We have been working very hard as we saw a lot of people at home and abroad who had strides. Actually, it is a long-term endeavour for perpetuity and burgeoning of a Myanmar eternal principles flourish? No, we still have much more to do. We will have to make the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives good health and happiness.

Esteemed Speaker and representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw,

Under the Section 210 of the Constitution, I am here explaining the policies of the State, accomplishments of the government within a year and future programmes through this Hluttaw for public knowledge.

First, I wish the entire nation, all citizens who became expatriates for certain reasons, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives good health and happiness.

This month marks the first anniversary of the transfer of the administrative power to our government. On this occasion, I through Hluttaw representatives would like to present a brief account of our government’s achievements, ongoing tasks and future programmes to our compatriots who have entrusted the State executive power to us.

Our vigorous constitutional democratic transition has now systematically reached a peaceful path. The international media has named our democracy transition ‘Burma spring’ or ‘Myanmar spring’. As our stable and correct transition is gaining more and more international recognition, we need continuous efforts to win further trust. Our country is in the transition to a system of democracy with the constitution as the core. In fact, it is the uniqueness of our country and our people.

We have already completed building a new nation where genuine democracy and eternal principles flourish? No, we still have much more to do. We will have to make more strides. Actually, it is a long-term endeavour for perpetuity and burgeoning of a Myanmar democratic society. We had achievements as well as challenges during the one-year period. We have been working very hard as we saw a lot of people at home and abroad who had doubts on our government or who had no trust in our government during the previous year. Our people have experienced numerous governments throughout the successive eras. Our practical endeavours and the objective conditions will bear testimony to the quality of our government. In the meantime, we on our part have already understood and accepted in all seriousness that our present undertakings are on the path vitally important in shaping the future of our country and people.

Our government, in fact, is a turning point to a historic beginning for the next generations. This is our conviction. We also solemnly accept the fact that the extent of success, stability and durability of the transition process of the present government will become the legacy for the future successive governments. When we look at the international media, it will be seen that peace and stability, unity, order and steadfastness are of vital importance in changing from one era to another and from one system to another. If we compare our situation with the current global situation, our democratization process is a successful transition which the people can take as a model with great admiration. Who deserves credit? Not only the government, but also all the stakeholders including political parties, civil societies, members of the Hluttaws, the judicial pillar, the fourth estate media, national race leaders, and the Tatmadaw have been harmoniously taking part in the respective sectors to reach this situation. The main players in fact are the people in other words the entire nationalities of Myanmar. This accomplishment will go down into the annals of our chronicles as a new page of history. Our country has paved the way for a new democratic Myanmar amidst international observers. We must continue to walk on this path paved by all the countrymen in harmony and union. Our democracy will become firmer and firmer if we walk on this path with the resolve that there is no turning back while setting aside differences and working together on common ground.

Mr. Speaker,

Since its assumption of State duties, our government has made efforts to fulfill the two main wishes of the entire people. The first wish of the people is to live in peace and stability. With this public wish in the fore, we have been giving priority to political process for national reconsolidation and eternal peace. We try to implement the “all-inclusive political process” for all the stakeholders to have a place in the process. Nowadays, our political process is showing sound results. We have paved this path with the force of our goodwill and conviction to keep in fore public interest in line with the wish of the entire people. We are happy to see all the internal political forces trying with eagerness to become people’s representatives practicing democracy within the framework of the Constitution.

We have already granted amnesty to over 28,000 prisoners during our first-year term with the aim of ensuring all-inclusive opportunity in national reconsolidation and nation-building tasks. It is a new record in terms of the number of amnesties granted in a year. Frankly speaking, we granted amnesty for two times in January alone for all to take part in the coming by-elections. As we have welcomed back Myanmar expatriates living abroad for various reasons, we now witness with pleasure the eager participation and assistance of overseas Myanmars from various parts of the world. Truly, we need a strong force of new political generation for a mature democracy. The need to build the nation through harmonious efforts by all new and old generations after finding a common ground has direct relevance to the future of the nation and entire people.

The participation of our brethren demanding rights throughout the past successive eras in our all inclusive political process is the most important thing. As we are a Union, the participation of all national races in this process on equal terms is a must. Actually such an opportunity is a never-come-true dream and a fade-away hope of our national brethren throughout the past successive eras. We need to end misunderstandings and doubts that appear due to lack of close relations among us. Like all other national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan, Bamar is also one of the nationalities of the Union. The aspiration of the national races to share the rights among all and enjoy equality is also the desire of our government. Let me take this opportunity to recount the words a national race (See page 6)
PERSPECTIVES
Friday, 2 March, 2012

Promote traditional medicine

In some Asian and African countries, 80% of the population depends on traditional medicine for primary health care. The origin of traditional medicine in Myanmar dates back to thousands of years and is the historical heritage of Myanmar. In Myanmar, 70 per cent of the population resides in rural areas and 90 per cent of them rely on traditional medicine. The global use of traditional medicine has been on the increase as it can treat various infections and chronic conditions.

Traditional medicine is derived from medicinal plants, gift of the nature. So, many people believe that they are safe. It has been the major contributory factor in booming traditional medicine market, leading to an influx of counterfeit or adulterated herbal products into the market. Effective as they are, traditional medicine can cause harmful, adverse reactions if the product is of poor quality, or it is taken inappropriately or in conjunction with other medicines or simply because of overdose.

Even in major cities like Yangon, certain proportion of the population prefer to traditional medicine. Thus, it needs to strictly enforce traditional medicine laws to prevent against counterfeit traditional medicine and ensure people have access to quality-assured traditional medicines. Moreover, the Ministry of Health will have to dissuade people from taking certain herbs and medicines with superficial knowledge.

The Ministry of Health is reported to be conducting rural region-based researches into traditional medicines. It needs to ensure uniformity of the name of the herbs across different places. At the same time, it should be aware that over-extraction of herbal plants may lead to extinction of endangered plant species, for which we should set up herbal gardens to preserve rare herbal medicines.

Myanmar has such traditional cure for chronic conditions as food-based remedy, massage and healing for snake bite. The Health Ministry will have to promote such treatment while researching on mixed treatment to produce better results. In addition to conference and paper-reading session like the one recently held in Mandalay, more training, collaboration and communication among providers of traditional and other medicines are needed to push back the frontiers of traditional medicine and ensure patient safety.

Daw Khin Saw Hnin meets members of MCWAs, WAOs in Magway Region

Patron of MWAF and MMCWA Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Vice-President, holds meeting with members of MCWA and Women’s Affairs Organization of Magway Region.—MNA

Nav Pyi Taw, 1 March—Wife of the Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Patron of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Saw Hnin on 28 February morning met members of MCWA and Women’s Affairs Organization of Magway Region at the Region WAO Office.

