Nay Pyi Taw, 5 March—A ceremony to donate alms and day meals to member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws and title recipient Sayadaws for 2012 was held at Sasana Maha Beikman at Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Pagoda at 9.30 am today, attended by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win.

Also present on the occasion were Ovadaçariya Sayadaws of Uppatasanti Pagoda, title recipient nuns, Vice-President Thihada Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Lt-Gen Soe Win, Union ministers, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and their wives, deputy ministers, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, departmental heads, guests and officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa.

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win and party received the Nine Precepts from Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Bhamo Monastery of Mandalay Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa.

(See page 8)
PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 6 March, 2012

Summer holidays

What are you going to do during summer holidays? Another academic year has just ended and school boys and girls have much free time in the summer. But it is important for them to wisely use their summer holidays as time is the most precious thing in life.

In this context, *The New Light of Myanmar* would like to give some sincere suggestions to school boys and girls ways to spend their holidays most effectively and beneficially. We all know that we are now in the age of IT and all offices whether government-run or private-owned are widely using computers and the Internet. Accordingly, it has become a must for today’s youths to be skilled in information technology or they should have at least the basic knowledge in it. So, youths can join short-term IT courses during their holidays.

Another important branch of knowledge in this ever advancing age is English. Thanks to the IT the world has become a village and peoples and countries all around the world are making contacts between one another for various purposes through IT channels, the most effective and swiftest means of communication the world has ever found. Peoples in different countries have different languages, but English as we all know has been used as a medium language to help facilitate all communications and dealings. We know that boys and girls are learning English at school. But something like an English language course can offer a lot of help for them.

What about health and fitness? Youths can enlist themselves at sports courses they are interested in. Especially, swimming or martial arts will be the most beneficial for them. And there are many other alternatives such as courses on cooking, tailoring, painting, dancing, music and singing, moral ethics, and religion.

And for those who have no desire to attend any courses, they can help their parents in their work or at home or take part in community welfare services.

So, start using your summer holidays wisely for the benefit of your own future.

Myanmar CP Open Tennis tourney to be held

YANGON, 5 March—Jointly organized by the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Tennis Federation and with the support of Myanmar CP Co Ltd, Myanmar CP Open Tennis tourney will be held at Theinbyu Tennis Court in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 17 March.

To be included in the tourney are team-wise event, men’s or women’s individual event (aged 10,12, 14 and under 16).

Players in Yangon Region (except downtown Yangon) will be provided K 35000, and players from other regions and states K 55000 as travel expenses while travel expenses, accommodation and meals of youth players will be born by states K 50000 as travel expenses while travel expenses, accommodation and meals of youth players will be born by

Global Education Show from 23 to 25 March

YANGON, 5 March—The press conference on Global Education Show 2012 including: Health & Beauty 2012, to be organized by IEMS from 23 to 25 March at the Tatmadaw Convention Centre, was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

IEMS Managing Director U Thet Lwin Shwe explained the purpose of staging the show.

The show is aimed at contributing to education guidelines of Myanmar, health services on a wider scale. At the press conference, responsible persons replied to queries raised by media persons.

For further information, may dial 098626080.—NLM
Iran urged to seek diplomatic way out

WASHINGTON, 5 March—US President Barack Obama urged Iran on Sunday to seek a diplomatic solution to the nuclear stand-off, reaffirming his backing for key ally Israel and saying there was “too much loose talk of war.”

Addressing a pro-Israeli lobby group in Washington alongside Israeli President Shimon Peres, Obama said international sanctions were working and cautioned against sabre-rattling as Iran moves closer to a nuclear weapon.

“Because of our efforts, Iran is under greater pressure than ever before,” he told thousands of delegates at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) forum.

“Israel is isolated, its leadership divided and under pressure. And the Arab Spring has only increased these trends, as the hypocrisy of the Iranian regime is exposed, and its ally — the Assad regime (in Syria) — is crumbling.”

“I firmly believe that an opportunity remains for diplomacy — backed by pressure — to succeed,” Obama said.

“Already, there is too much loose talk of war. Over the last few weeks, such talk has only benefited the Iranian government, by driving up the price of oil, which they depend upon to fund their nuclear programme.”

US intelligence is said to believe that Iran does not currently intend to produce nuclear weapons, though it may be seeking the capacity to do so, and Washington has emphasised the importance of deterrent sanctions and diplomacy. But Israel is reportedly eager to move more quickly and decisively to take a decision to produce nuclear weapons.

“For the sake of Israel’s security, America’s security, and the peace and security of the world, now is the time for truce; now is the time to let our increased pressure sink in, and to sustain the broad international coalition that we have built.”

But Obama also reaffirmed his strong backing for Israel and warned Iran’s leaders that he would not hesitate to use force, if required, to stop it developing a nuclear weapon. — Internet

Three-fourths of Philippine airports with no security equipment

MANILA, 5 March—More than three-fourths of the Philippine airports don’t have the required safety and security equipment to meet international aviation standards, the Philippine government revealed on Monday.

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) said a recent bomb scare, caused by a spare car part that authorities thought was an explosive in Khalifa airport of Aklan Province, has highlighted the need to improve safety at the country’s airports.

DOTC Secretary Manuel “Mar” Roxas II said this year, the government would earmark about 500 million pesos (11.7 million US dollars) for the acquisition of X-ray screening and other security equipment for all operating airports nationwide.

He said at the moment of the 86 airports in the country, only 45 have commercial flights. Others are considered “community airports” that handle only chartered flights.

Of the 45 serving the traveling public, only 21 have proper passenger and cargo security screening equipment, made up of X-ray scanners and metal detectors, among others.

By the end of this year, Roxas said, the DOTC wants all airports that have commercial operations to have the necessary equipment that comply with international safety standards.

According to international norms, passengers and cargoes have to pass through two “layers” of security checks before boarding their respective plane, he said. —Xinhua

Netanyahu to give Iran ultimatum

JERUSALEM, 5 March—Israel’s Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is expected to deliver an ultimatum to President Barack Obama concerning Iran, Israeli security sources said.

