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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.

Sixth meeting of Sixth State Sangha Central Working Committee of Sangha concludes

YANGON, 29 Feb—Sixth meeting of Sixth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Ganas continued for the final day at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill here this afternoon.

Vice-Chairman of the Committee Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Gunesana presided over the meeting and Associate Executive Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vayama discussed suggestions on the annual report.

Chair of the committee Sayadaw of Bhamo Monastery in Mandalay Abhidhaja Maha Rahta Guru Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa presented Vanisaya certificates and confirmation certificates to new Threvada Missionary Ovadacariya Committee.

15 Ovadacariya Sayadaws, the chair, the executive, representatives signed approval for replacements, resolutions, confirmations and records made in the meeting in the Book of Sasana Historical Record.

The meeting was successfully concluded after the chair Sayadaw gave concluding sermon to those present.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
(Order No. 8/2012)
8th Waxing of Taboung, 1373 ME
29 February, 2012
Appointment of judge of Kayah State High Court

U Tin Htay as agreed by Kayah State Hluttaw was appointed as judge of Kayah State Hluttaw in accord with Para (4) of Sub-section (b) of Section 308 of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Sub-section (b) of Section 82 of the Union Government Law and Section 50 of Union Judicial Law.

Sd/
Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
(Order No. 9/2012)
8th Waxing of Taboung, 1373 ME
29 February, 2012
Appointment of Chief Justice of Kayah State High Court

Judge U Kyaw Linn Maung of Kayah State High Court as agreed by Kayah State Hluttaw was appointed as chief justice of Kayah State High Court in accord with Para (4) of Sub-section (b) of Section 308 of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Sub-section (d) of Section 82 of the Union Government Law and Section 50 of Union Judicial Law.

Sd/
Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Rural development and poverty alleviation tasks being carried out under leadership of President

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo meets departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townselders of Thandwe and Taungup townships

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Feb—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and party met departmental personnel, members of social organizations and senior citizens at Dwayawady Hall in Thandwe of Rakhine State yesterday.

The Thandwe Township administrator, Gwa Township administrator and Thandwe District Deputy Commissioner reported to the Vice-President on requirements of the district and townships. Some senior citizens also reported on requirements of their home places, followed by supplementary report of State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint and Deputy Minister for Education U Ba Shwe replied to the reports. The Vice-President then explained education, health, economic and regional development and objectives of the State and donate cash for repair works for Thandwe Bank erosion.

Next, Deputy Home Affairs Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Minister U Phone Swe, on behalf of the government and three businessmen donated cash assistance for construction of temporary Thandwe Dwayawady Market. Next, Shwe Thanlwin Co Chairman U Kyaw Win presented four sets of Sky Net receivers to General Administration Departments of Thandwe District, Thandwe and Gwa townships.

(See page 6)
Perspectives
Thursday, 1 March, 2012

Going organic

It is common knowledge that Myanmar is a developing country with its economy built on agro-industry. And it has been a long time that everyone is thirsty for industrial development which paves the way for prosperity. But, the other side of the coin is that there is still room for improvement in agricultural economy.

The world’s population is giving serious cause for concern over food security as it has just hit 7000 million. While there has been growing concern over obesity rate in industrialized countries, there are still a lot of hungry mouths to feed in the Third World, forcing to pour chemical fertilizers onto fields to increase yields. It has been the only remedy but with adverse side effects and thus the idea of “going organic” has become the alternative solution.

There is a price to be paid for it although it sounds like a great idea. Eco foods usually cost much more than ordinary produce. But, organic farming causes less pollution in the long-run and there is a niche market for organic foods. There is a price gap to speak of between commercial and organic fertilizers—a mixture of animal manure, sewage sludge, compost, grass turf, straw, and other crop residues. However, we can still solve this problem by integrated farming.

The transformation to mechanized farming is a must. But, we can also practice organic farming during and after this process. Most of the farmers in Myanmar run farms on a manageable scale and organic farming is most compatible with diversified, small-scale, labour-intensive cultivation. With the help of Cooperatives Ministry, farmers can form cooperative syndicates and export them to overseas market. It is a long way to walk but not impossible.

We can be a responsible nation, providing healthy foods to the world, saving our planet. Organic farming is said to represent only 2% of the total of all farming currently. So a country like ours has a great opportunity to monopolize the organic food market. It is always easier said than done, but it really deserves a try.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye comfort patients of free surgery programme

Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye inspect process of medical check-up being made by specialists at temporary pavilion of People’s Hospital in Pale.—MNA

The programme is third in a series of free surgery programme which provided free surgery to 192 patients in above-mentioned five townships in 2010.—MNA

Union Mines Minister receives Indonesian Ambassador, delegation

Union Mines Minister U Thein Htaik received Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Sebastiano Sumarsono and a delegation led by Head of Rural Socio-economic Information and for Culture U Zaw Htay of Myanmar Affairs Ministry yesterday. The programme is a part of the third series of free surgery programme, started in 2009, which provided free surgeries to patients in rural areas. —MNA

Deputy Hotels and Tourism Minister receives foreign guests

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung received General Director Mr Gunter Franz and party of Stuttgart-based VIP Systems Graphische Maschinen GmbH Co of Germany at the ministry yesterday. At the call, they focused on procedures, rules and regulations for exploration of lead in Myanmar, cooperation programmes, production of limestone from limestone hills for manufacturing of cement, excursion to some cement plants, investment and environmental conservation. —MNA
China, Indonesia should maintain East Asia stability

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (R) meets with visiting Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Political, Law and Security Affairs Djoko Suyanto, who is here to attend the third meeting of the bilateral dialogue mechanism at deputy prime ministerial level, in Beijing, capital of China, on 28 Feb, 2012. — Xinhua

BEIJING, 29 Feb—Premier Wen Jiabao said Tuesday afternoon that China and Indonesia should jointly make unremitting efforts to help maintain stability and prosperity in East Asia. Wen made the remark while meeting visiting Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Political, Law and Security Affairs Djoko Suyanto in Beijing. Suyanto is in Beijing for the third meeting of the bilateral dialogue mechanism at deputy prime ministerial level. On Tuesday morning, Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo and Suyanto co-chaired the meeting.

Wen said the meeting had achieved important results by advancing the implementation of consensus reached by leaders of the two countries. He said the meeting had helped lay a solid foundation for further development of bilateral relations.

According to the Foreign Ministry, the meeting is designed for the two sides to exchange views on bilateral ties and international situations as well as regional issues. Wen said in face of grim challenges that the international financial crisis posed to East Asia, China and Indonesia should strengthen communication and coordination, expand mutually beneficial cooperation and make unremitting efforts to safeguard common interests and maintain stability and prosperity in East Asia.

Suyanto said the two countries enjoy good relations and great potential for bilateral cooperation. He said Indonesia highly appreciates and needs the important role that China plays in regional and international affairs. He expressed the readiness to deepen all-round cooperation and the strategic partnership between the two countries so as to bring more benefit to the two peoples.

He said Indonesia is willing to work with China to make greater contribution to peace, stability and prosperity in East Asia.

Three soldiers wounded in bombing attack in Thai restive south

BANGKOK, 29 Feb—Three soldiers were injured as an improvised explosive device (IED) blew up in the southernmost province of Narathiwat’s Bacho District Tuesday afternoon while they were heading to downtown.

The explosion left a big hole of about one meter in depth and one metre in diameter at the scene. The police said the IED was stuffed in a 20-kg extinguisher cylinder and detonated by wire.

Six soldiers were travelling to Narathiwat’s Muang District on a 6-wheel truck when they were assaulted by a unknown number of assailants.

All three wounded soldiers were taken to a hospital.

The region has seen escalating violence since January 2004, which has so far claimed more than 5,200 lives.

Improvised bomb found at Philippine airport

MANILA, 29 Feb—Philippine authorities have found and disarmed a small bomb at a provincial airport that serves the resort island of Boracay, one of the country’s main tourist hotspots, police said on Wednesday.

