardozo levelled for 2-2, setting the stage for Shirowko’s late winner.

With next month’s second leg still to play, Shirowko hoped to wreak further damage on the Portuguese Jelena Jankovic 7-6 (4), 6-2, and defending champion Vera Zvonareva retired while trailing Monica Niculescu of Romania 7-5, 3-2 because of pain in her left hip. No 4-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska and No 5 Marion Bartoli also won in straight sets, but No 7 Francesca Schiavone lost to Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium 7-6(4), 6-1.

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Paddy purchased for reserve storage

PAUNG, 16 Feb—To be able to keep the reserve rice for the State, Paungle Township Reserve Paddy Purchase Committee of Ayeyawady Region opens the purchase centre No. 1 at Five Star Rice mill on Shweduang Road and the purchase centre No. 2 at Myintthida Rice mill on 21st Street.

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

District News

Federer shrugs off pressure to win on Dutch return

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

ROTTERDAM, 16 Feb—Former world number one Roger Federer admitted he felt the mighty weight of expectation as he returned to the ATP Rotterdam Open here on Wednesday seven years after last playing the indoor event.

The Swiss walked away in 2005 with the title and marked his return with a 6-4, 6-4 win over French world number 83 Nicolas Mahut on Wednesday.

But the 67-minute victory was far from routine, with the top seed admitting that he had little choice but to win convincingly in front of a sold-out-record crowd of more than 14,000.

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“lt doesn’t matter how ugly or pretty, it’s about coming through and seeing how well we can improve in the next round,” he said. “It’s trying to manage nerves and expectations.”

Federer, who lost both of his weekend Davis Cup matches in a defeat by the US, got a hero’s welcome as he entered the court to a standing ovation, leaving it the same way after defeating Mahut for the third time without a loss. “There were a lot of expectations for me in the first round, not having been here for so long,” he said.—Internet

Emergency traditional medicine kits handed over

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

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

Wenger slams Arsenal’s ‘worst’ European performance

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

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

He said he did not feel Arsenal had made many other choices, we were weak in some departments, and I knew we could have some problems...
President U Thein Sein receives Chair of the ASEAN Parliamentary Group of the Parliament of FRG and party

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

Also present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for Labour and for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi and departmental heads.

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

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

Members of Union level organizations take part in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 12th day session

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives sign in the attendance book.—MNA

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

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

U Aung Thant of Pathetegyi constituency seconded the assessment of the Public Accounts Committee as it serves the people’s interest.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Daw Nan Seawa of Hpa-an constituency said transport networks with Nay Pyi Taw as the centre. Actually, they are a national transport network. But roads (See page 2)