When the two meet in Washington on Monday, Netanyahu will warn Iran may take matters into its own hands concerning a strike on Iran unless Obama pledges to use US military forces to prevent the Islamic Republic from acquiring a nuclear bomb, Britain’s The Sunday Telegraph said on Sunday.

Arab Spring protests and outcomes have significantly weakened Iran’s clout in the region, The Telegraph noted. While Israel is aware Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon are likely to retaliate any strike on Iran by waving massive rocket attacks on Israel, conditions for a military strike on the Islamic Republic are favourable.

Israeli intelligence estimates there are six to nine months before Iran’s nuclear facilities become immune to unilateral military strike and Israel would no longer be able to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power on its own, The Telegraph reported.

Ahead of the meeting between Netanyahu and Obama, a public campaign to pressure the American president to harden his policy toward Iran is under way, The New York Times said.

Senators are calling on Obama to lay down sharper criteria about when to act against Iran’s nuclear ambitions, the newspaper said. — Internet

Putin claims victory in Russian election

MOSCOW, 5 March—A triumphant and teary Vladimir Putin claimed victory on Sunday in Russia’s presidential elections, setting the stage for his third term.

Putin has spent the last four years as Russia’s Prime Minister.

The BBC reported opposition groups have called for mass protests on Monday in Moscow because of alleged voting fraud and the exclusion of genuine opposition candidates from the ballot.

Four policemen injured in Pakistan suicide bombing

ISLAMABAD, 5 March—At least four policemen were injured in a suicide bombing in Pakistan’s northwest tribal region on Sunday night, a media report said.

According to state-run TV channel PTV, the attack took place in the city of Hidra in the western province of Ainar on Monday, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

Firing was also heard following the blast. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. It was also not clear whether the bomber was dead or was injured. — Internet

30 killed in gunmen attacks on policemen in W Iraq

BAGHDAD, 5 March—Up to 27 policemen and three gunmen were killed in a series of attacks against Iraqi police in the city of Hidra in Iraq’s western province of Ainar on Monday, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

Iraqi firefighters try to extinguish a burning bus at the scene of a car bomb explosion in Baghdad, Iraq recently. Iraqi officials say a string of morning attacks across Baghdad has killed and injured dozens of Iraqis. — Internet
Arsenic found in US toddler formulas and cereal bars

New York, March — A new US study published last week showed that arsenic has been found in some foods that use organic brown rice syrup as a sweetener, including toddler formula and cereal and energy bars. According to researchers from Dartmouth College, the type of arsenic found in the products has been identified as a carcinogen and can cause a host of problems ranging from skin irritation to infertility. Arsenic is a known contaminant in rice because it absorbs arsenic from the soil.

The study found arsenic in 47 of 72 toddler formulas tested — with some sample having an arsenic concentration six times the US limit (10 parts per billion) allowed in water. Twenty-two of 29 cereals and 30 of 30 energy bars tested listed at least one of these four rice products — organic brown rice syrup, rice flour, rice grain or rice flakes — along the top five ingredients. The seven other bars were among the lowest in total arsenic ranging from 8 to 27 parts per billion, while those containing syrup or other forms of rice ranged from 23 to 128 parts per billion. The study was published in the Journal of Environmental Health Perspectives.

Brian Jackson, PhD and lead author of the study, advises that those who consume a lot of rice, including people on gluten free diets, try to add variety to their diet and check ingredient labels, since many gluten-free products are rice based.

Parents can also reduce their child’s dietary arsenic exposure by limiting the use of formula that has organic brown rice syrup as a main ingredient. Another study by Dartmouth researchers published this January found some rice-fortified baby foods, such as fruit and vegetable purées for babies, ranged from less than 1 ppb to up to 22 ppb of arsenic, the majority of which was the carcinogenic form.

New hope for disorder that makes humans smell like fish

Philadelphia, March — There’s new hope for people with trimethylaminuria, a rare disorder that causes them to smell like dead fish. Researchers at the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia recently won a $50,000 grant to study the genes behind the disorder – work scientists believe could lead to new developments as helping control the symptoms of Trimethylaminuria, also known as TMAU.

ABC News introduced TV viewers to a TMAU sufferer on March 3. The 27-year-old San Francisco teacher Camille said TMAU endangered her career. “I was so focused on ‘Do I smell? Do I smell?’ Are they saying things? Are they whispering? Are they laughing about me?’” she said at the time. Camille asked ABC News not to publish her last name. Camille recently said she was doing well. “If there’s one thing I’ve learned since being diagnosed with TMAU, it’s that, with accurate information and proper perspective, TMAU is manageable. Thank you, ABC, for being part of that equation,” she said in a written statement.

TMAU symptoms can be managed with changes to diet and certain medications, but those solutions don’t work for everyone. Monell’s Drs Dani Reed and George Preti are leading the research supported by the new grant from the TMAU foundation.

Arsenic in US toddler formulas and cereal bars — Increase

New York, May — On one American truck drivers, train conductors, airline pilots and other transportation workers may be increasingly sleepy and sleep-deprived, a new survey suggests. Many said they feel drowsy while working, and some worry that their fatigue poses a threat to commuter safety, the National Sleep Foundation (NSF) poll found. As many as 11 percent of these employees work more than seven consecutive days, as well as 20 percent of non-traditional transportation workers. Among the findings: roughly one in four train operators and airline pilots say their job performance suffers due to sleep deprivation. By contrast, just one in six non-tradition transportation workers say their job performance has been affected by sleep deprivation.

When it comes to “sleep dissatisfaction,” pilots and train operators took the prize, with 50 percent and 57 percent, respectively, saying their work has affected their family life. When asked if they were satisfied with their career, the survey team found they rarely or never get decent sleep on nights they work. The same was true for 44 percent of truck drivers and 42 percent of non-traditional transportation employees. By contrast, 29 percent of bus, taxi and limousine drivers claimed a similar degree of sleep dissatisfaction.