Speaking at the meeting, Daw Khin Saw Hnin said that the organizations are civil voluntary organizations contributing to the State. She stressed the need for MCWA for improvement of education, economic and social tasks for the women. She noted that she took pride for participation of association members in development tasks with their utmost efforts.

The Patron of Magway Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee submitted the briefed reports of the committee and the chairperson of Magway Region WAO, the briefed submission on its tasks.

Daw Khin Saw Hnin presented K 300,000 each to WAOs and MCWAs of 25 townships in Magway Region.

On arrival at Magway Township MCWA on 29 February morning, Daw Khin Saw Hnin comforted expectant mothers. She donated cash to the delivery room of the association and presented nourishing stuff to expectant mothers and pre-primary children.

After visiting the Ayethida Home for the Aged in Yenangyoung, she donated foods, medicines and cash assistance to five grandpas and 26 grandmas.

Ayethida Home for the Aged was established by merchant U Kyi Thein-Daw Myint Myint Kyi of Yenangyoung in 1997. It was recognized by Social Welfare Department in 2000. U Kyi Thein and wife Daw Myint Myint Kyi are providing assistance to the home.

Daw Khin Saw Hnin and party attended the ceremony to present aids to the aged, organized by Yenangyoung, at the office of Yenangyoung Township GAD, and presented foods, rice, edible oil and medicines to the aged. An older person spoke words of thanks.

The wife of the Vice-President met members of Yenangyoung Township MCWA and WAO.

The chairperson of the Township MCWA and executive of WAO reported on their respective sectors.

After the meeting, she cordially greeted members of WAO and MCWA.—MNA

Entrepreneurs urged to uplift cooperative societies

Nav Pyi Taw, 2 March—Minister of the Union for Cooperatives and Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint on 28 February morning met members of Nagyin Township Cooperatives.

U Ohn Myint underscored the need to promote traditional medicines or simply because of overdose. Moreover, the Ministry of Health will have to dissuade people from taking certain herbs and medicines with superficial knowledge.

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Obama meets with Hill leaders on jobs

WASHINGTON, 1 March—President Obama had a “cordial” and “constructive” closed-door lunch meeting Wednesday with top congressional leaders to talk about jobs, the White House said. It was the first such meeting since debt-ceiling negotiations broke down last summer, Politico reported.

The newspaper said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., attended.

“It was a constructive and cordial meeting overall,” Boehner said. It was the president, the vice president and the four leaders, White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters.

“They discussed a variety of topics, a range of topics, both domestic and foreign, and they discussed ways that they could build on the bipartisan cooperation that led to the extension of the payroll tax cut, as well as unemployment insurance.”

“As for energy policy, the president stressed that he will continue to focus on an all-of-the-above approach, and an all-of-the-above approach does not mean just drilling. Included drilling.”

Since President Obama took office, domestic oil and gas production has continued to increase, to point where we’re now at an eight-year high, and the president’s very committed to continuing to expand domestic oil and gas production safely and responsibly,” Cantor said.

It was the president, the vice president and the four leaders, who attended the meeting. As for energy policy, the president stressed that he will continue to focus on an all-of-the-above approach, and an all-of-the-above approach does not mean just drilling. Included drilling.

President Obama told Cantor and the president that they have been working together on a legislative package that will help small businesses get access to needed capital.

Boehner left the meeting feeling “hopeful” and “encouraged.” Democrats might consider energy and jobs bills passed by the Republican-led House, The Hill quoted his office as saying.

Iraq car bombs kill six

BAGHDAD, 1 March—Car bombs in northern Iraq on Wednesday killed six people, including two security force members, and wounded at least 16, security and medical officials said. The blast in the capital struck at around 7:30 am (0430 GMT) in the eastern Amman neighbourhood, killing three people and wounding at least nine, an interior ministry official and medical officials said.

Another car bomb in the town of Tuz Khurmatu, 175 kilometres (110 miles) north of Baghdad, detonated at around 8:30 am (0530 GMT) as a joint military-police patrol was passing. Three security force members—an army lieutenant colonel, a policeman and a soldier — were killed, and one soldier was wounded, according to Lieutenant Colonel Issa al-Ameen, the local military commander.

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Iraq car bombs kill six

BENIN, 1 March—A Dutch-owned cargo ship was attacked by pirates on Wednesday morning, it was announced.

A 27-year-old man from Guinea who was in the room attempted to escape by jumping from the balcony. He suffered a broken leg and was taken to hospital.

In another room, police found a 32-year-old Nigerian who threw another car bomb in the town of Tuz Khurmatu, 175 kilometres (110 miles) north of Baghdad, detonated at around 8:30 am (0530 GMT) as a joint military-police patrol was passing. Three security force members—an army lieutenant colonel, a policeman and a soldier — were killed, and one soldier was wounded, according to Lieutenant Colonel Issa al-Ameen, the local military commander.

Gunmen attack tanker off Nigeria: piracy watchdog

KUALA LUMPUR, 1 March—The Panamanian-flagged, Nigerian-owned vessel Kharg was attacked on Wednesday by a group of armed men who boarded the ship around 1 am local time (2200 GMT), the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) said.

It came one day after pirates shot their way onto a Dutch-owned cargo vessel in the area and kidnapped three hostages including the captain, according to the IMB’s vessel-based piracy reporting centre.

Noel Choong, who heads the centre, said no further details were available on the most recent incident, warning that the attackers may still be in the area.

The assault occurred about 80 nautical miles (148 kilometres) south of the Nigerian coast, the centre said.

The IMB, which is funded by shipowners, said it thwarted an attack Sunday that the area’s waters were emerging as a new piracy “hotspot” due to the weak enforcement capabilities of governments in the region.

Before the latest attack, Choong said the piracy centre had received reports of seven attacks off Nigeria and one off neighbouring Benin since 1 January, adding that many more may have gone unreported.

The Nigerian Navy said on Wednesday that it had deployed vessels to search for the Dutch-owned cargo ship involved in the attack that saw the hostages taken.

It was not clear who had control of the vessel and authorities have not yet released details on the hostages, such as their nationalities.

12 Africans arrested in Thailand for drug racket

BANGKOK, 1 March—Thai police, accompanied by US drug enforcement officers, Wednesday arrested 12 Africans on charges of drug dealing in Bangkok’s Bang Kapi District.

Crystal methamphetamine pills and marijuana were also seized from the Africans in the joint operation in Bangkok, Xinhua reported citing Bangkok Post online.

An 80-strong team from the Narcotics Suppression Bureau, the Immigration Police Bureau and the US Drug Enforcement Administration executed 12 search warrants in a raid on a five-storey building in the capital.

Officials found five kg marijuana in a room in the building. A 27-year-old man from Guinea who was in the room attempted to escape by jumping from the balcony. He suffered a broken leg and was taken to hospital.

In another room, police found a 32-year-old Nigerian who threw several crystal methamphetamine pills into the toilet.