Security staff found the improvised explosive device among cargo being processed at Kalibo International Airport on Tuesday night, national police spokesman Chief Superintendent Agrimero Cruz said.

Police experts brought the device, inside a plastic envelope about the size of a magazine, out of the airport and had it safely detonated, according to Cruz.

He said the device was apparently dropped off at the airport counter of a cargo forwarding company and bore a name and address in the southern island of Mindanao, a hotbed of Islamic militants and guerrillas. However he said authorities did not know who dropped off the package.

“We can’t speculate on who was behind it,” Cruz said, adding he also had no details on the potential power of the bomb.

The central Philippine airport handles dozens of flights a day, linking Kalibo with Chinese and South Korean cities as well as those in the Philippines.— Internet

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton testifies before the Senate Appropriations Committee about “The FY2013 Budget Request for the Department of State and Foreign Operations” on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, the United States, on 28 Feb, 2012. — Xinhua

Romney wins Michigan GOP primary

WASHINGTON, 29 Feb—Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney will be the winner of the Michigan primary Tuesday, with Rick Santorum coming in a close second, CNN projected.

With 77 percent of precincts reporting, the former Massachusetts governor won 41 percent of the vote, followed by Santorum, the former Pennsylvania senator, with 37 percent, the US broadcaster projected while the ballots were still being counted.

Texas congressman Ron Paul finished third with 12 percent of the vote. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who mostly skipped the state, came in at just 7 percent.

The victory was critical for Romney, as a defeat—even if by the slightest margin—would have been devastating to his campaign. Michigan was regarded as a stronghold for the former governor, who was born there and whose father was a popular governor of the state.

The victory came shortly after Romney was projected winner in the Arizona primary Tuesday.— Xinhua

US making ‘strategic bet’ on India in Asia, says scholar

WASHINGTON, 29 Feb—India gets a key place in the US pivot toward the Asia-Pacific Region because Washington is making “a strategic bet” that India will promote peace and security in the long term, according to a US scholar.

The unexpected attention given to India in Pentagon’s new strategic guidance “raises interesting questions about how India fits into the United States’ vision for security in the Asia-Pacific region,” said Amer Latif in a commentary.

Noting that Washington and New Delhi have been actively building their defence relations through defence sales, exercises, and high-level military engagements, he said: “Despite the impressive progress in recent years, questions still remain about India’s commitment and ability to be a security provider in Asia.”

“As the United States implements its pivot toward the Asia-Pacific Region, it will actively seek capable and reliable partners to cooperate on maintaining security and stability in Asia,” said Latif, a visiting fellow with the Wadhwani Chair in US-India Policy Studies at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a Washington, think tank.— Internet

Danish Navy frees 16 held by pirates, two hostages killed

COPENHAGEN, 29 Feb—The Danish Navy said on Tuesday it had freed 16 hostages held by pirates off the Somali coast the previous day, but that two more captives were killed in the rescue operation.

“The Danish warship Absalon stopped a pirate mothership on 27 Feb, 2012. During the operation, two hostages were killed,” the Navy said in a statement.

The nationalities of the hostages were not immediately known, nor the circumstances leading to the two deaths.

“Two hostages were found seriously injured, but despite swift assistance from Absalon’s doctor, their lives could not be saved,” the Navy said.

“We cannot exclude that we may have caused the deaths,”
The Ranger is ascending steadily and energetically carrying a load of pilgrims safely up to the mountain top where a highly-revered pagoda with rich and long history awaits at a place over 3000 feet above the sea level. It is in Mon State in the southeast of Myanmar that these people are on their pilgrimage to “Kyaikhtiyo” a pagoda with its mystery remains ever unsolved.

The road

Normally, an hour-dra...
Razudaing Bridge No.1 easily accessible to four corners of the country

* Razudaing Bridge No.1, being located on road networks such as Mothin-Yaylla-Mawlamyinegyun-Kyaikpe-Hlaingbon-Thitpoke-Kwinpauk-Pyinsalu-Mawlamyinegyun-Hlaingbone-Thitpoke-Kwinpauk-Pyinsalu-Mawlamyinegyun, people can have easy access to the four corners of the country via it.
* It took 12 hours from Mawlamyinegyun to Yangon by motor boat. Thanks to the bridge, it is three-hour drives to Yangon by land.
* Mawlamyinegyun Township is easily accessible by land. So, the four corners of the country can be reachable by road and bridge networks.
* Centered Mawlamyinegyun Township, construction of Bogale-Mawlamyinegyun-Kyonemangay-Myaungmya motor road is going on.

Facts about the bridge
1. The bridge is of one lane steel truss type.
2. It is 1955 feet long and facilitated with 20 feet wide motor road flanked by two three feet wide pedestrian lanes on either side.
3. Its water clearance is 20 feet in height and it can withstand 60 tons of load.
4. The construction of bridge started on 1 April, 2009 and it was put into services on 22 July 2010.

Archive: Maung Nyein Aye

Translation: MT
Rural Development and Poverty ...  

(on page 1) 

On behalf of the businessmen, IGE Co Chairman U Nay Aung donated cash assistance for the burnt Minpya Market. The Vice-President and party then cordially greeted those present and proceeded to Taungup Township People’s Hospital where he coordinated essentials for standardization of the hospital. In his speech to the departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townsoiders of Thandwe and Taungup townships, the Vice-President said they had to observe the conditions of the townships in southern Rakhine State and to fulfill the requirements. As the first priority, the Vice-President said that they would discuss the education and health requirements of the local people and attend to the needs. At the second priority, they would access the reports on the regional economic development requirements presented by the government departments and fulfill them properly in harmony with objectives of the State. The third was to explain current undertakings of the government to the locals. The Vice-President went on that on the budgets on education and health had been increased year by year in the country.

Proceeded to Taungup Township People’s Hospital where he coordinated essentials for standardization of the hospital. In his speech to the departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townsoiders of Thandwe and Taungup townships, the Vice-President said they had to observe the conditions of the townships in southern Rakhine State and to fulfill the requirements. As the first priority, the Vice-President said that they would discuss the education and health requirements of the local people and attend to the needs. At the second priority, they would access the reports on the regional economic development requirements presented by the government departments and fulfill them properly in harmony with objectives of the State. The third was to explain current undertakings of the government to the locals. The Vice-President went on that on the budgets on education and health had been increased year by year in the country.

Arrangements were being made to extend necessary buildings, upgrade and equip hospital equipment, and fully provide basic medicines for health care. In education sector, basic education schools were being upgraded and text books and note books were being provided for free to offer free education to ensure all had completed primary education with other educational assistance to ensure continuous learning. The Vice-President then explained phase-by-phase construction of Taungup University in Taungup within 2012-2013 fiscal year for students in southern Rakhine State to be able to learn arts and science subjects.

The Vice-President explained measures for supply of electricity from the national grid to An, Minpya, MraukU, Ponnagyun, Sitway as the first phase in 2012-2013 fiscal year, initial measures for Taungup, Thandwe, MaI, Kyaukpyu,Yanbye and to remaining townships in 2013-2014 fiscal year as the second phase.

After that, farmers were to do framings not only for daily life existence but also on commercial scale. Efforts were to be made for growing industrial crops as much as possible. Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation tasks were being implemented under the leadership of the President. He urged local people to make cooperation with entrepreneurs and local authorities so as to achieve eight rural development tasks he added.

In the afternoon, Vice-President Thih Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and party left by helicopters for Thahtay Hydropower Project being implemented by No.6 Hydro Power Implementation Department of the Ministry of Electric Power No.1. At the briefing hall of the site, Union Minister for Electric Power No.1 U Zaw Min reported on progress in construction of the project and undertakings of each sectors for timely completion. With respect to the reports, the Vice-President instructed officials to make coordination for construction of dam and power station and installation of power grids harmoniously, (See page 7)
Rural Development and Poverty ...