American Airlines adds legroom — for a price

American Airlines plans to offer extra legroom in coach with “Main Cabin Extra” seats — Internet

New York, May — American Airlines is offering another option to the passenger who is tired of jamming his knees into a fellow flier’s back. The carrier’s new “Main Cabin Extra” seats in coach will offer four inches of additional legroom. The airline will start installing the new seating configuration across its fleet this year, the airline said. The rear-locator seating will be at the front of the main coach cabins to make boarding and deplaning easier for passengers who opt for the extra legroom.

Prices for customers who purchase the extra seating will range from $8 to $108 per segment, depending on length. Passengers will be able to buy the new seats for flights abroad the new Boeing 777-300ERs in spring 2012. Access to the option will be free for higher-level award programme members and passengers who purchase a first or business class tickets. A “significant portion” of Main Cabin Extra seats will be reserved for elite customers, the airline said in its announcement. Customers traveling in Main Cabin Extra seats will enjoy four inches of extra legroom compared to a standard main cabin seat, as well as priority boarding privileges, said Airbus Vahal, American’s chief commercial officer, in a statement.

GM stops Volt production for 5 weeks

General Motors is temporarily halting production of the Chevrolet Volt due to slack sales.“Ironically” is admitting that supply is no longer the problem. “We have more than enough to meet our demand,” GM spokeswoman Michelle Malcho said. — Internet

Arsenic in US toddler formulas and cereal bars — Increase

American Airlines adds legroom — for a price

American Airlines plans to offer extra legroom in coach with “Main Cabin Extra” seats — Internet

New York, May — American Airlines is offering another option to the passenger who is tired of jamming his knees into a fellow flier’s back. The carrier’s new “Main Cabin Extra” seats in coach will offer four inches of additional legroom. The airline will start installing the new seating configuration across its fleet this year, the airline said. The rear-locator seating will be at the front of the main coach cabins to make boarding and deplaning easier for passengers who opt for the extra legroom.

Prices for customers who purchase the extra seating will range from $8 to $108 per segment, depending on length. Passengers will be able to buy the new seats for flights abroad the new Boeing 777-300ERs in spring 2012. Access to the option will be free for higher-level award programme members and passengers who purchase a first or business class tickets. A “significant portion” of Main Cabin Extra seats will be reserved for elite customers, the airline said in its announcement. Customers traveling in Main Cabin Extra seats will enjoy four inches of extra legroom compared to a standard main cabin seat, as well as priority boarding privileges, said Airbus Vahal, American’s chief commercial officer, in a statement.
London, 5 March — British scientists have developed a system to help protect navigation and communications satellites from potentially devastating solar storms, they said on Friday. Services spanning everything from mobile phones to sophisticated weaponry increasingly depend on global positioning system, or GPS, technology. However damage by a massive burst of solar energy could knock out GPS satellites and send them veering into the paths of other craft or scramble their communications.

Led by a team from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), researchers from six European countries will use satellite data and ground-based measurements of the earth’s magnetic field to forecast changes in radiation. That will allow them to alert satellite operators of a sudden increase in dangerous particles and give them time to move the craft out of harm’s way, power them down or fold sensitive wings away. “For the first time, we can now forecast radiation levels for a whole range of different orbits, from geo-stationary to medium earth orbit where there is a tremendous growth in the numbers of satellites,” said BAS researcher Richard Horne, who led the project. “Nobody has done that before.”

A handout picture shows the Sun as viewed by the Solar Dynamics Observatory on 9 June, 2011. Internet

Why loneliness can be deadly

New York, 5 March — Loneliness can send a person down a path toward bad health, and even more intense loneliness, studies have shown. But while some have assumed the culprit was a dearth of others to remind a person to take care of himself or herself, new research suggests there’s a direct biological link between being lonely and ill health. Loneliness can set into a motion a barrage of negative impacts inside the human body — but with additional social contact, some of the ill effects can be stopped.

John Cacioppo, a University of Chicago social psychologist who studies the biological effects of loneliness, presented some of his latest research at the Social Psychology and Perception meeting in San Diego in February. He has found, for instance, loneliness is tied to hardening of the arteries (which leads to high blood pressure), inflammation in the body, and even problems with learning and memory. Even fruit flies that are isolated have worse health and die sooner than those that interact with others, showing that social engagement may be hard-wired, Cacioppo said.

Did cheap mobiles steal show over sexy gadgets?

Barcelona, 5 March — With so many flashy tablets and high-speed smartphones on display, it’s easy to forget the important role low-cost phones play at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.

But while headlines are grabbed by expensive devices crammed with high-speed processors, crystal clear display screens and eye-poppingly powerful features, many manufacturers are still focused on the basics.

For mobile phone makers, real market expansion areas are now found in developing countries where mobiles have to connect billions of people and offer life-changing Internet access. Google Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt warned in his keynote address to the congress that for the “aspiring majority” of five out of seven billion global citizens, “the web is still a scarce resource.”

“For most people the digital revolution has not arrived yet. Every revolution begins with a small group of people. Imagine how much better it would be with another five billion people online,” he said.

Kodak sells online business to Shutterfly

Washington, 5 March — Eastman Kodak Co has agreed to sell its online photo services business to Shutterfly Inc for $238 million, kicking off an auction of skeleton assets that other bidders must follow a “stalking horse” agreement.

A source familiar with the deal said the deal with Shutterfly followed a “stalking horse” bid — a starting bid or minimally accepted offer that other bidders must surpass in a court-supervised auction — from the web-based personal publishing service.

Kodak World Headquarters

A man walks past the Kodak World Headquarters sign in Rochester, New York on 19 Jan, 2012. Internet

Loss of Arctic sea ice may lead to mercury deposits

Pasadena, 5 March — Significant declines in perennial Arctic sea ice over the past decade may be intensifying a chemical reaction that leads to deposits of toxic mercury, a NASA-led study showed on Thursday. The study found that thick, perennial Arctic sea ice was being replaced by a thinner and saltier ice that releases bromine into the air when it interacts with sunlight and cold, said Son Nghiem, a NASA researcher at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

That in turn triggers a chemical reaction called a “bromine explosion” that turns gaseous mercury in the atmosphere into a toxic pollutant that falls on snow, land and ice and can accumulate in fish, said Nghiem, lead author of the study. "Shrinking summer ice has drawn much attention to exploiting Arctic resources and improving maritime trading routes," Nghiem said. "But the change in sea ice composition also has impacts on the environment," he said. "Changing conditions in the Arctic might increase bromine explosions in the future.