The Africans’ visas had expired and some of them do not even have passports, police said. —Internet

Men transport a wounded man to a hospital after a suicide bomb attack in Helmand Province on 29 February, 2012. Six people were wounded including civilians when the suicide car bomber attacked a convoy of foreign troops in Lashkar Gah, capital of the southern Helmand Province, said senior police officials.

INTERNET

70,000 killed in Iraq between 2004-2011

BAGHDAD, 1 March—Terrorism and other acts of violence killed almost 70,000 people in Iraq in eight years between April 2004 and December 2011, the government said on Wednesday.

“This figures represent the total number of victims who fell as a result of terrorist attacks and violence and military operations,” government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said in a statement.

Citing numbers provided by the health ministry and the National Security Council, al-Dabbagh said a total of 69,263 people died and 239,133 were wounded.

The figures were from 5 April, 2004, to 31 Dec, 2011. Baghdad Province suffered the highest number of deaths between 2004 and 2011 at 23,898.

According to Xinhua, the highest annual figure of victims was 2004 and 2011 at 23,898. —The New Light of Myanmar Friday, 2 March, 2012

INTERNET

US concerned about alleged Iran’s links with Latin American drug lords

WASHINGTON, 1 March—US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Wednesday expressed concern about allegations that some Latin American drug trafficking organizations are linked with Hezbollah and Iran.

“We are concerned about the activities of Iran and Hezbollah in the Western Hemisphere,” the top US envoy told the House Committee on Foreign Affairs at a hearing.

Washington brands Hezbollah, a Shiite militant group in Lebanon, as a terrorist organization, while Iran’s disputed nuclear programme is putting it on a collision course with Washington and its allies.

“We continue to monitor the situation closely. We are aware of and concerned about allegations that some Latin American drug trafficking organizations are linked with Hezbollah and Iran,” Clinton said, vowing to take “appropriate action” to counter any threat that may arise.

Acknowledging that Washington has not found information to verify “a lot of the allegations,” Clinton drew attention to Iran’s attempted assassination of the Saudi ambassador to the United States, a case unveiled by US authorities in October 2011, calling it “a very large question mark and wake up call.”

“We are continuing to look for direct links and we are engaged very extensively with our partners in the hemisphere, both to educate them about the dangers posed by Iran and Hezbollah and also to work with them to heighten our intelligence sharing,” she said.

Xinhua

Gunmen attack tanker off Nigeria: piracy watchdog

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It was not clear who had control of the vessel and authorities have not yet released details on the hostages, such as their nationalities.
Health infrastructures built by new government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar for people of Bago Region

**People’s Hospital (50-bed) in Pyu Township**
- New building of the 50-bed People’s Hospital in Pyu Township, Toungoo District, Bago Region was opened on 10 April, 2011.
- It is RC type facility and equipped with one two-storey ward and three one-storey wards.
- The hospital is formed with intensive care unit, x-ray room, operation theatre, out-patient unit, drug store, delivery ward, male ward, female ward, meeting room and doctors’ rest room.
- Thanks to the hospital, more health care service can be provided to local people.
- The region sees outbreak of TB and Malaria. These patients can receive treatment in the short period.

**Tawkywein Station Hospital (16-bed)**
- The station hospital in Kyaukdaga Township, Toungoo District, Bago Region was opened on 10 April, 2011.
- Its structure is RC type facility and built on 4.09 acres of land.
- It is equipped with out-patient unit, operation theatre, x-ray room, drug store, male and female wards, children’s ward and delivery room.

Translation: MT
Though it is not a retold one by a glib talker, the glowering at Bagan, our heart of Myanmar has been amazed with its prior to the 16th century make everyone’s trip memorable. In fact, those uncountable visits and research done on it, are very gloating remarks. The Department of Historical Research (DHR) has been committed to promote History of Myanmar systematically with supportive documents; to search for and collect together within the country and from abroad, the supporting documents of the History of Myanmar; to make research of the History of Myanmar based on the supporting documents searched and collected; to promote the History of Myanmar based upon the findings of the research made according to different era; to seek the required assistance relating to the History of Myanmar from the relevant department, organization and people; to promote and publish relevant historical writing or book, treatise and official records concerning the History of Myanmar and to encourage for the emergence of historians. This Bagan Conference is one of the initiatives of the DHR for 2012. It was convened in collaboration with the Myanmar Ministry of Culture, the Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies with the theme: “Early Myanmar and its Global Connections” at the Bagan Archaeological Museum in Bagan, Myanmar, from 13-14 February 2012. The formal conference on 13-14 February was followed by a further day of site visits in Bagan. An optional bus trip to Bagan from Yangon which was set out from 10 February 2012 made possible to those site visits to ancient Srikestra and Beikthano.

The study of intellectual exchange between the Department of Historical Research and overseas institutions have been done for more than two or three decades ago, but the significance of this conference was that not only its theme which highlighted about “Early Myanmar and its Global Connections” but also the way to its conference venue which took place at the Archaeological Museum in Bagan, nightstopped at Pyay and passed Taungdwingyi en route from Yangon to Bagan by bus.

The conference brought together scholars from Myanmar and abroad for two days of paper presentations on topics relating to the external connections of early Myanmar polities (up to the 16th century). Since the purpose of this gathering was to examine the external linkages of the major Myanmar polities and their urban centres prior to the 16th century. Those papers presented will be subsequently published in an edited volume, was expected to offer a state-of-the-field overview of the relations between historical Myanmar polities and other Mainland Southeast Asian political and cultural centres, including those of the Tai, Thai, Mon and Khmer, as well as with the polities of India, China and maritime Southeast Asia.

The Early Myanmar and those concepts and evidences on its global connections advocated by the earlier scholars since many years ago, have been challenged in various ways over the last four or five decades. The wealth of new emerging trends and those excavated findings and discoveries enable the scholars to have more clearer insights and those interactions made in the past. The scholars who have carried out research on Myanmar came and brought together their ongoing research and those outcomes and reflections in this area of study.

It has often been the case that history of the ancient cities of Myanmar have been examined in splendid isolation, without sufficient reference to their external links which, it must be affirmed, were and remain integral and essential elements for any functioning metropolis in history or today. It is this aspect of regional and broader connectivities of Myanmar polities which it was hoped to underline through this conference.

On the first day of the Conference, it was started with Opening Speech by the Director-General of the DHR and the Welcoming Remarks by the Director of Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre (ISEAS Singapore). There were papers presented by Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt, Mr. Bob Hudson, U Win Kyaw and Dr. Tan Hwa Thwe Ma and Dr. Lei Lei Win. In the evening session, the Keynote lecture by Michael Aung Thwin and three papers by the Dr. Elizabeth Moore, Dr. Goh Geok Yian and Dr. Samerchai Poolsuwan.