(From page 6)

ensure technically fail-safe one, to manage digging of tunnel based on its withstands. after taking samples of soil and stones along water diversion tunnel and to carry out measures for not causing damages to the dam due to the facts that that region gets much rains and heavy rain in some years. After that, the Vice-President and party inspected the scale model of the project and construction site from the view point of the briefing hall. They also looked into water diversion tunnel No.1 and construction of diversion tunnel and diaphragm wall.

Yesterday evening, the Vice-President and wife and party paid homage to Myathalon Pagoda in Magway and donated cash.—MNA

Wife of Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo Patron of MWAF and of MMCWA Daw Khin Saw Hnin makes Townsend fellowship and association members in Thandwe District

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Feb—Libraries development and enhancement of reading habit among rural people launched

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Feb — Libraries development and enhancement of reading habit among rural people in Pathein Township, Mandalay Region were launched with a ceremony at Ohnchaw Village in the township on 27 February.

The ceremony covers essay competitions (open division) at which Head of Region Information and Public Relations Department U Kyaw Than Tun and officials concerned.

With the aim of ensuring development of rural libraries and enhancing the reading habits among rural people, extempore talks were held at BEPS in Aungchantha Village and at Ohnchaw Village in the township on 28 and 29 February.

Meth lab busts reach record high in NC

RAELEIK, 29 Feb — The number of methamphetamine lab busts in North Carolina hit a record high last year partly because of cheaper, simpler ways of making the drug, officials say.

The number of meth labs raided in 2011 increased to 344 — up 57 percent since 2006, when state laws restricted the purchase of its key ingredient, pseudoephedrine, The Raleigh News & Observer reported. While the number of busts have increased, Attorney General Roy Cooper said the laws are working, as the number of large-scale labs is declining. The total number of busts is rising, however, because of the simpler, cheaper method of making it known as the "one-pot" or "shake-and-bake" method.

The method requires fewer ingredients and they’re mixed in a 2-liter soda bottle instead of unsealed makeshift beakers. The bottles are still legally considered meth labs and officials say they’re dangerous, as explosions aren’t as big but are more frequent. The method "has escalated to the point where it accounts for about half of the labs we bust," Cooper said. He pointed out the state’s first one-pot lab bust came in 2009.

Cooper said he hopes to see a decline in the number of meth labs as a result of a law enacted this year requiring pharmacies to use an electronic-tracking system to determine whether someone has reached the limit on the number of pseudoephedrine purchases allowed.—Internet

Roads, bridges commissioned in Tatkon and Pyinmana

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Feb—Nawin Creek Bridge and Ywathit Road were opened in Tatkon this morning.

Likewise, Shwecchi (9) Bridge and Bo Than Tin asphalt road were also inaugurated in Pyinmana this morning.

Nawin Creek Bridge, 160 feet long and 12 feet wide, was built at a cost of K 27.5 million. Ywathit Road, 3200 feet long and 12 feet wide, was constructed at a cost of K 38.9 million.

Shwecchi (9) Bridge, 150 feet long and 12 feet wide, was improved at a cost of K 6.3 million. 1935 feet long and 12 feet wide Bo Than Tin Road was repaved with asphalt at a cost of K 22.6 million.

Also present on the occasions were Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Maung Oo, member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun, U Myint Shwe and Col Myint Aung Than, members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, officials and local people.
enabling the pensioners to take out pension easily and whether there is a plan to reduce teak extraction not only in Bago Region but also in other regions and states. The Minister replied that a plan is underway to reduce timber extraction not only in Bago Region but also in other regions and states and control plenty of timber extraction from single area. At present, a total of 582.5 acres of land have been allotted to six groups from six villages for establishment of public-owned forest plantations in Bago Region. Efforts will be doubled in organizing the local people to establish public-owned forest plantations. 

The meeting came to an end at 12.55 pm and the nine day regular session...
Protection of the Ozone Layer member countries must stop use of chlorofluorocarbon at refrigerator, automobile, air-conditioners and cold storage in 2010. Thus, Myanmar has stopped use of chlorofluorocarbon as of 2006.

The surveillance plan on implementation of cold storage management project and the cooling plan of chlorofluorocarbon from refrigerator have been implemented in Myanmar. At present, the programme for reduction of Ozone layer harming materials and the plan on establishment of the cold storage management plan are under implementation.

The Ozone Regulation Bill and the Hydrochlorofluorocarbon reduction bill have been drawn. Air quality was measured in Yangon, Mandalay, Pyin Oo Lwin, Nay Pyi Taw and Taichileik with the use of air pollution measuring devices as of 2008. Ministry of Health and Yangon City Development Committee jointly designated trading area, residential area and industrial zone area at a time when they measured air quality for the first time. They could set records on contents of dusts, the dusts less than 10 microns, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide in the air. Myanmar signed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1994 and Tokyo Protocol in 2003 and then it implemented the projects as member of the convention. With the assistance of the Asian Development Bank, Myanmar together with 12 Asian countries realized the Asian Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy and designated 1990 as the basic year for measurement of greenhouse gas in energy sector, reform of land utilization, forest sector and agriculture sector. Myanmar annually emits 41.5 million tons of greenhouse gas and it is expected to hit 62 million tons in 2005. According to the data in 1990, emission ratio of carbon dioxide to person was less than one ton yearly and such amount was less than that of Mekong Sub-Region countries.

With the assistance of the UN Environmental Programme and the World Environmental Programme, the ministry designated the year of 2000 as the basic year after collecting greenhouse gas measurement data of the initial national report compilation project that started in 2008 on climate change in energy, industrial, agriculture and livestock breeding sectors, change of land utilization and forest sector and waste materials sector. According to the statistics, it was reported that energy sector would increase emission of greenhouse gas by 8.12 million tons from 7.86 million tons in 2005 and the industrial sector to 0.51 million tons from 0.46 million ton. In the year 2000, a total of 7.7 billion tons of greenhouse gas was absorbed in Myanmar in 2000 and forests absorbed 142.221 million tons of greenhouse gas. Thus, Myanmar stood as the top country in greater absorption of greenhouse gas at that time.

As the developing countries are facing technological difficulties and plenty of expense in collection of greenhouse gas measurement, they cannot submit the annual report on the amount of greenhouse gas emission. Depending on technology assistance and allotment of fund, Myanmar like other developing countries will carry out measurement of greenhouse gas emission in some years.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin replied to questions on health sector raised by six MNA. The deputy minister replied that there is no plan to build one two-storey patient ward instead of overage medical wards from Mindat General Hospital (100-bed). The deputy minister replied that there is no plan to build one two-storey patient ward at that hospital, and the ministry is building and maintaining the structures depending on the allotted funds.

U Hla Soe of Magway Region Constituency No. 12 asked whether there is a plan to upgrade rural health centre of North Khin Nyin Village in Gangaw Township to 16-bed station hospital. The deputy minister replied that Gangaw Township of Magway Region has opened one 100-bed district hospital, one 16-bed Kan Village Station Hospital, one station hospital in Kyaw Village, one station hospital in Min Village, three station hospitals, seven rural health centres and 28 rural health branches.

U Zen Hla of Chin State Constituency No. 2 asked whether there is a plan to construct staff quarters and to repair laboratory hall at Falam Township People’s Hospital. U Aung Cho Oo of Bago Region Constituency No. 11 asked whether there is a plan to construct the building of rural health centre in Sein Kvantal Village in Letset Village-tract of Minhla Township. The deputy minister replied that there is no plan to maintain and construct the buildings at present, and the buildings of rural hospitals, rural health centres and branches of the Ministry of Health will be built depending on the funds allotted by the State.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 4 asked whether there is a plan to build health care insurance law instead of cost-sharing health care system, and if not, why didn’t implement for the law, and if it is when the bill will be submitted to the Hluttaw. The deputy minister replied that with regard to the question, there need fundamental requirements for exercising health care insurance system before promulgation of the health care insurance law. The health insurance must have coverage over the entire people regardless of the rich and poor. Worthy persons can practise the system with insurance fee for setting up the health care insurance system. It must be compulsory as social health insurance system for the majority of the people.