Nghiem said the released bromine can also remove ozone from the lowest level of the atmosphere, the troposphere.

The iridescence of the aptly named diamond weevil has been laid bare in a Royal Society journal this week. Dutch and German researchers found that each pit (top centre) is lined with scales (top right) with a structure like that of diamond. Electron micrographs (bottom centre) bear out this "photonic crystal" structure (bottom right).

Trade panel to review Microsoft, Motorola decision

Washington, 5 March — A US trade panel, which hears patent infringement cases, said on Friday that it would undertake a wide-ranging review of its preliminary decision over whether Motorola Mobility violated Microsoft patents. The International Trade Commission said on Friday it would review portions of its judge’s decision from December that Motorola Mobility infringed a Microsoft patent in making Android cellphones.

In a complaint filed in October 2010 with the ITC, Microsoft accused Motorola Mobility of infringing nine patents for Windows Mobile and Windows Phone, which do everything from surfing the web to taking photos and synchronizing on- and off-line use. Two patents were found to infringe one patent out of the remaining seven.

A final decision is due in the spring.

Microsoft said it looked forward to the review. “We remain confident that the commission will affirm that Motorola has infringed our intellectual property,” said David Howard, Microsoft’s corporate vice president and deputy general counsel for litigation.

Motorola Mobility said in an email to Reuters, “Motorola is pleased with today’s ITC Notice identifying the issues to the parties.”

Howard, Microsoft’s corporate vice president and deputy general counsel for litigation.
Yangon Region Chief Minister receives US delegation

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe received Special Envoy and Assistant Adviser Ms Jessica Davey at the office of US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar and party at his office at 3 pm today. They had a cordial discussion on mutual interests. Also present at the call were Region Chief Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Tin Win and Region Minister for Electricity and Utility U Nyan Tun Oo.

MPT’s announcement to mobile phone users

1. Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs is striving time after time not only for providing efficient communication services to the State and the public but for backing up socio-economic development.
2. Regarding communication sector, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein in his address to third regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 1 March, 2012 in commemoration of the first anniversary of his duty assumption said, “As for mobile phone, we are currently undertaking construction works. Upon completion, we will seek best ways and means to fulfill the wishes of the people.”
3. In accord with the guidance of the President, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs has arranged to reduce initial installation fees of mobiles as of 14 March, 2012 as mentioned hereunder in the first stage of its stride to enable the public use of mobile phones at reasonable price.

Mobile phone Initial installation fee
(a) GSM K 0.2 million
(b) CDMA-450 MHz K 0.2 million
(c) WCDMA K 0.25 million
(d) CDMA-800 MHz K 0.25 million

Myanma Posts and Telecommunications

Myanmar, US exchange views for first time

NAV PYI TAW, 5 March—The Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University of the United States jointly conducted the first Myanmar-US 1.5 Track Exchange of Views at Royal Kumudra Hotel, here, on 5 and 6 March. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint delivered an address. Senior representatives from the government, the academia and business circles from Myanmar and the United States participated in the Dialogue and exchanged views on political, economic and legislative matters, environmental conservation, financial sector development, agriculture, investment and non-governmental or organizations in Myanmar.

“Female Elephant and her new-born elephant are in healthy condition.”—MNA

Special Refresher Course No. 20 for Faculty members of University and College kicks off

NAV PYI TAW, 5 March—The Special Refresher Course No. 20 for Faculty members of University and College was opened at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phayagyi) this morning, with an address by Chairman of Union Civil Services Board U Kyaw Thu. Speaking on the occasion, UCSC Chairman U Kyaw Thu stressed the need to uphold Our Three Main National Causes in building a modern and developed democratic new nation in line with the Constitution. To do so, it is necessary to build political might, economic might and State defence might stronger, he said. He noted that emphasis is to be placed on promoting education sector while striving for development of human resources. Regions and States have been facilitated with universities and colleges for enabling the students to pursue education in their respective regions. Faculty members from 161 universities and colleges are nurturing human resources for the State.

He urged faculty members not only to turn out well-versed intellectuals and intelligentsia for development of human resources but also to cooperate with local business organizations in conducting research works in various regions so as to grow up the State economy. In conclusion, as Research & Business Development plays the most important role in all-round development of the nation, faculty members are to constantly conduct research works which are indispensable for the State.

TABAUNG

Maung Hlaing

Days are warm. Nights are cool. Tabauang indeed is unruly. So goes the saying. Whenever we talk about the Myanmar Month of Tabauang, we cannot help thinking about the saying regarding the month. Actually, the month of March, which coincides with the month of Tabauang on the Myanmar calendar, unrolls the hot season, or the summer.

Now, cool days are over. However, cool nights are still with us. The cuckoo, the harbinger of summer, begins to sing beautiful spring songs. Moreover, spring flowers are in full bloom. In the month of Tabauang, wells and lakes run dry. As a result, leaves begin to fall. And the skeletons of trees reveal the beauty of summer.

However, Tabauang, the last month of the Myanmar calendar, offers moderate weather, neither too hot nor too cold. It signals transition from the cold season to the summer.

In this month, we have two politically significant days—the Peasants Day and the Armed Forces Day (Tatmadaw Nay). Another religiously significant day we have is the Fullmoon Day of Buddha Pujanja.

Politically, we celebrated the Peasants Day all over the Union on 2 March. And on 27 March in 1945, all units of the Tatmadaw, with the support and active participation of all citizens launched the anti-fascist struggles.

Religiously, it is chronicled that on the Fullmoon Day of Tabauang, King Sudhodana, father of Lord Buddha, sent Minister Kaludari to supplicate to Buddha to come to Kapilavatstu. Because Kaludari recited 60 verses on the ode to the beauty of nature between the two cities, Lord Buddha, with His disciple members/Sangha, made His way to Kapilavatstu.