The second day of the conference was opened with the Congratulatory Remarks by Union Minister U Kyaw Hlaan and pointed out those endeavours by the ministry on cultural properties against the theft, illicit and illegal trade and trafficking, and transference within and outside country.

He also mentioned that under the purview of the enacted laws concern with cultural property protection, national initiatives undertaken in order to meet those commitments still called for more scholarly endeavours, facilitating to foster more collaborative research, to do more archaeological excavations and documentation of inventories, laboratory analysis, etc. At the same time, staff upgrading for capacity building which is also essential so it is seeking more assistance on active projects and ongoing research, conduct research and training and digital archiving of its rare collections concerned with archaeology, fine arts and historical research.

He also pointed out the International Relations of early Myanmar with its outer world can be seen through religious, cultural and economic exchanges with the challenges of its security, stability in most of its tangible and intangible heritages. He remarked that papers presented by various scholars from different background mentioning the links and findings, artefacts and architecture, mural paintings and inscriptions which held the essence of Early Myanmar, but still to acquire more data and preliminary conclusions for those still to be explored and do research.

In his remarks he said that the Ledo Road was one of the good examples that showed how those interrelationships and exchanges have been done in the past between China-Myanmar and India and those chronicles from China which already mentioned of Pyu mission in 801 AD and those Golden Sheets from Khin Bu Mound with Sanskrit writings showed the relationship of those from Southern India handwritings.

Among the Papers Presenters, according to their specialization, the two main types: Archaeological experts and historians were included. Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt, former Professor of History Department and International Relations and former Director-General of Department of Historical Research, Archaeology Department and Fine Arts Department now who is International Buddhist Missionary University in Myanmar but also Executive Committee member of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association presented “Bagan and its Global Connections: Pre and Post Buddhist Periods” in this paper he focus on successfully arrive of Buddhism and we find the evidence of the very early Bagan’s global contacts. Here we may brieﬂy narrate how Buddhism came from India.

(To be continued)
All must try to see national...

(from page 1)

leader said recently. He said, “18- or 19-year old armed youths told me they too wanted to use laptops and computers”. I was really disheartened to hear that. So, I have made a firm commitment to end all suspicions and anxieties during our tenure. And this is the conviction of our government. We have the duty to heal the bitter wounds and sufferings and fulfill the lost dreams. It is the historic duty for all of us. We understand that it is a demanding task. But we have full confidence to shoulder this duty well. After making contacts with national races leaders our confidence grows stronger.

In truth, trust is a vitally important factor in our national reconciliation process. Sincerely, we will make no deception in our stride to the goal of eternal peace. We will do the job with trust based on Panglong spirit. Questions about Kachin groups are coming from home and abroad. The people would also like to know about this matter. The question here is why the ceasefire cannot be in force even though I myself have ordered the Armed Forces to terminate all military offensives or attacks other than self-defense purposes. The Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services has already relayed my order to all the troops under his command. Orders and directives are the lifeblood of the Armed Forces. The remaining skirmishes will not end just by pointing a finger at one another. First both sides should cease all hostilities to start a political dialogue. There must be mutual assurances and pledges to end all hostilities. It is the duty of our government and the Kachin leaders to fulfill the aspirations and hopes of the people. We have been providing aids and carrying out rehabilitation arrangements for local war victims and paying the way for domestic, foreign and international organizations to render assistance.

Our government has adopted three steps to realize eternal peace. The first step is to hold the dialogue at state level. In this level both sides must stop all hostilities, stay only at the agreed areas, not to hold any arms in other places except from those agreed areas, open liaison offices at the mutually agreed places, and fix the venue, time and date for Union level dialogue. No political dialogue is included in this level. A sincere and genuine wish for peace is the only requirement to complete this level. The scope of the level is just to make an agreement for dialogue after terminating all hostilities.

Second step is the Union level. The points to be discussed at this step are to secede from the Union by no means, accept Our Three Main National Causes, cooperate in economic development tasks, cooperate in elimination of narcotic drugs, take part in political process following setting up of political parties, discuss at length with other national races at Hluttaw and amend the constitution, and coordinate existence of only a single armed force in accord with the constitution. After both sides reach agreement, we will enter third step.

At the third step, agreement will be signed at the Hluttaw comprising all main political players like the government, national race leaders, political parties and political forces and people’s representatives. We must make resolution wholeheartedly to keep undying peace in the Hluttaw. In doing so, we need to bring peace in order that the government, national race leaders, citizens can achieve a goal by way of three pillars—mutual understanding, equality and development. It is required to amend the constitution by common consent so as to address our needs.

The three steps are the roadmap of the State to ensure eternal peace. This roadmap will entail such many strategies as infrastructures, economic opportunities, industrial zones, resettlement and rehabilitation measures, and social measures as education and health. It is compulsory for national race leaders, political parties, people’s representatives and civil society organizations to stand united with our government until national races under the shade of peace can stand tall. We all must try our hardest to see national races youths, who had branded guns, using laptops. By inviting local and foreign investments and welcoming assistance, we must fulfill their requirements from every conceivable angle. Our Union, home to over one hundred national races, must promote the characteristics of diversity with honour in line with the equality which is the standpoint of our government.

Our government as elected by the people has been carrying out bounden duty of national reconciliation aspired by all national people. It was not because of push and pressure of any person and any organization, but the desire of our people. Mr Speaker, the bottom line process along with eternal peace is to develop the Myanmar economy most quickly. The second wish of the people is for our nation to develop with strong economy. In the time of our government, reform measures are being taken for macro-economy by laying down short- and long-term projects so that a market economic system suitable to the nation’s prevailing conditions can emerge clearly. When the global economy is still instable, when our nation has not had the economic sanctions lifted and when our domestic businesses have not been strong enough with lack of competitiveness, we have had to prioritize the prompt issuance of work business licenses and export/import licenses with a view to enabling our citizens to do business easily and conveniently. We relaxed export-related taxes. The new exchange rate of foreign currencies has been set temporarily according to the outside market situation. At the same time, plans are under way to adopt a durable and strong foreign exchange rate that will do no harm to our citizens in cooperation and coordination with local and foreign experts as well as international monetary organizations. In wiping out barriers to the administrative mechanism so as to reduce unnecessary costs and expenditures, we have given permission to export rice freely and taken measures to significantly reduce prices of fuels, telephones and cars. Similarly, we are taking steps to reduce transactional costs. As regards the matter of mobile phone, which is the most interesting issue among the people, we will seek best ways and means to fulfill the wishes of the people. We are making plans to amend and pass laws for the proper evolution of market economy. In order to reduce transport charges in the long run, we will take action to reduce car prices in parallel with those of the international community.