To establish a socio health care insurance system, things that should be considered were economy of the State, management and administration skills, funds for the system, jobs and income in the country and providing health care for the people. The Ministry of Health and UNICEF jointly carried out a survey in 2011 in DaikU and Kyauktaga townships in Bago Region to assess whether a health care cover costs was possible and plans had been making to carry out a “township based health care cover costs programme” in DaikU based on the results of the survey, she said.

A survey on a maternal and child health care voucher system was carried out in Yedashe Township and Nay Pyi Taw Tawkon Township in 2010 and 2011 and the survey showed that the system would help to meet the UN’s millennium development goals and help providing health care to mothers and children in poverty, she said. Preparations were being made to carry out the maternal and child health care voucher system as a pilot project in Yedashe Township, Bago Region, she added.

As part of the township health care system development programme, Ministry of Health and World Health Organization (WHO) had planned to set up a funds for providing health care for mothers and children living in poverty in 20 townships as a first step as from March, 2012. Experts and doctors in the fields had held meetings to exchange views and to assess background and present situations related to health insurance and health care costs, she said.

Measures were being taken to review the health care programmes of the Ministry of Health and other organizations and based on the outcomes of the survey, infrastructures for the health care system would be set up step by step to pave the way for the better system, she said.

To promulgate the “Health Care Insurance Law” instead of “health care costs sharing system”, basis needs for the people were sine qua non for the socio health insurance system. Only after the basic needs for the people were fulfilled, measures for promulgation of the law should be taken within a certain period. Therefore, the Ministry of Health is not yet drawn a health care insurance law currently, she said.

U Saw Ohn of Mon State constituency No. 9 seconded the report of the Amyotha Hluttaw’s Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee, saying that he seconded the questions and proposals raised and submitted by the committee during the second regular session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw. There were 320 questions were raised and 31 proposals which had been approved during the second regular session which was held from 22, August, 2011 to 16, November, 2011, he said.

Out of the questions, 48 were raised to Ministry of Construction and 43 to Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, showing that the two ministries were major ministries to fulfill the requirements of the people, he said. According to the review of answers of the responsible personnel of the union ministries, they satisfied the answers of Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Health as the answers reflected the plans to be implemented by the ministries, he said.

During the second regular session, he raised two questions: asking the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation whether the ministry had made arrangements for the slided down-stream outlet channels of the Mawlamyine Shince Gate and Sayaw Shince Gate in Thaung Township, Mon State. The deputy minister for Agriculture and Irrigation replied that the ministry would carry out the task depending on the budget allocation for the ministry. The questioner, the people and the farmers did not like the answer. He submitted the proposal related to the gambling on 13, September, 2011, during the second regular session, suggesting to do campaigns to root out all forms of gambling which harmed the micro credit schemes for poverty reduction, he said.

He suggested the Amyotha Hluttaw’s Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee to compile the answers of the Union-level personnel, to get reports within the first week of a next regular session from questioners on measures taken for questions and proposals and to review and assess the government’s guarantees, pledges and undertakings regarding the questions and proposals and to coordinate with the Union Government. He urged the committee to carry out its tasks earnestly to conserve the dignity of Amyotha Hluttaw as it was the responsibility of the committee to carry out the main tasks of the Hluttaw.

U Nyau Lin of the committee submitted a proposal to accept the report of the Amyotha Hluttaw’s Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee and the hluttaw approved it.

(See page 10)
Eighth day third regular session...

(from page 9)

Member of Bill Committee U Sun Dot Tan put forward the proposal to consider Labour Dispute Settlement Bill sent by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments by Amyotha Hluttaw, together with the report of the committee. Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill could submit their name lists.

Member of Bill Committee U Kyaw Kyaw read out and explained the report of the committee on suggestion of the Amyotha Hluttaw representative on Vacant Land, Fallow Land and Virgin Land Management Bill. In seeking approval for Vacant Land, Fallow Land and Virgin Land Management Bill which had been approved by Amyotha Hluttaw and sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments, the bill was approved as amended by Amyotha Hluttaw as there was no vote. Dr Myat Nyana Soe submitted the proposal to promptly submit the differences between the approval of Amyotha Hluttaw and that of Pyithu Hluttaw to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and seek its decision. Amyotha Hluttaw decided to submit the bill to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Member of Bill Committee Dr Myat Nyana Soe read out report of the committee on suggestions of Amyotha Hluttaw representatives on Environmental Conservation Bill sent with amendments by Pyithu Hluttaw. In seeking approval for Environmental Conservation Bill which had been approved by Amyotha Hluttaw and sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments, the bill was approved as amended by Amyotha Hluttaw as there was no vote.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe submitted the proposal to promptly submit the differences between the approval of Amyotha Hluttaw and that of Pyithu Hluttaw to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and seek its decision. Amyotha Hluttaw decided to submit the bill to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

In seeking approval of Amyotha Hluttaw for Social Welfare Bill, the bill was approved as amended by Amyotha Hluttaw as there was no vote.

U Nyan Lin of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (3) submitted the proposal that “the Union government is urged to add political science as additional subject in universities under management of respective Union ministries” and a Hluttaw representative seconded the proposal.

As the Hluttaw agreed to discuss the bill, Hluttaw representatives willing to discuss the proposal could submit their name lists.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency (4) submitted the proposal that “the Union government is urged to extensively teach art subjects in basic and higher education levels create more job opportunities for graduates in Arts” and a Hluttaw representative seconded the proposal.

As the Hluttaw agreed to discuss the bill, Hluttaw representatives willing to discuss the proposal could submit their name lists.

U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (6) submitted the proposal that “the Union government is urged to improve education standard” and a Hluttaw representative seconded the proposal.

As the Hluttaw agreed to discuss the bill, Hluttaw representatives willing to discuss the proposal could submit their name lists.

Today’s Amyotha Hluttaw regular session concluded at 4.20 pm.

Third regular session of first Mandalay Region Hluttaw held

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Feb—The eleventh day the third regular session of first Mandalay Region Hluttaw continued for third day at 10 am today, attended by Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Win Maung and 73 representatives.

Six questions were answered; Mandalay Region budget bill for 2012 approved by the Hluttaw, date set for 10 am today.

Fourteen questions were answered, one report was submitted and approval was sought for it, four bills were discussed and three new proposals were submitted.

Third regular session of first Rakhine State Hluttaw continues

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Feb—The third regular session of first Rakhine State Hluttaw continued for fifth day at 10 am yesterday.

At today’s session, 25 questions were answered and one proposal and Rakhine State budget bill for 2012 discussed.

The session concluded at 3.30 pm.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Council members encourages eye patients

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Feb—Nay Pyi Taw Council Members Dr Paing Soe and Dr Than Aung encouraged 17 glaucoma patients who underwent successful eye operations at Nay Pyi Taw People’s Hospital (200-bed) yesterday evening. The free-of-charge programme is second one jointly organized by the Health Ministry and Nay Pyi Taw Council. The two members presented glasses and cash assistance to them. 21 eye patients to recover normal sight in the first programme.—MNA

CBM Governor receives WB official

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Feb—Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein received Lead Economist Mr Mathew Verghis and party of the World Bank at his office, here, yesterday morning.

They cordially discussed technical assistance to be provided by the World Bank for drafting monetary policies and financial policies of Myanmar.

Also present at the call were the vice-governor and heads of divisions of CBM.—MNA

Summer sports classes in the offing

YANGON, 29 Feb—In view to ensuring new generations in selected Myanmar sport teams, summer sports classes are going to be open in Nay Pyi Taw, and other regions and states from 12 March to 6 April.