It is for this reason that we offer alms and essentials not only to monks but also for nuns for their missionary work, with visits to pagodas and monasteries. People keep sabbath and do other meritorious deeds. Pagodas and public buildings are illuminated and pilgrims throng pagodas on the fullmoon night.

It is in Tabauang that the Buddhists of Myanmar build sand stupas on lawns and beaches as a sort of tribute to the Lord Buddha. According to the historical records, Sand Pagoda festivals were originated in the time much earlier than the Innwa Period.

The flourishing of Buddhism has a direct bearing on the way of life of the people and Buddha’s Teachings have saturated the ideas and code of conduct.

However, Tabauang but also all the year round, people from all walks of life celebrated religious festivals, making generous donations in cash and kind and as contribution to flourishing of Buddha’s faith. Our festivals are not only to be merry but also meritorious in essence. Thus, they are tantamount to preservation of cultural heritage and national character.

In ancient times, we were a sovereign, independent nation with our own monarchs who reigned to see that there was public wellbeing and that the Sasana was properly propagated and flourished.

Today, much has been done and continues to be done for the propagation and preservation of the Sasana. The aim is to promote flourishing the three kinds of Buddha Sasana, namely the Patirayi Sadhana, the Patipatti Sadana and the pativedha Sasana.

As Myanmar people usually turn the holy day into holiday, they can join the activities on the significant day—Tabauang Fullmoon Day.

Special Refresher Course No. 20 for Faculty members of University and College kicks off

NAV PYI TAW, 5 March—The Special Refresher Course No. 20 for Faculty members of University and College was opened at Central Institute of Civil Service (Phayagyi) this morning, with an address by Chairman of Union Civil Services Board U Kyaw Thu. Speaking on the occasion, UCSC Chairman U Kyaw Thu stressed the need to uphold Our Three Main National Causes in building a modern and developed democratic new nation in line with the Constitution. To do so, it is necessary to build political might, economic might and State defence might stronger, he said. He noted that emphasis is to be placed on promoting education sector while striving for development of human resources. Regions and States have been facilitated with universities and colleges for enabling the students to pursue education in their respective regions. Faculty members from 161 universities and colleges are nurturing human resources for the State.

He urged faculty members not only to turn out well-versed intellectuals and intelligentsia for development of human resources but also to cooperate with local business organizations in conducting research works in various regions so as to grow up the State economy. In conclusion, as Research & Business Development plays the most important role in all-round development of the nation, faculty members are to constantly conduct research works which are indispensable for the State.

U Myint Swe received Special Envoy and Assistant Adviser Ms Jessica Davey.— MNA
Higher learning institutions already in place in Rakhine State for local national races to pursue higher education within their reach

Sittway University was established in Rakhine State for local national race enabling them to pursue higher education within their reach and to turn out intellectuals and technocrats capable of serving the interest of the nation and their own state.

More and more basic education schools are opened in Rakhine State together with new universities and technological universities in the region. As a result local youth who had completed basic education are now able to pursue higher education and advanced technology.

As local national races in Rakhine State have the opportunity to pursue higher education within their reach, higher learning institutions such as University of Computer Studies and Technological University in the region are now able to produce a large number of human resources. Photos show Technological University (left), University of Computer Studies (above), in Sittway, Rakhine State.

Myanmar delegation attends coordination meetings of WHO

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 March—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin attended a coordination meeting on administrative and management reforms held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 27 to 28 February and a coordination meeting on projects of WHO member countries.

The first-day session discussed ways to choose priorities of the 12 general projects of WHO to be implemented in 2014-2015 fiscal year and setting of norms and standards. The Union Minister discussed the prioritization of health problems discussed by WHO regional meetings, health problems discussed by member countries at the WHO Conference and health issues that can contribute to national development and health projects of individual countries.

The second-day session discussed chosen health projects to be undertaken by WHO and choosing of action plans in category for providing technical assistance by WHO and prioritized healthcare projects. Then, timeframe was set to approve the 12 general health projects to be undertaken in 2014-2015 fiscal year.—MNA

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin attends a coordination meeting on administrative and management reforms held in Geneva, Switzerland.—MNA

Union for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin attends a coordination meeting on administrative and management reforms held in Geneva, Switzerland.—MNA

Union for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin attends a coordination meeting on administrative and management reforms held in Geneva, Switzerland.—MNA
Members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta. The President and wife donated alms to the Chairman Sayadaw. Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin offered alms to Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chaikhetgyi Monastery Sasana Nuggaha Monastery President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win and wife Daw Khin Khin Win received Nine Precepts from Abbot of Bhamo Monastery in Mandalay Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumaraabhivamsa at the ceremony to donate alms to SSMNC member Sayadaws, Tipitakadha Tipitakakovida Sayadaws, title recipient Sayadaws and nuns.

MNA

Congregation led by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win donate alms to SSMNC...
President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win donate alms to SSMNC…

(from page 8)

Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Thein Sein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Lt-Gen Soe Win, Union ministers, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council and departmental heads donated offerings to members of the Sangha.

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein; Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo; Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham; and Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Shwe Mann offered alms to title recipient nuns.

Secretary Sayadaw Abbott of Sasana Nugaha Monastery of Chauktiotgyi Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajoti Katha U Bhaddanta Kheminda delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

The ceremony came to an end with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanan Çiram Tittahutu. After the ceremony, President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win and party offered day meals to members of the Sangha.

Supplies provided by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife already reached respective villages in Shan State (North)

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife made a donation of food Supplies such as rice, edible oil, salt, onion, etc to needy local people in the villages in Lashio Township in Shan State (North) from 21 to 25 February.

The food supplies were arranged by Lashio District Township Women’s Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association and social affairs organizations to provide a total of 219 needy households and Namsan and Maneai monasteries in Maneai, Namsan, Konnyaung villages in Maneai Village-tract in Lashio Township on 1 March, and on 2 March, the contribution was brought to Eainai, Narmakhaw monasteries and a total of 135 households in the list of the poor in Narkunlon Village-tract, plus a total of 261 households—64 in Eainai Village-tract and 62 in Konmon Village. The remaining needy families of the villages were also provided with dry ration today.
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session continues...

(from page 16)

that are not in conformity with the Myanmar
culture could have been prevented to a certain
degree and more national income has been
generated.