While encouraging the promotion of the private sector in economy, we are conducting institutional reforms for capacity-building of state-owned businesses. Changes and reforms are also taking place in collaboration with international organizations for the flourishing of capital market and financial market as well as for the emergence of conglomerates. In addition, we are encouraging private banks to be economically strong, and light and medium industries to acquire capital and technologies. We will make our continued efforts to reduce the monopolization of public services and to make sure every citizen has the right to enjoy those services. We are taking measures with care and consideration to ensure that privatization is not in the hands of only a handful of people and that there are no inequality and no barrier to capacity-building.

For the emergence of transparent and predictable firms, we are adopting projects that can facilitate business transactions and promote competence. We are indeed promoting the role of private sector seeking valuable advice and suggestions from local and foreign experts in the economic field. The national development strategy of our government is not aimed at developing a class or a community but aimed at developing every aspect of all walks of life, all classes or all the people of the Myanmar polity. We are doing so not only to develop our GDP but also to improve the people’s living standards, the public services like education, health and security and to make sure that the natural environment is not affected by development. While trying to increase the population of middle class that plays a key role in national development, we are creating a sound economic environment by inviting technical know-how, capital investment, expertise and management at home and abroad in order to improve per capita income of the grassroots, create more job opportunities and develop the whole national economic structure in various sectors such as agriculture, industry and service.

Mr Speaker, all the dignitaries including me, the two vice-presidents, Tatmadaw leaders, union ministers, state/region chief ministers, state/region government members and those responsible for legislative and judicial pillars have a sense of oneness to serve the best interests of the nation and the people. We have also known that we are facing various criticisms from various places. We have heard some rumours with negative attitude. As said by some others, our government is not divided into a hard-line camp and soft-line camp. Apart from different aspects of management depending on gene, habit and character of individuals, we are all doing our best with confidence adhering to the policy of our government. At a time when we are in transition to a new era and new system and we are developing the whole society of Myanmar into a democratic one, it is important for the government to be strong. The government shouldering the duty of transition needs to take reform measures step by step in a united and stable manner. So, we need to make sure that the road to our reform process is strong and subtle. Now, we are trying to reduce unnecessary procedures of our cabinet meetings and waste of time as little as possible so as to promote the interests of our nation and people. Government ministries and organizations and state/region governments are to put all their energy into providing public services for the people’s satisfaction and happiness by trying not to waste time holding series of meetings. The corruption rooted in successive eras as a national challenge had been conceived
All must try to see national ...

(from page 6)

through eras and systems. In this time of system change, we are taking educative measures and persuasion, giving warnings and take action with all possible approaches to morality, conviction, ethics, workerize welfare, monitoring, law, principle and procedures. The restructuring of the administrative mechanism down to village/level cells for firm rules and laws that can remove the thorns of successive eras. With the system change and era alongside subtle work plans, corruption and bribery will diecdow. Thus, we're taking time to restructure our ad- ministrative mechanism.

We will try to in- crease salaries and allowances at a right time depending on our macro-economic situations such as our current financial situation, foreign debts and deficits. Since tak- ing office, our government members did not accept high salaries and have been taking the same salary rates of the previous government.

When our nation still has class disparity, widening rich-poor gap and low per capita income, I would like to say that we, civil servants, need to shoulder our duties with goodwill and patience in order to fully provide public services and reduce the burden of extra costs and ex- penditures. As the number of service-personnel accounts for only 3.3 percent of the na- tion’s total population, we have to consider the 96.7% of the population who are just ordinary wage earners. Now that there are discussions of pay rises, commodity prices have skyrocketed suddenly.

As our civil servants can enjoy better living conditions due to increased salaries, the 54 million of people who are not government employees will face the consequences for sure. As we are not in a posi- tion to prioritize our own mechanism alone, we will have to take all-round consid- eration in taking steps to increase salaries and allow- ances. Since taking office, our government has been putting on the priority list the people from rural areas and in the agricultural field. As this according to our national reorganization process.

In increasing taxes necessarily in the short term, we are taking measures with care and consideration in order not to affect the peo- ple’s socio-economy whilst we are acting with good gov- ernance so as to mend defects and weaknesses of the State. But in the long term, we will try to pass a new tax law that can not only guarantee equality and fairness but also cause no burden to our low- income people. And that new law will make all the citizens including the President pay taxes.

Industrial zones are being established across the universities in addition to their traditional libraries. Our government, which is doing the job based on knowledge-oriented economy, has to constantly promote the quality of our teachers and schools with the help of international universities. We are also setting up internet networks and telecommunication networks so as to wipe out our digital divide in this age of technology and knowledge. For national development, we have earmarked money to in- crease spending of the health sector by fourfold and that of education sector by twofold in the coming financial year. With subtle reformation process plus doing so, we have opened the door to investment and assistance from inside and outside of the country.

Investment and as- sistance of one dollar in Myanmar by the interna- tional community amounts to contribution of one dollar for the flourishing of democracy and the interests of Myanmar people. So, the international community is urged to extend a helping hand to Myanmar with in-depth understandings of actual conditions so that our country with democracy still in its infancy will not collapse.

Mr Speaker,

The consolidation of National Press Council is under way in order that media, in order to create estate, can ensure liberty and accountability with the check and balance system in accord with the democratic practices.

At the same time, our country has lagged behind in globalization. In our attempt to make more integration with global nations, we need to try not to lose Myanmar values— culture, traditions, customs, fine arts, theatrical arts, literature and music of all our national races—which our forefathers have been keeping to further strengthen the soft power that prevails in Myanmar values.

In its attempt to make integrations with the ghosts along with the new system, CSOs, playing an important role in promoting the standards of films, music and theatrical arts which can systematize Myanmar values, are trying to highlight and keep the Myanmar values.

Mr speaker,

Three powers have been equally shared in the Constitution which is a charter framework of democratic transition. After practicing these powers equally, the media sector which is fourth estate and government, people and the Tatmadaw which form fifth estate, are to march towards the democratic transition with full understanding and trust. Only then, would our country become a modern, developed and democratic one we all want. Rule of law is at the core for emergence of a glorious democratic society. Our Representative Hluttaw has prescribed laws, our govern- ment rules the country in accord with these laws and judicial, democratic practices. These laws. Rule of law is a must for our administrative mechanism, businesses, social welfare, political processes, international relations and judicial system. If rule of law prevails in our society, human rights, liberty and democracy would flourish automatically.

Consolidation of every step of national building endeavors depends on rule of law. So, we all are to serve that duty in union and in concert.

At the same time, our Myanmar society needs to change our mindsets and behaviors in line with the new democratic practices. Thoughts, ideas and behavior would gradually disappear with the check and balance system if all believe that the country’s system and system have changed.

—SNA

Representatives seen at 17th day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. —SNA
All must try to see national race youths...

(from page 7)

To change the mindsets and behaviors of the whole society through rule of law, we need the support of CSOs. Cooperation of national brethren with equal-minded sense is crucial. In addition, encouragements and supports of global countries are of great importance.