The classes will involve tracks and fields, swimming, golf, volley ball, football, weightlifting, boxing, judo, table tennis, tennis, basketball, Myanmar martial arts (Taing), Myanmar traditional canoeball (Chinlone), karatedo, taekwondo, gymnastics, wushu, Sepak Takraw, badminton, cycling, chess, rowing, bodybuilding and physical beauty, yachting, hockey, archery, baseball, cricket, shooting, billiard & snooker, bowling and aerobic games. Youths may contact related sport federations for enrolment.—MNA

Second day third regular session of first Shan State Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29—The third regular session of the first Shan State Hluttaw continued for second day at 10 am on 28 February, with the attendance of State Chief Minister U Soe Aung, Speaker of State Hluttaw U Sai Lone Saing and 135 representatives.

At today’s session, 20 questions were answered, additional budget allocation bill of Shan State for 2012 and the budget bill of Shan State for 2012 submitted, three proposals presented yesterday by four Hluttaw representatives discussed, two proposals withdrawn, one proposal put on record, and three new proposals submitted. Today’s session concluded at 3.45 pm.—MNA

Eleventh day third regular session of first Mandalay Region Hluttaw held

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Feb—The eleventh day the third regular session of first Mandalay Region Hluttaw was held at 10 am today, attended by Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Win Maung and 73 representatives.

Six questions were answered; Mandalay Region budget bill for 2012 approved by the Hluttaw, date set for approval of Mandalay Region budget bill for 2012.

The meeting concluded at 11.10 am today.—MNA

Third regular session of first Kachin State Hluttaw continues

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Feb—The third regular session of first Kachin State Hluttaw continued for third day at 10 am today, with the attendance of Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsei, Speaker of State Hluttaw U Rawonjane and 49 representatives.

Fourteen questions were answered, Kachin State budget bill for 2012 approved for 2012 approved by the Hluttaw at today’s session; three proposals presented yesterday discussed, three new proposals submitted.

Today’s session concluded at 12.30 pm.—MNA

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung inspected functions of Sule Jetty under Myanmar Port Authority, the Ministry of Transport, on 27 February.—MNA

Ministry of Finance and Planning U Soe Aung, the vice-governor in charge of the Ministry of Finance and Planning, said the government has finalized the budget, the finance minister will discuss with the cabinet and introduce the budget bill in the upcoming sessions.

Summer sports classes in the offing—MNA

Third regular session of first Shan State Hluttaw continues
The extended right North Yama canal project was launched with a ceremony at the pavilion near North Yama Dam in Pale Township, Sagaing Region yesterday morning.

Present at the launch were Chairman of Rural Socio-Economic Development Sub-committee Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Aye, Deputy Speaker of Sagaing Region Hluttaw U Thaung Sein, Region Hluttaw representatives, Region Agriculture and Livestock Minister U Sein Win, heads of departments, local people and farmers.

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan made a speech on the occasion. He said that local people in the past had to rely only on rain water for agriculture, adding that with the emergence of South Yama Dam and North Yama Dam in the time of the Tatmadaw government, villages in Yinmabin and Salingyi Townships were accessible to irrigated water and had been able to extensively engage in double and triple cropping patterns. This largely contributed to development of socio-economic status of rural people, he said.

At present, an extended right North Yama canal is being built along with North Yama Dam feeder tanker, and upon the completion of the project, it will be able to irrigate 9000 acres of farmlands. And the project will bring about more development of socio-economic status of local people, he noted.

He said that the more paddy can be produced the more benefit the State and the people can enjoy, for half of the global population consume rice.

In the time of the Tatmadaw Government, altogether 8230 underground water tapping undertakings, 327 river water pumping stations and 371 dams and reservoirs were constructed for agricultural purpose. And now at the time of the new government, steps are being taken based on sound infrastructures already in place.

As the new government is an administration chosen by the people, it is undertaking a series of activities for national development, development of socio-economic status of each citizen, for each citizen to be able to live a life of freedom in accord with the law and prevalence of peace and stability.

Meanwhile, it is in the process of creating jobs, inviting foreign investment for development of socio-economic status of people. With this end in view, Kyaukpyu Deep Sea Port is being implemented while introducing the investment law and laws as to Dawei Special Economic Zone and Thilawa Special Economic Zone. And as to trade sector, it has embarked on a spate of reforms.

Besides, people should feel duty bound to help in the tasks being implemented by the new government for flourishing of democracy and human rights and development of socio-economic status of people as the new government is putting the eight tasks of rural development and poverty alleviation into operation.

Then, Union Minister U Myint Hlaing said that Sagaing Region is the third granary in Myanmar and the region is more accessible to grow mix and double crops in all seasons now than before, thanks to other dams including Thaphanseik Dam.

The Region Chief Minister expressed wonders that extra paddy is arranged to be exported, and stressed that North Yama Reservoir would be a great facility to give more benefits to distributing irrigation water into acre of farmlands because of its large irrigation system.

Chief Minister U Tha Aye said that rural people are enjoying fruits, thanks to dams—North Yama, Taungyama Dams, Myaukkyauma supporting dam and Hlaingchaung dam and Kantaung dam—facilitated in the township. Besides, using irrigation water of North Yama Reservoir being implemented, rural people could grow summer paddy and double and mix crops.

After that, townelder U Myint Win of Kyaukpyu Village expressed words of thanks on behalf of the locals.

Union Ministers U Kyaw Hsan and U Myint Hlaing, Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye gave Palethwe hybrid seeds, packed Palethwe rice, and model rice to the rural farmers.

The Union Ministers and the Chief Minister poured cements to the place for the water outlet and paid a view to storage of water in North Yama Dam in a motorcade.

It is known that, the extended right North Yama’s main canal, installed with a total of 171 cubic metres per second and 17.25 miles long its tributary canals are 43.72 miles long in total, and upon completion, the facility would distribute irrigation water to about 9000 acres of farmland.

The project is being carried out with the use of 30 units machinery so as to provide irrigation water in coming summer season.—MNA

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**MWD free channels on test**

**Mandalay, 29 Feb—**Myawady TV is running on test in broadcasting seven free channels, namely MWD Variety, MWD Movies, MWD Series, MWD Music, MWD Documentary and MWD Shopping in two sections from 7 am to 8.30 am and from 4 pm to 10 pm daily as of 13 February.

The TV lovers may enjoy the programmes without receiving them through MPF-4 system.

Digital transmitters have been installed on the Sagaing Hill for re-transmitting the programmes to Mandalay and its surrounding areas.

The local people can enjoy the programmes from the channels with the use of UHF antenna, MPEG-4 receivers, Conditional Access Cards.

These equipment are available one set per K 29500 to electronics shops in Mandalay.

Kyemon

**TV set donated to library**

**YANGON, 29 Feb—**With a view to broadening horizon of the local people, the donation of a 21-inch TV and related equipment for Soe Yazar Library in Ward 7 of Swohaythla Township was held at the library on 18 February.

**Cash donated to medical fund**

**THABAUNG, 29 Feb—**The cash donation to the medical fund of Thabaung Township People’s Hospital was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 16 February morning.

**Township Administrator U Tin Aung extended greetings. Wellwisher U Maung Maung Soe explained the purpose of donations. Township Medical Officer Dr Thant Lwin accepted K 3 million donated by wellwisher U Maung Maung Soe.—Township IPRD

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Rural library opened in Mindon Township

**MINدون, 29 Feb—**A ceremony to open new building of Moe Thauk Pan Library was held in Pyayungya Village of Mindon Township, Thayet District, Magway Region, on 12 February morning.

Departmental officials formally opened the new building.

Magway Region Hluttaw representative U Thein Zaw donated K 20,000 and books and publications, Township Administrator U Saw Tun, Oo, Township Women’s Affairs Organization and Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association K 10,000 each and books, U Kyaw Soe Wai, Daw Khin Soe Moe TV and video player, Information and Public Relations Department and other departments 597 books and publications to the library.