Depending on the needs of media sector,
cooperation will be made not only with
domestic private media but also with foreign
media. Plans are underway to make TV play
in cooperation with the Yunnan TV of China.
Arrangements are also being made to produce
movies in cooperation with the Yunnan TV.
In doing so, TV broadcasting has not been
granted for domestic media. When it comes
to the cooperation with foreign media, movies
are being made on joint-venture basis, movies
are shown mutually in two countries and
profits are shared based on the amount of
investment. So, the Ministry of Information is
working together with private media and that
cooperation will continue for media de-
velopment, said Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan.
He continued that regarding the discus-

sion made by U Khin Hsein Nan of Kachin
State that programmes of national races are to be
included in the MRTV programmes as a separate
programme, the ministry is carrying out its tasks
with the aim to inform, educate and entertain
all national races. Continued encouragement is being
given to extend national race programmes.
As the old radio transisters have been re-
placed with new ones, number of national
race languages has increased from 8 to 14 and
broadcasting time has increased from 4 hours to
12 hours daily.

If a separate channel of national races is
to be launched, it is necessary to purchase
some broadcasting machine parts and carry
out some modifications to broadcast through
the current band width system. Moreover, it
is required to take time to extend organiza-
tional set-up and employ more skilled work-
ers. The ministry will try to complete those
work plans in the coming financial year and
national race programmes will be aired sepa-
rateley when everything is ready.
U Khin Hsein Nan also discussed the inclusion
of the performing arts of other national races in
the Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions at vari-
sous levels. For instance, Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan said it would be very difficult to
initiate a contest with all-inclusiveness of
more than 100 national races in the perform-
ning arts competitions held annually. Songs
and dances of all national races are differ-
ently unique and impressive cultural
heritages of Myanmar. Therefore, scoring
and deciding loss or win in such a competi-
tion are impossible as well as inappropriate.
So, continued measures will be taken in
consultation with regional cultural troupes
and traditional cultural experts in order for
their performances of arts of respective na-
tional races included in own states to repre-
sent the Myanmar traditional cultural per-
forming arts competitions. Continued ar-
rangements will be made to hold the compe-
titions that all can accept by taking the matter
of national culture and traditional cultural
interests into consideration. Those artists who have achieved success in the
state level will be invited as special guests
and presented with separate honorary awards
when the Myanmar traditional cultural perfor-
mance arts competitions are held so as to main-
tain and promote the cultures of all national races.
In conclusion, U Khin Hsein Nan discussed the teaching of the performing arts of national races in the
University of Culture. In this regard, the subjects about musical instruments of national races has been taught in the two universities of
national culture and fine arts under the
Ministry of Culture since their opening.
Besides, famous performing arts of national races are being taught as a basic subject.
Regarding the discussion about inclusion of national races and their culture, the
MRTV will include those in its programmes when they performed in foreign countries, he said that the cultural
troupes were formed with artistes from
national races and included traditional dances and songs of national races.
Arrangements would be made to select
outstanding artistes from states and regions
to participate in performances in foreign
countries, he said.
Ministry of Information and Ministry of Culture would speed up their tasks taking
heed of the discussion of the representatives related to the National Planning Bill for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and would
make plans to implement reasonable tasks in the
future, he said.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing makes
clarification. — MNA

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing said that dams,
reservoirs and irrigation systems that were going to be completed and upon
completion, they would help conserve the environment and prevent flood, supply drinking and
irrigation water, paving the way for creating
job opportunities for local people. Besides, banks of dams, reservoirs and canals would serve as roads linking between towns and
villages for the local people.
To support the self-sufficiency in agricultural production for the increasing
population of the country, emphasis should be placed on completion of
agricultural infrastructures, he said.
He pledged that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation would encourage
the efficient use of the budget allocation of the ministry in the interests of the State,
the people and the peasants and would spend it in accordance with the financial rules
and regulations.
Therefore, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was obliged to objectively review and made
decision over the national planning and budget allocation for the agricultural sector
for the 2012-2013 year of the Union
Government in the short-term and long-term
interests of the peasants and the people, he said.
Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein
said on completion of Diesel Engine Factory project (Thagara), the factory would produce
engine parts for the Ministry of Rail
Transportation, medium water crafts and
engines for power plants, construction of
roads and bridges and mining and spare
teams. Upon completion of Automobile
Mould & Die, Jigs & Fixture project, the
factory would produce some machinery parts and auto machinery to fulfill the market
demand for the new models as a basic subject.
On completion of the Automobile Axle
project, the factory would make the best use
of modern technology to produce axles, and
upon completion of the 90HP Engine project,
the factory would produce 90HP engines for
Myanmar Double Cab & Myanmar Single
Cabs and gain the technology, he said.
On completion of Kyaukse Mirror
Factory project, people could buy varieties
of mirror at a reasonable price, and the paper
factory project (Thaungyi) would produce
news print, halting the import of the paper, he said.
The State was running the factories to
a certain period as the private sector was
experiencing difficulties currently to invest
in the factories as joint ventures due to the
heavy investment. As the closure of
uneconomic factories were expected likely
to impact the socio-economy, the union
ministry made decision prudently to close
factories only when it was necessary. In the
upcoming 2013-2014 fiscal year, the
budget allocation for the ministry would be
reduced. The union ministry would carry
out the tasks of the ministry as part of
efforts for the industrial development and
was drawing the Public Private Partnership
policy. In conclusion, the Union Minister
urged Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to review the financial issues of the Ministry of Industry in
the National Planning Bill for the 2012-
2013 fiscal year and to be prudent to make
decision.
Regarding the discussion of U Khin
Maung Lay of Rakhine State constituency
No. 6 over road transportation issues in
Yathedaw and its environs in Rakhine State,
Union Minister for Construction U Khin
Myint Myint said the ministry had completed the earth road which was 22
miles and 6 furlong long on the Ponnagyun-
Yathedaw Road and upgraded to the
gravel road which was 3 miles and 4 furlong
long. The ministry then upgrading the
Myeobom-Minbya Road to an all-weather
road and would seek the funds and
maintenance costs for the road in the 2012-
2013 fiscal year to carry out the upgrading
work and to construct wooden bridges on the
road.
Regarding the discussion of U Sai Thant
Zio of Shan State constituency No. 4, the
Union minister said that Muntang-Namhsan
Road could not be changed to Muntang-
Namhsan-Momeik Road and it could be
called as Muntang-Namhsan-Mongngaw-
Momeik Road. The ministry would inject
K150 million to upgrading of the 15-mile
section of Muntang-Namhsan Road in the
2012-2013 fiscal year. The ministry had
approved the design for the Mongngaw
Bridge on Mubein-Momeik Road to be
constructed by Ministry of Electric Power
No. 1, he said.
Regarding the discussion of U Aung
Thein Lin of South Okkalapa constituency
over upgrading roads to concrete ones, the
union minister said that it was necessary to
tarmack roads and when the State’s budget
was sufficient, some roads would be upgraded
to concrete ones as the country had to import
cements due to insufficiency at home to carry out constructions in the
country.
Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min said that the ministry would cut
K5,500 million from the ministry’s fund and
expenditure setaside for Kyangin-Pakokku-
Pyay-Bwe-Tatmauk-Mawgaw-Mawgaw-
Yangon, Yangon-Bago and Bago-Hinthada
railroads, the approach rail road of the Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku) and the approach
goal of Ayeyawady Bridge (Malun) and
would spend the money on other projects.
To get the huge amount of money, Tatmauk-
Mawgaw Railroad section of the Pyay-Bwe-
Tatmauk-Mawgaw Railroad would be
postponed to the 2013-2014 fiscal year.
He continued to say that K4,500 million
would be cut from the ministry’s capital
allocation of 2012-2013 fiscal year which was
set aside for the project of manufacturing
new locomotive engines and construction
coaches loaned by the Peoples’ Republic
of China. The capital allocation of the project
would be postponed to the 2013-2014 fiscal
year. However, the money is not suitable to
spend on other projects as it was the loan
from the PRC and only K5,500 million could
be spent on other sectors.
Regarding the discussion by U Aye
Mauk of Mahlaing constituency over buying
vehicles by the Central Equipment Statistics
and Inspection Department and investment
in Dawei Special Economic Zone, Union
Minister for National Planning and Economic
Development U Tin Naing Thein said the
Union Government did not give priority
for buying vehicles and had made decisions to buy
vehicles when absolutely necessary. To
supervise the investors in the Dawei Special
Economic Zone, administration committee
(See page 11)
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continues...