Our government will make cordial and friendly cooperation in the developing international arena. In our effort to serve and promote the national interests of our country and people, we will stick to the independent and active foreign policy that has been exercised throughout successive eras. In making our continued

independent and active foreign policy that has been exercised...
Rejecting age-old ideology of our ancestors…
(from page 16)
Of food, clothing and shelter which are basic needs for daily survival, food is of paramount importance. Food sufficiency is critical to daily growing numbers of people. Today’s world population has 7000 million. But size of the world remains unchanged. So, it is necessary to produce foods twice and thrice to satisfy growing population.

Third regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw…
(from page 16)
behalf of all the people, requested the government to help the country and its citizens rise above poverty.
U Aye Mauk of Mainglan Constituency discussed that he urged the government to put existing investments into effective application; to reinforce it if needed; to suspend new and unnecessary projects; to stop and reduce the capacity of construction, irrigation, industry and rail transportation projects; to postpone them to next FY if needed or to switch into good system as they could be submitted at RE; to stop ordering system and undertakings which are not accorded with the constitution and the law; and to thoroughly manage the budget in accord with the constitution.
U Aung Thein Lin of South Okkalapa Constituency discussed that concrete roads would minimize fund wastage by slow progress of new roads running round in circles of repairing tared roads if a plan for upgrading roads into concrete ones well-matched with the weather of the country with heavy rainfall.
He said requested budget for each department of the Ministry of Science and Technology should be reduced by 20 per cent and human resources development, providing teaching aids needed by technological universities and equipping students with sufficient numbers of computers should be prioritized in policy, objectives and procedures of the said ministry.
U Khet Htein Nan of Kachin State Constituency (1) suggested that the roads should be laid by the Ministry of Information for air programmes of ethnic races from MRTV as prescribed in Paragraphs (a) and (b) of Section (22) of the constitution to help develop language, literature, arts and culture of national people, national unity, camaraderie and friendship.

Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Basketball Tournament kicks off
NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan delivered an address at the opening ceremony of the 5th Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Basketball Tournament 2012 at the basketball ground of Sports Complex in Zabuthiri Township.
He urged the athletes to happily and friendly take part in the tournament with the aim of ensuring health and fitness and pleasure.
In the debut, the Union minister enjoyed the performance of the teams and later distributed the prizes to the winners.

Union EC & Forestry Minister receives Myanmar Honourable Consul of Ankara, Turkey
NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun received Myanmar Honourable Consul to Turkey Mr Ercan Aygun at his office at 3.30 pm yesterday.

Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force arrives in Nay Pyi Taw
NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—A delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force Air Chief Marshal Thapa Orasathong Subhawong and wife arrived here by air this morning. They were welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Chief of Staff (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and wife, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye, senior military officers, Thai Air Force Military Attaché to Myanmar Group Captain Sonphon Jangsri and officials. —MNA

Deputy Defence Minister meets Permanent Secretary for Defence of Thailand
NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—Deputy Minister for Defence Captain Aung Thaw received General Sathian Permtongin, Permanent Secretary for Defence of Thailand and party at his office at 10.30 am today. They cordially discussed bilateral cooperation between the two Tatmadaws of the nations.
Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo on inspection tour of Myanmar-China natural gas and crude oil pipelines construction site

NAVPAY, 1 March—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo held a meeting with Magway Region government, Region/District and Township level departmental heads, social organization members and town elders at the town hall of Magway Region on 29 February morning.

At the meeting, Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe reported to the Vice-President on matters relating to the needs of education and health sectors, and undertaking tasks for rural development.

During the meeting, a town elder reported to the Vice-President on necessities for education and health care and rural development in the region.

Deputy Ministers U Ba Shwe and U Ohn Than gave a response to the needs and the tasks which would be carried out by the departments under the respective ministries.

After hearing the reports, the Vice-President urged the respective ministries to fulfill the needs for education, health and agricultural sectors in the region. And he explained the policies of the State to them.

He urged Magway Region Government to fulfill the needs for education and to place emphasis on health care services for the rural people and he stressed the needs for raising rural economic sector to be accomplished in line with the State’s policies and called on the regional government to inform the public about efforts of the Union Government.

Then, the entrepreneurs, who include in the Vice-President’s trip, donated K 50 million to Magway Region Eye Foundation as the first installment.

The Vice-President cordially greeted those present at the event, asking their wishes for rural development.

The Vice-President and Party proceeded to Magway District and Township level departmental heads, social organization members and townselders at the town hall of Magway Region.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo on inspection tour of Myanmar-China natural gas and crude oil pipelines construction site.

At the meeting with departmental officials, local people and members of social organizations in Pwintbyu Township, the Vice-President expressed his delight for exceeding food sufficiency in Magway Region thanks to the dams, reservoirs and river water pumping stations built by the State and called for making preparations for feeding the increasing population which is expected to reach around 10 million in the region in 14 to 15 years from around 5.5 million today.

In Minbu District, about 90 percent of the farmland were irrigated land and 256 per cent of the farmland had been put under crops in this cultivation season and the achievement was put on record, he said. He called for making efforts for meeting the targeted per acre yield as the region had fertile farmland, he said.

To uplift the agricultural sector, the government laid down a plan to encourage an agro-based industry, he said.

He continued to say that it found that cotton, a raw material for industries, flourish in that region and it would help to establish more factories, creating more job opportunities.

(See page 11)
Thanks to the irrigation water, local farmers had earned more income and they should use the irrigation water effectively, he added.

After the meeting, the Vice-President and party proceeded to Pwintbyu Township People’s Hospital and chose a site and assisted in building an extension ward.

During tour of inspection of the hospital, businesses who accompanied the vice-president contributed K 5 million to the funds of the hospital.

The Vice-President and party flew to Yenangyoung to inspect the programme for uplifting socio-economic status of the local people.

First, he inspected a new school building for the No. 21 Basic Education Primary School in Sartaing Village. The school which is under construction is funded by the Myanmar-China natural gas and oil pipelines project as part of efforts for uplifting socio-economic status of local people.

During the meeting with local people, he called for the local people to maintain the facility for the people.

The businessmen contributed cash to the funds of the primary school. The one storey school is being built on the 120x30x12 ft plot funded by SEAP Co Ltd.

Afterwards, the Vice-President and party went to Yenangyoung Township and inspected laying pipelines project. The Vice-President presented a fruit basket to a responsible personnel of the SEAP.