The building was constructed at a cost of K 1 million provided by the State and K 1.5 million by local people.

Township IPRD

MLF invites wellwishers to donate cash, books

Myanmar Libraries Foundation is giving encouragement to broadening the horizon of the people and developing self-reliant libraries across the nation.

Those wishing to donate cash and books to the libraries may contact Myanmar Libraries Foundation at No. 228 on Theinbyu Street in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Tel: 01-371342, 01-201936 and 01-398756.

Wellwishers Ward 7 administrator U Mya Soe—Daw Khin Mar Cho, son Captain Nay Soe and daughter Ma Yamin Myat Soe presented donations to Head of Township IPRD Daw Ohn Nyunt.

Myanma Alin

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**Extended right North Yama canal project kicking into high gear**

**Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister U Myint Hlaing and Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye pouring cements for construction of extended North Yama canal.**

**MNA**

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**Cash donated to medical fund**

**THABAUNG, 29 Feb—**The cash donation to the medical fund of Thabaung Township People’s Hospital was held at the hall of Township General Administration Department on 16 February morning.

**Township Administrator U Tin Aung extended greetings. Wellwisher U Maung Maung Soe explained the purpose of donations. Township Medical Officer Dr Thant Lwin accepted K 3 million donated by wellwisher U Maung Maung Soe.—Township IPRD**
A Russian news agency reported the crash of two pilots, the flight, slightly injuring one.

VLADIVOSTOK, 29 Feb—A Russian Su-30 jet fighter crashed on Tuesday in the Far East region during a test flight, slightly injuring one of the two pilots, the RIA Novosti news agency reported.

The accident occurred at 10:20 am Moscow time (0620 GMT) some 130 km northeast of Komsomolsk-on-Amur, Khabarovsk Krai, according to the report. “Both crew members ejected safely but one was hurt on landing,” a regional administration source quoted as saying.

The aircraft belonged to the Komsomolsk-on-Amur Production Corporation, according to the report.

A Shaolin monk performs Kongfu in New York City’s Grand Central Station on 28 Feb, 2012. Invited by the Ringling Bros. Circus, Shaolin Temple Wushu Training Centre presents a show in New York to demonstrate China’s martial arts.—INTERNET

Two banks firebombed in Chile

SANTIAGO, 29 Feb—Two masked people set off fire bombs on Monday at two bank branches in Santiago, causing damage but no injuries, Chilean police said.

A Banco Santander office and a Banco Santander branch in Cucao, a Santiago suburb, were attacked.

Security cameras captured images of two masked individuals planting a bomb at the Banco Santander ATM, which was completely destroyed, Carabineros militarized police force Capt. Cristian Acevedo told reporters.

“A search of the sector was conducted and no pamphlets or situations pointing to a specific group have been found,” Acevedo said.

The Bancosto branch sustained “great damage to the main inner door, the structure of the ceiling and the building’s windows,” Acevedo said.

More than two dozen bomb attacks have been staged in Chile since 2006, targeting banks, large corporations, churches and public buildings. In November, the trial of half a dozen suspects accused of setting off 20 bombs between 2006 and 2010 started at the Justice Centre in Santiago.

Responsibility for the blasts is usually claimed by anarchists or anti-globalization groups.—INTERNET

New flu virus found in Guatemalan bats

BEIJING, 29 Feb—A new type of influenza virus has been found in fruit-eating bats in Guatemala, according to China’s state media’s report. The finding was published Monday in the American journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The virus, identified belonging to a family of flu viruses called Influenza A, was isolated by a team of American and Guatemalan researchers from the bats captured in Guatemala. There is still no evidence that the virus can cause illness among people, the researchers said. “Fortunately, initial laboratory testing suggests the new virus would need to undergo significant changes to become capable of infecting and spreading easily among humans,” said Ruben Donis, a researcher from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the United States.

Bats so far haven’t been known to contribute to human flu, but they have been found carrying a number of diseases that can affect people, including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), according to the study.—Xinhua

India ready to help fight piracy in Africa

UNITED NATIONS, 29 Feb—India has expressed readiness to contribute to international efforts to tackle the threat of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. “India stands ready to contribute to international efforts aimed at increasing effective cooperation among States in the region to tackle the threat of piracy and armed robbery at sea,” India’s Permanent Representative Hardeep Singh Puri told the UN Security Council on Monday.

Piracy off both coasts of Africa shows the instability prevalent in the region and the reach of organized terrorist and criminal groups, he said noting pirate attacks are adversely affecting the emerging oil industry of the region as well as the commercial shipping and maritime trade.

India has been at the forefront of highlighting the menace of piracy off the coast of Somalia and stressing the urgent need for the international community to work towards a comprehensive counter-piracy strategy, Puri said. India is also concerned about the surge in piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, including its economic and social cost,” he said.

“While the two situations are quite different in proportion at this stage, it is quite possible that the failure of the international community to act decisively against piracy off the coast of Somalia could have spawned a new surge in piracy in the Gulf of Guinea,” Puri said.

Time has now come for the Council to translate the attention it has been paying to the problem into a concrete plan of action.”

The Indian envoy also stressed that this being a regional problem, it is necessary that action should involve full cooperation of the international community, led by the United Nations, with the countries of West Africa and regional and sub-regional organizations.

The Indian envoy also stressed that this being a regional problem, it is necessary that action should involve full cooperation of the international community, led by the United Nations, with the countries of West Africa and regional and sub-regional organizations.

China launches national drug complaints centre

BEIJING, 29 Feb—China opened a national centre to receive complaints on pharmaceuticals, health food products, cosmetics and catering. The centre handles reports of wrong-doings during research, development, production, distribution and utilization, reported Xinhua.

It is also responsible for coordinating efforts to inspect the enterprises and individuals concerned, forming analysis reports and publicizing investigation reports.

China has seen recurring drug and food safety scandals in recent years and the government over the months has introduced a series of measures to boost food and drug safety.—INTERNET

A man looks at his mobile phone during the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona on 27 Feb, 2012. The 2012 Mobile World Congress, the world’s biggest mobile fair, will be held 27 February to 1 March in Barcelona.—INTERNET

Two banks firebombed in Chile.
James Bond goes IMAX

LONDON, 29 Feb—James Bond fans will get full sensory overload when the newest film, “Skyfall,” comes out in IMAX format in US theaters on Wednesday. The IMAX format, developed in Canada, offers images of far greater size and resolution than average film systems. It does not have an embedded soundtrack as normal film does. Instead, it offers separate six-channel, 35mm magnetic channel, which is synchronized to the film for greater impact.

The leads, Daniel Craig, Javier Bardem, Andy Samberg, and Daniel Craig, are set to present alongside actor Tom Hanks at the 2014 Annual Academy Awards in Hollywood on Sunday but cancelled her appearance because of the injury, reports her husband. “It’s the thing that bothers me more than anything,” she says. “I really hope everyone kept her away. It’s not the first time she’s had to turn over any money. Officers said she was searching for the suspect, described as a Latino man, about 30 years old and about 5 feet, 10 inches tall.

Halle Berry missed Oscar ceremony due to injured leg

The 45-year-old was set to host the 85th Academy Awards on Sunday. She was hospitalized after breaking her foot in a stunt gone wrong. This is not the first time that she has hurt herself on set. It is not the first time that she has been hit by a boom on the set of 2004’s “Catwoman,” said a spokesperson for Warner Bros. Halle won the Oscar for the best actress in 2002 for her work in “Monster’s Ball.”

Celine Dion cancels act: laryngitis

LAS VEGAS, 29 Feb—Doctors say illness in her vocal chords caused singer Celine Dion to cancel four more shows after missing her vocal chords. The Las Vegas Sun reported on Sunday.