(from page 10)

office, police stations and outposts would be completed in April. Therefore, investment in construction of the building and making a plan to import 172 vehicles were absolutely necessary for the country and were related to the dignity of the State. The Union Minister urged Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to review the discussion and to make decision prudently over the discussion as the work should be carried out in the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Union Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi said: Regarding the suggestion of U Nyan Win of Hlaingthaya Constituency to draw overtime pay law, existing laws will be enforced and new laws will not be drafted as a laborer gets double rate of ordinary payment for extra hours they have to work under Section 73 (1) of 1951 Workshops Act.

Regarding the suggestion of Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency (6) that the bill be sent to the Attorney-General Office of the Union on 17 January for comments and will be submitted to the Hluttaw.

Regarding the suggestion of Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency (7) to issue temporary passports in Phayathonesu in addition to three border stations for enabling certificate-less labour arriving in Thailand to officially take job, citizenship scrutiny cards were issued to Myanmar workers in Thailand and temporary Myanmar passports to workers registered in Thailand in three border stations in Myanmar and six others in Thailand as of 29 February. For opening of border station in Phayathonesu, both sides will be coordinated at any convenient in the future.

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin said: Regarding the discussion of Dr Mya Oo of Bago Region Constituency (9) to open a rural health centre if the village has population of 20000, objectives have been set to National Health Plan (2011-2012) and funds have been requested for deploying human resources and providing medicines in rural health centres.

Regarding discussion of Dr Aung Than of Shwebo Constituency on anti-venom drug, the drugs necessary for the victims are being procured from the Ministry of Industry and distributed to the hospitals depending on their needs. As local production does not meet demand, drugs have to be imported from Thailand. Thai-anti-venom medicines are less effective and leading to increasing dosage. Anti-venom medicine production research acquired the drug from blood of sheep and egg. For prevention, education and shoes/gloves minimizing the risk of snake are introduced. For treatment, first aid and Peritoneal Dialysis and Haemodialysis for patients with kidney failure have been prepared.

Union Minister at the President Office and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Thein Nyunt said: Regarding suggestions of U Win Oo of Ye Pyuthu Constituency and U Aye Maung of Mahlaing Constituency on Nay Pyi Taw Special Development Project, the special development project group was established as the project will be scattered and hard to supervise if each ministry undertakes their own works although the construction of Nay Pyi Taw was first supposed to assigned to respective ministries.

There is no new construction of the project in the time of the government in office and construction works of uncompleted buildings continued. Some construction works have been suspended since July 2011. Unfinished construction works of the previous government necessary for XXVII SEA Games to be hosted in December 2013 and 2014 ASEAN Summit are being carried out. Hluttaw representatives are requested to consider the fact that we need to keep abreast of other ASEAN members in respect of the essential undertakings.

U Khaing Maung Yi of Ahlon Constituency submitted the proposal for condolences for U Aung Sein Tha, 75, from Minbya Constituency who died of heart failure on 1 March under Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rule (64). The Hluttaw gave the approval and observed two-minute prayer.

Hluttaw representatives discussed differences between Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and amendments of Joint Bill Committee regarding Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and amendments of Joint Bill Committee as there is no against vote for Chapter (1) Paragraph (2) (j, k, l), Chapter (4) Paragraph (9) (g, p), Paragraph (10)(h, i), Paragraph (11), Paragraph (13), Paragraph (14), Chapter (6) Paragraph (20), Chapter (7) Paragraph (24) (b), Chapter (9), Paragraph (39), Paragraph (51) (c), Chapter (1) Paragraph (63), Paragraph (65), Paragraph (66), Paragraph (68) of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill.