The Vice-President and party arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw in the evening. —MNA
Mandalay Region CM’s Cup Inter-Township Golf Tournament launched

The Mandalay Region Chief Minister’s Cup Inter-Township Golf Tournament 2012 kicked off at Yeagun Taung Golf Course in Patheingyi Township on 25 February morning, launched by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint. The Region Chief Minister cordially greeted the golfers. The Region Chief Minister, Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Aung, Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Phone Zaw Han and Managing Director U Tin Oo of International Beverages Trading Co Ltd teed off the balls at the tee No. 1. Next, they enjoyed the participation of golfers in the tournament. Altogether 156 golfers from 39 gold clubs of the region, districts and townships participated in the golf tournament—MN

LOCAL SPORTS

Selected Myanmar volleyball players initially agree to take part in Vietnam League

Selected Myanmar volleyball players from Myanmar National Volleyball Team that had secured one bronze medal in the XXVI SEA Games held in Pathein Township of Ayeyawady Region on 16 February morning, Township of Ayeyawady Region on 16 February morning.

Rural concrete road commissioned into service

A new concrete road linking Kyaukdaga and Inpatle, built by Meiktila District and Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Region Development Affairs Committee U Myint Swe, was put into service on 22 February morning.

Hintha Township gets self-reliant library

In Hintha Township, a self-reliant library called Khin Khin Shway Mya Parami, was put into service in Okpon Village of Hintha Township, Ayeyawady Region, at 1 pm on 19 February.

Billboards on anti-human trafficking put up

Chairman of the Township Committee for Prevention Against Trafficking in Person, Township Anti-Human Trafficking Special Squad and World Vision (Myanmar), a ceremony to put up the billboards bearing the motto “Stop Human Trafficking” was held at five places in Thabyuzayat Township on 17 February morning.

Rural earthen road commissioned

The rural earthen road linking Kyaukdaga and Inpatle, built by Myanma Alin

New school building handed over in Singu Township

A ceremony to hand over a school building worth K 18 million donated by wellwisher U Aung Ko Myint-Daw Nwe Nwe Aye and family to the Education Department was held at the Basic Education Primary School in Singu Township of Mandalay Region on 16 February morning. Township Administrator U Sai Maung Lwin formally opened the school building.

CRIME REDUCTION TALKED: An educative talk on crime reduction in Ayeyawady Region was given at Shweponhmonyint Basic Education Primary School on B-2 Road in Mya Yadana Ward of Myaungmya on 18 February Commander of Myaungmya District Police Force Police Lt-Col Aung Ko Myoe gives talks on reduction of criminal cases.—DISTRICT IPRD

Beware of Fire

Myanma Alin
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (479)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (479) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS/ ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/373816/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (627)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (627) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS/ ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/373816/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV CHANG CHUAN VOY NO (168)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CHANG CHUAN VOY NO (168) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-6 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS FORTUNE SHIPPING AGENCY PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

NOTICE
The General Meeting of the members of The Randers Sunil Vohra Panchayat of Yangon will be held on Sunday the 25th: March, 2012 at 9:30am at THE RANDER HALL No. 165, Shwe Bontha Street, Yangon to transact the following business:

1. To read and confirm the minutes of the last General Meeting held on 9th: March, 2003.
2. To pass the Annual Audited Accounts and Balance Sheets for the period from 1st April, 2003 to 31st March, 2011.
3. To consider any other business of which due notice has been given under clause 32(a) of the scheme.
4. As per clause 8 of the scheme to elect five trustees for the next five years.
5. To appoint Auditors for the ensuing year and fix their remuneration.

E.C. Ismail
Managing Trustee.

N.B.: Account books can be inspected during the office hours from 10:00 am to 12 noon and from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm for 10 days effective from 1st: March, 2012 at the office of the Panchayat No.165, Shwe Bontha Street, Yangon.

Members of the Panchayat are requested to kindly obtain copies of the Report and Annual Audited Accounts and Balance Sheets from the Panchayat office during office hours.

Members of the Panchayat who are eligible and are desirous to stand for the post of Trustees are requested to obtain the application form from the Panchayat office during office hours.

Last date for filling the application form is 15th March, 2012 or before 4:00 pm.

The New Light of Myanmar Friday, 2 March, 2012 13

"US congratulates Iranian director on Oscar win"

WASHINGTON, 3 March—The US government Monday congratulated Iranian film director Asghar Farhadi after his film “A Separation” won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. "On behalf of all of us, to congratulate Iranian film director Asghar Farhadi on his Oscar win,” told reporters. “Children of Heaven also won an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. The widely-hailed movie also won the best foreign film at the Golden Globes.”

Internet

Miami man charged with threatening to assassinate Obama

WASHINGTON, 1 March—A 20-year-old Miami man has been charged with threatening to assassinate US President Barack Obama, mediareports said on Tuesday.

In a 21 Feb posting on Facebook under the name of “Joes Volo,” Fusean Jacobs Serrapio required others’ help to assassinate Obama during the president’s on 23 Feb visit to the University of Miami (UM).

Serrapo made another posting on 23 Feb, saying: “If anyone’s going to UM to see Obama today, get your phones out and record. Because at any moment I’m gonna put a bullet through his head and you don’t wanna miss that! Youtube!” Agents of the US Secret Service responsible for protecting the president searched Serrapo’s home last Thursday and found an iPod which he used to make the postings.

"Children of Heaven" in 1998 was the only other Iranian film which had been nominated for Best Foreign Language Film. The widely-hailed movie also won the best foreign film award at the Golden Globes.

Internet

Tourists pose for photos with local children near the field of color flowers in Luoping County, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 29 Feb, 2012. Xinhua

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Serrapo made another posting on 23 Feb, saying: “If anyone’s going to UM to see Obama today, get your phones out and record. Because at any moment I’m gonna put a bullet through his head and you don’t wanna miss that! Youtube!” Agents of the US Secret Service responsible for protecting the president searched Serrapo’s home last Thursday and found an iPod which he used to make the postings.