Sean Young arrested outside Oscar bash

LOS ANGELES, 29 Feb—Actress Sean Young was arrested after allegedly slapping a security guard who asked her repeatedly to leave the entrance of a Hollywood Oscar party, TMZ said. The “Ace Ventura: Pet Detective,” “A Kiss Before Dying” and “Blade Runner” star didn’t have a ticket to the event. The accident occurred in 2002 for her work in “Monster’s Ball.”

Elton John party raises $5.25m for the fight against HIV/AIDS

The 20th annual Elton John AIDS Foundation Academy Awards Viewing Party raised $5.25 million for the fight against HIV/AIDS, organizers said on Monday. The list of stars who turned out for the dinner, cocktails and auction was headed by Academy Award-winning Best Actor Jean Dujardin. The pop band Foster and the People performed their hit “Pumped Up Kicks.” “Helena Beat” and “Don’t Stop (Colour on the Walls)” were among the tunes played. British singer/pianist Elton John performed at the Royal Opera House in London on 28 Jan, 2011.—Associated Press

‘Valor’ conquers US box office

LOS ANGELES, 29 Feb—“AzotV of Valor,” withjed Navy SEALs on screen, took the top spot at the box office for Oscar weekend with $24.7 million in gross US receipts. “Tyler Perry’s Good Deeds,” written and directed by Tyler Perry and starring, well, Tyler Perry, was second with $16 million. All studio estimates of gross US box office receipts were via Box Office Mojo. “Journey 2: The Mysterious Island” was third with more than $13.4 million; “Safe House” fourth with $14.4 million; “The Vow” fifth with $11.5 million; “Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance” sixth with $8.8 million; “This Means War” seventh with $8.5 million; “Wanderlust” eighth with $6.6 million; “Gone” ninth with $5 million.

Celine Dion

Singer Celine Dion

Nurse Halle Berry

Police in San Diego said a would-be robber who armed himself with a fluorescent light bulb was foiled when a clerk refused to hand over any cash. Investigators said the man walked into the Washington Street Shell Station just prior to 11 pm Monday, brandished the light bulb and smeared it on the desk, The San Diego Union-Tribune reported on Tuesday. Police said Champion was treated for stab wounds and jailed on charges of armed robbery and aggravated battery.
Top-seeded Isner advances at Florida tennis

DELRAY BEACH, 29 Feb — Top seed John Isner eased his way through his Delray Beach opener but second and third seeds Marin Cilic and Viktor Troicki exited after losing their matches in three sets. World number 11 Isner needed a 32-point second set tie-break to out American wild card Jesse Levine 6-4, 7-6(17/15) as he secured his 544,520 Delray Beach International Championships.

Jürgen Melzer, who won the Memphis Open title last week, was also eliminated in his opening match on Tuesday. Isner faces Julian Beneteau in the second round and has seven singles titles to his name. He was also 2012 Delray Beach singles champion.

Isner's only other appearance this year was in the Memphis Open where he was also eliminated in the second round.

Poland's head coach Franciszek Smuda. As they brace to face Portugal in what looks likely to be one of their toughest encounters in the buildup to Euro 2012, co-hosts Poland say their squad for June's tournament is all but ready, but experts have big doubts. —INTERNET

Doubts linger over Poland Euro 2012 squad

WARSAW, 29 Feb — As they brace to face Portugal in what looks likely to be one of their toughest encounters in the buildup to Euro 2012, co-hosts Poland say their squad for June's tournament is all but ready, but experts have big doubts. With just 100 days to go until the European championships, the Polaks on Wednesday take on tournament qualifiers Portugal in a match that also marks the opening game in Warsaw's brand-new National Stadium.

Like fellow hosts Ukraine, Poland have an automatic berth at the 16-nation championships and have had to rely on friends to get ready. Having skirted their qualifying campaign for the 2010 World Cup, they will not have played a competitive match since the end of 2009 by the time they kick off Euro 2012 against Grooves in Warsaw on 8 June. Their friendsides since then have been patchy, the up for manager Franciszek Smuda, a grapefruit that was put in charge after Dutchman Lo Bollenhakker failed to steer the squad to the Cup. The often-criticized Poland national coach, has revealed last week that it was clear the former swing coach only cares about self-promotion. Haney's book was written with help from Jaime Diaz, a senior writer at the magazine that has covered Woods more extensively than anyone over the years. In one of the excerpts, Haney, a McKinley, Texas, golf guru, said his job became more difficult in 2007, when Woods had 12 majors and was getting closer to the record 18 won by Jack Nicklaus.

French national football coach Hugo Lloris stops the ball during a training session in Bremen, northern Germany. —INTERNET

Lloris named France captain for Euro 2012

PARIS, 29 Feb — Lyon goalkeeper Hugo Lloris will captain France at Euro 2012, national coach Laurent Blanc announced on Tuesday. The France squad are in Bremen for a friendly game with Germany on Wednesday evening and at his pre-game Press conference, Blanc was asked whether Lloris would lead his side in this summer’s tournament in Poland and Ukraine. "You can think that, yes," he replied. Lloris made his international debut in a friendly game with Uruguay in November 2008 and has since won 30 caps. "I think that Hugo offers the most guarantees in this role," explained Blanc. "He’ll wear the armband, but don’t forget that he’s not the only important one in the squad. He seems to have the control and the clarity that you need for the role. "It’s a real choice, not a default choice," Blanc had revealed last week that

Woods’ agent criticizes book by former swing coach

PALM BEACH GARDENS, 29 Feb—Tiger Woods’ agent lashed out Tuesday against Hank Haney’s book, saying his “armchair psychology” about Woods was “ridiculous” and that it was clear the former swing coach only cares about self-promotion. Haney’s book about his six years as Woods’ coach is titled, “The Big Miss.” It is to go on sale 27 March, a week before the Masters.

Golf Digest began releasing small excerpts Tuesday on its tablet applications and on its website. Haney’s book was written with help from Jaime Diaz, a senior writer at the magazine that has covered Woods more extensively than anyone over the years. In one of the excerpts, Haney, a McKinley, Texas, golf guru, said his job became more difficult in 2007, when Woods had 12 majors and was getting closer to the record 18 won by Jack Nicklaus.

There was more urgency and less fun. ... He never mentioned Nicklaus’ record, but it started to weigh more heavily at every major,” the excerpt said. “And Tiger’s actions indicated he believed he had less time to do it than everyone thought.”

Haney said the objective of revamping his swing was to preserve his left knee. He also said Woods was seriously considering becoming a Navy SEAL. Woods’ father, Earl, was a green beret in the Army who did two tours during the Vietnam War.—INTERNET

PARKER voted top England player

LONDON, 29 Feb — Tottenham midfielder Scott Parker has been named England’s player of the year for 2011. The 31-year-old midfielder won an online poll on the Football Association’s website after playing in seven of England’s nine matches during the year — including a strong performance in the 1-0 victory over world and European champions Spain in November. Parker grabbed 17% of the 15,000 votes cast in the poll, while Manchester City keeper Joe Hart was second and Manchester United winger Ashley Young third.

Parker said: “I don’t think I ever lost hope that I could make it at international level. I crammed a lot in one year. I realized time was ticking. “The Denmark game [in February, 2011] was pivotal. I came on for 45 minutes and then I got a start against Wales in a big game [in March] and that was massive for me. “I played in midfield with Jack Wilshere and Frank Lampard and we got a great result. It ended up being a great game for me. “From there I played a lot more games. It was a very exciting year for me personally and I’m looking forward to more action.” It’s a proud moment for every time I pull on the England shirt. It’s something I’ve always wanted to do, whenever I was playing outside, whenever I was playing at the park with my mates it was always England you try to emulate and try to be.” Parker won only three caps in seven years prior to making the breakthrough in 2011.—INTERNET

Brazil down Bosnia in friendly after own goal

ST-GALLEN, 29 Feb — Brazil, thanks to a last gasp own goal, beat gallant Bosnia 2-1 in an international friendly here on Tuesday in the five time world champions’ first run out of the year. The 2014 World Cup hosts took a fourth minute lead when Marcelo burst forward to latch onto Dani Alves’ pass, the Real Madrid back then finishing off the move in style, drilling the ball low into the far comer of Asmir Begovic’s goal. Bosnia though were back level nine minutes later. Brazil were largely at fault when the error-prone Chilean defender David Luiz gave the ball away, striker Vedad Ibisevic seizing his chance with Brazil keeper Julio Cesar unable to stop his rather weak effort.