"Children of Heaven" in 1998 was the only other Iranian film which had been nominated for Best Foreign Language Film. The widely-hailed movie also won the best foreign film award at the Golden Globes.
Portugal's striker Cristiano Ronaldo (C) fights for the ball feeling Soldado. The sending off of Fernando Amorebieta for Vicente del Bosque announces his squad for This was Spain's last appearance before coach hosts dominated this warm-up to Euro 2012. David Silva (41) — his first this year for club Wednesday. The reigning world and European finalists Venezuela in a friendly here on unable to deliver a thriller for qualifiers Portugal were Euro 2012 hosts Poland and international football friendly match between Poland and huge support in Asia and by supporters expecting a flood Poland and Portugal fail to show in stadium debut Arsenal and Man City to play in Beijing Barclays Premier League rivals to compete for inaugural China Cup at iconic Olympic venue LONDON, 1 March — Arsenal and Manchester City will play a pre-season friendly in Beijing's iconic Bird's Nest stadium. The Barclays Premier League rivals will compete for the inaugural China Cup at the spectacular Olympic venue - on the same day as the London 2012 opening ceremony. The match kicks off at 8pm local time on Friday, 27 July, which is 3pm in the UK and six-and-a-half hours before the earlier eagerly awaited start of the London Games. The Gunners are going to China for the second year in a row, following a successful tour in July 2011, which saw them play in Harbin City. Manchester City are making their third visit to China, although this is their first to Beijing. The club made a pre-season tour to Shanghai under former boss Stuart Pearce. Arsenal chief executive Ivan Gazidis said: "We enjoy huge support in Asia and by playing a match in Beijing, we will once again be bringing the club close to our loyal fans in China. He added: "The match against Manchester City is sure to be an exciting spectacle, with many great players from both sides playing in front of thousands of supporters in the wonderful Bird's Nest Stadium. "It is also fitting that two English clubs are playing each other on the opening day of the London 2012 Olympics, in the stadium which hosted the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games." Manchester City's interim Chief Executive John MacBeath said: "The Bird's Nest Stadium is a truly iconic world sporting stadium, and it will be a fitting venue to host a classic encounter between two of the English Premier League's greatest clubs. "It is clear that there is huge appetite for the Premier League in the Far East, and we are very much looking forward to taking out our talented squad there to witness the excitement and put on a sporting spectacle for our fans in China." In China.
Ibrahimovic, Larsson spur Sweden to Croatia win

ZAGREB, 1 March — Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Sebastian Larsson helped their well deserved 1-1 win over Croatia in an international friendly here on Wednesday. Ibrahimovic scored the first goal in the 31st minute from the penalty spot after goalkeeper Stipe Pletikosa tackled Rasmus Elm. Croatia levelled in the 44th minute by Jonas Olsson who accidentally lobbed his own goalkeeper. Sebastian Larsson then put the game to bed with goals in in the 64th and the 69th minute.

“It was a good game. We played against a very good team, we are very happy and hope that we can continue (playing) like this in the games to come,” Ibrahimovic told Croatian national television. Asked about Sweden’s chances at Euro 2012 Ibrahimovic said: “We’ll do our best like any other team and you can never know what can happen at Euro but we hope for the best. “For sure we will prepare and hope to go as far as possible.” Sweden have been paired alongside England, France and co-hosts Ukraine in Group D at Euro 2012, which runs from June 8 to July 1 in Poland and Ukraine.

Clinical French see off depleted Germany

BREMEN, 1 March — France gave themselves a pre-Euro 2012 boost with a 2-1 friendly win over an injury-depleted Germany in Bremen on Wednesday as the Germans suffered their first defeat in 11 games. A first-half goal by France’s Olivier Giroud, who then set up substitute Florent Malouda for the second, inflicted the first defeat on Joachim Low’s Germany since they were beaten by the same margin by Australia last March.

Germany’s Brazil-born striker Cacau scored a late consolation for the hosts, but the French deserved the win. It was a disciplined performance from France who open their Euro 2012 campaign against England in Donetsk on 11 June and Laurent Blanc’s side dominated a weakened German team lacking five first-choice players. “I am very pleased with the game my team played, this was one of our better performances since I took charge,” said Blanc, who replaced Raymond Domenech as coach after the 2010 World Cup debacle.

“We fought throughout every moment of the game and everything went well, I was pleased with the way we pushed forward and, of course, I’m very pleased with the win.”

Dempsey scores as US beats Italy for first time

GENOA, 1 March — American team-mates acclaimed each other and their fans. Their supporters cheered loudly and proudly waved the red, white and blue. Gaining a rare victory over a soccer power, the United States beat Italy 1-0 Wednesday night on Clint Dempsey’s goal in the 55th minute for the Americans’ first win over the Azzurri in 11 games over 78 years. “It’s a work in progress,” Dempsey said. “I like to think we’re closing the gap and hopefully one day we can do something special.”

A Texan who has become an increasingly important element of the American team, Dempsey put a right-footed shot from just inside the penalty area past an outstretched hand of goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon. Fabian Johnson had crossed to Jozy Altidore, who with his back to the goal against Italy’s Andrea Barzagli touched the ball back toward the top of the area. “I think we look like a top team in the sense where we have one chance and we’re going to make it count,” Altidore said. “I think it’s a big step in the right direction.”

After returning to the World Cup for the first time in 40 years in 1990 and advancing to the quarterfinals in 2002, the Americans have struggled to make additional progress. They were knocked out in the first round of the 2006 World Cup and the second round of the 2010 tournament, eliminated both times with defeats to Ghana.

England forward thwarted by Dutch

LONDON, 1 March — England produced a thrilling fightback against World Cup finalists Netherlands at Wembley only for the Dutch to win the friendly in injury time. The visitors had taken a 2-0 lead before England pegged them back in the final six minutes, but deep into stoppage time Arjen Robben saw his shot deflected into the England net to win it. Stuart Pearce took charge of England for the first time after Fabio Capello resigned earlier this month, the 49-year-old handing the captivity to Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Scott Parker.

England went close twice in the first half when Manchester City’s Adam Johnson had a shot deflected wide and then Chelsea’s Daniel Sturridge saw his left-foot shot saved by Martin Stekelenburg. But the 2010 World Cup runners-up went in front in the second minute when Dutch goalkeeper Tim Krul fumbled a cross from the left. With Netherlands in control mid-way through the first half, the visitors’ pressure increased.

The Netherlands have already qualified for Euro 2012 and they were hoping to get a better result here to boost their morale before their next match against Switzerland on Friday. England are still looking for a win in four qualifying games and an appearance in the Euro 2012 finals. England have played the Netherlands five times in the World Cup, reaching the quarter-finals in 1990 and 1998 but losing the other three.

Robben was brought on as a substitute for the Dutch by Bert van Marwijk at the start of the second half and the Dutch forward showed his class by producing a well-taken goal in the 87th minute. England were then left to reflect on what could have been.
Rejecting age-old ideology of our ancestors, “engaging in farming as a result of no education”, the government is helping develop socio-economic status of peasants and agricultural sector of the State through “engaging in farming with education”

President U Thein Sein addressed third regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today.

The session was also attended by Vice-Presidents Thiba Thu U Tin Aung Myint Oo and Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Thein Sein, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Lt-Gen Soe Win, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyin, Union ministers, the attorney-general of the Union, the chairman of Union Civil Services Board and 556 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives.

At today’s session, President U Thein Sein addressed third regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in commemoration of first anniversary of assumption of duty under Section 210 of the constitution. (The President’s address is reported separately.) The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw put the address of the President on record.

Six Hluttaw representatives discussed National Plan Bill for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. U Win Oo of Yebu Constituency discussed that he urged the Union ministries and State-owned enterprises to ask for budget for bona fide necessity, to manage the budget to ensure less wastage and to do what is really worth to and he, on

Entreprenuers urged to uplift cooperative societies

Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Basketball Tournament kicks off

Health infrastructures built by new government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar for people of Bago Region