Begovic, who plays his football in England with Stoke, was instrumental in preventing the South American giants reclaiming the advantage in the 17th minute when he saved Leandro Damiao’s attempt.
WBC suspends Chisora indefinitely after brawl

BRITISH BOXER Dereck Chisora has been suspended indefinitely by the WBC for a ‘serious fine’ in an American title fight on Thursday last week.

Chisora, who was fighting for the WBA heavyweight title, was sanctioned by the WBC for his role in the brawl with former champion David Haye during their title fight in Germany.

The WBC said it was also giving Chisora a “serious fine,” but that the amount will be determined after a hearing. Chisora will then be taken off the WBC rankings and is banned from fighting for its title. However, it does not prevent him from fighting for titles sanctioned by the WBA or IBF.

The WBC added that it is demanding that Chisora seeks treatment for anger management, “after which his suspension will be reconsidered.” “Boxers are gentlemen and show to the world an example of honor and fair play when after a tremendous battle, they go to the centre of the ring to pay respect to each other,” the WBC statement said.

Internet

Mayweather says Pacquiao ‘not one of the sharpest’

NEW YORK, 29 Feb — A trumpet blared a fanfare to introduce Floyd Mayweather Jr and Miguel Cotto as fans at the Apollo Theater cheered the start of Tuesday’s news conference to promote their May fight in Las Vegas. Still, there appeared to be more interest in the fight that’s not happening — a matchup between Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao. Mayweather made clear that whether they meet in the ring is about the money — breaking down the shares in what could be boxing’s richest fight ever.

“Just by speaking to Pacquiao on the phone, I mean, he’s not one of the sharpest in the drawer,” Mayweather said. “He faces Floyd Mayweather, he’s not getting 50-50. Not at all. No one is getting 50-50.”

While Mayweather urged Pacquiao to “take the test,” a reference to his demand for random drug testing, payout appears to be the real sore point between Mayweather on one side, and Pacquiao and Top Rank promoter Bob Arum on the other. Arum has said testing is not an issue.

Internet

Village library under construction in Hlaingbwe Township

HLAINGBWE, 29 Feb — Construction of the building of Moelin Kyesin village library commenced in Lower Yeps Village of Hlaingbwe Township in November 2011.

A plan is underway to build the structure for its completion in May 2012. Expenditure in building the structure is being contributed with K 1 million by the State and more contribution by the people.

Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

Murray advances to Dubaïquartes

DUBAI, 29 Feb — Andy Murray’s bid to push on from one of the best performances of his career carried him into the quarter-finals of the Dubai Open with a solid win here Wednesday.

The world number four from Scotland overcame Marco Chiudinelli, the third best Swiss player by 6-3, 6-4, taking him to within one win of a possible rematch with Novak Djokovic.

Last month Murray was close to halting the world number one in the semi-finals of the Australian Open. Now in his first tournament since then, he suggested he may be rebuilding momentum.

Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

The New Light of Myanmar Thursday, 1 March, 2012

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Pyithu Hluttaw session continues for eighth day

Myanmar delegation’s visit to China put on record, eight questions answered, two new proposals submitted

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Feb—The Pyithu Hluttaw session continued for the eighth day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here today, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 351 MPs. The actions of the Hluttaw were put on record, eight questions asked and answered and two new proposals submitted at today’s session.

The Hluttaw put the official goodwill visit of Myanmar delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann to the People’s Republic of China from 22 February, 2012 to 26 February, 2012 at the invitation of Chairman Mr Wu Bangguo of the National People’s Congress of China.

The 11-member delegation led by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, at the invitation of Chairman Mr Wu Bangguo of the National People’s Congress of China, paid a goodwill visit to People’s Republic of China from 22 February, 2012 to 26 February, 2012. On their tour, the Myanmar delegation held talks with Chairman Mr Wu Bangguo of the National People’s Congress, Mr Ju Qinglin, member of Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of Chinese Communist Party, Central Committee and Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, Vice-Chairman Mr Lu Yongxiang of National People’s Congress, Mr Li Yuanchao, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army General Chen Bingde. The tour was a complete success and the talks could bear fruit results, fostering the friendly ties and cooperation between the two influential organization NPC and the Pyithu Hluttaw, strengthening the amicable relationship and cooperation between the people of China and Myanmar.

The Myanmar delegation invited Mr Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the National People’s Congress to pay a visit to Myanmar.

Next, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said that each and every citizen has to abide by the existing laws enacted by the government including the constitution. Time has changed and so has the system. Efforts out of sound judgment are needed for the real system change, which means respecting the 2008 Constitution ratified by the majority of the people. Especially, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives need to respect and abide by more. In addition, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives need to make sure each other Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and related organizations abide by the constitution properly and appropriately. Pyithu Hluttaw representatives have to appreciate their duty-bound legal actions and make mutual cooperation and reciprocal monitoring. The Hluttaw will put the actions of the MPs correctly practicing this concept on record.

Next, the Hluttaw put Hluttaw representatives correctly discharging their duties through mutual cooperation and reciprocal monitoring in line with the existing laws on the record.

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun replied to the queries raised by two Hluttaw representatives.

Regarding the question asked by Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Dagon Myothit (North) regarding the free surgery programme, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin answers.

With regard to irrigated cultivation, hydropower generation and protection of forest-covered areas that conserves above and underground water resources asked by U Mya Aye for developing Shan States, the Union Minister replied that the period from 2004-2005 to 2009-2010 was termed as a five-year plan for declining of erosion, landslides and silting at dams and watershed areas and greening Bago mountain ranges so as to conserve origins of quality teak plantations and maintain the dams and reservoirs that contribute to economic development of the State in agriculture sector. Moreover, the second five-year plan is being implemented from 2010-2011 to 2014-2015.

Up to now, ten main tasks such as conservation of natural forests, natural plant propagation, establishment of forest plantations, upgrading natural forests, seizure of illegal tappers, establishment of local people-owned forests and model forest villages, extension of educative works, use of firewood-substitute fuel, availability of water, designation of natural teak reserves and research works. Moreover, a total of 20000 acres of watershed areas are being nurtured on watershed areas of 63 important dams in Bago Region.

With the technological assistance and cooperation of international organizations, the ministry is carrying out control and reduction of carbon emission and gas emission from deforestation harming the climate change and causing natural disasters in Bago mountain ranges. Joining hands with Forest Management Division of Korea and International Tropical Timber Organization, the ministry is undertaking the tasks of conducting the human resources development trainings and workshops and seeking technological assistance from foreign countries. Moreover, the ministry is drawing the pilot plans in cooperation with UN-REDD Programme.

Regarding the second question on extraction of teak and hardwood in Bago Region exceeding that of other regions and states, the Union Minister replied that about 25 per cent on average of timber

Eighth day third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continues Donation to Amyotha Hluttaw Library recorded, eight questions answered, one report approved, four bills discussed, three new proposals submitted

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Feb—The eighth day third regular session of the first Amyotha Hluttaw continued at the Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of the Hluttaw Complex, here, at 10 am today.

It was attended by Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and 204 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

The Amyotha Hluttaw announced that the cash donation of Amyotha Hluttaw representatives for the library of Amyotha Hluttaw was put on record.

As two Hluttaw representatives asked questions on environmental conservation and forestry sector, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun replied to the questions.

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