The Hluttaw approved the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill as in the amendments of the Joint Bill Committee as there is no against vote for Chapter (1) Paragraph (2) (j, k, l), Chapter (4) Paragraph (9) (g, p), Paragraph (10)(h, i), Paragraph (11), Paragraph (13), Paragraph (14), Chapter (6) Paragraph (20), Chapter (7) Paragraph (24) (b), Chapter (9), Paragraph (39), Paragraph (51) (c), Chapter (1) Paragraph (63), Paragraph (65), Paragraph (66), Paragraph (68) of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill.

The Hluttaw approved Chapter (1) Paragraph (2) (j, k), Chapter (4) Paragraph (9) (g, p), Paragraph (13), Paragraph (14), Chapter (6) Paragraph (23) (a, c, d), Chapter (8) Paragraph (32) (b), Chapter (15) Paragraph (81), Paragraph (83) of the Region or State Hluttaw Bill as in the amendments of the Joint Bill Committee and Chapter (6) Paragraph (23) (b) as proposed amendment of U Aung Sein Tha of Ye Pyuthu Constituency.

Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw Rights Committee Dr Soe Yin submitted the proposal to approve the whole Pyithu Hluttaw Bill and the whole Region or State Hluttaw Bill, the Hluttaw agreed and approved the bills. Today’s session concluded at 3.25 pm and the 19th day session is held at 10 am on 6 March.

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March— Under the supervision of Meteorology and Hydrology Department under the Ministry of Transport, World Meteorological Organization and The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) jointly held an opening of the 39th meeting of tropical cyclone members countries in Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea at Zabuthiri Hotel of Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone at noon today.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun, Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein and officials concerned, representatives of WMO, officials concerned of UNESCAP, representatives of the tropical cyclone members countries—Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Mauitite, Olman, Pakistan, Srilankan, Thailand, representatives of the organizations under United Nations, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and representatives of the meteorology and hydrology department.

Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung delivered an address at the opening. He expressed his wonders that the 39th meeting is held in Myanmar for this year, and said that Myanmar has held such the meeting for about five times since the year of its establishment, and urged the member countries to cooperate with each other in promulgation of precautions and notifications about natural disasters on international strategy for natural disaster reduction.

After Secretary Dr. Q.Z Chaudhry of Tropical Cyclone member countries’ organization, Head of the natural disaster reduction department under UNESCAP, and Mr. Yuichi Ono and Director Dr. Groffrey Love of WMO had extended greetings, Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung made a concluding remarks.

The meeting will go on till 9 March, concentrating on reduction of loss of lives due to cyclones, research on tropical cyclones, predicting tasks, announcements, predictable facts, notifications and measurements and sharing technical knowhow on cyclones that occur in Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea.

Yangon Mayor receives Chinese delegation

YANGON, 5 March—Yangon Mayor Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs U Hla Myint received Deputy General Secretary Ms Yang Rong of Yangzhou Municipal People’s Government of the People’s Republic of China and party at his office at 2:30 pm today.

They had a cordial discussion on matters of friendly ties between cities of the two countries. Also present at the call were Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U L Maung Kyaw, Deputy General Secretary U Tin Tun, committee members and Head of Information and Public Relations Department U Hla Myint. Sde.
Train-truck collision leaves three injured in Kyauktaga

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—A crash involving a truck and a train at the crossing near Yintaikgon Village in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Region, yesterday.

The crash happened around 2.45 am when the No 2 Down Train crashed into the 12-wheeler truck while the truck was crossing the Yangon-Mandalay railroad as the arm which controlled the crossing did not stop the road traffic. The truck was dragged for about 200 feet on the track.

The engine DF-1347 of the train was out of joint and plunged into the ditch which is about 50 ft wide and 10 ft deep. The right side of front car of the train was damaged in the collision. The crash broke the wind shield and frame, and damaged the body and blew off two tyres of the Nissan truck.

A passenger in the train broke his left thigh, got injuries while two other train passengers and the diver of the truck got minor injuries and they are being treated at Kyauktaga People’s Hospital.

The truck was removed from the truck around 10.40 am and the train service has returned to normal around 2 pm after another engine arrived from Yangon Station had pulled the 12 coaches stranded on the road.

The authority will open an investigation into the crash. —MNA

Pathein-Ngaputaw Road upgraded into gravel facility

PATHEIN, 5 March—The road linking Pathein Township and Ngaputaw Township of Pathein District in Ayeyawady Region is No. 11 road which is one of the road facilities in the road network construction development project in the Region.

At present, the road works have been completed as 21 miles long gravel road from Pathein to Ngaputaw on 29 February.

The 12 feet wide facility is being constructed by three road special groups including two groups of district Public Works, one airport construction special group and one building construction special group with added momentum.

Moreover, a total of 12 bridge special groups and five special project groups are constructing Papyin River Bridge and Thetkel Creek Bridge on the road to be completed by March 2012.—District IPRD

Humanitarian protection course conducted

PYAPON, 5 March—World Vision (Myanmar) conducted the humanitarian protection course at Ywama monastery in Pyapon on 20 and 21 February.

Police Captain Khin Khin Soe of Pathin Anti-Human Trafficking Special Squad talked about prevention against trafficking in person, Dr San Oo about role of health sector in basic knowledge on preventive measures, reporter U Thaung (Pyapon) about legal affairs on preventive measures, and Chairman of Township Writers and Journalists Association Reporters U Aung Win about public development tasks and role of literary knowledge.

Administrators of wards and villages and those engaging in child care services attended the course.—Myanma Alin

Overage vehicles handed over to DRT

MANDALAY, 4 March—Directorate of Road Transport of Mandalay accepts handover of overage vehicles. At present, the directorate accepts vehicles with number plate of “D”.

So far, a total of 660 vehicles have been handed over to the directorate in Mandalay Region. 399 vehicles in Yangon North District, 154 vehicles in Meiktila District, 77 vehicles in Myingyan District, 83 vehicles in Kyaukse District, 21 vehicles in Yarathiri District and 50 vehicles in Hla Kyunwin District, totalling 1444.—Thitha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

New water course for Ngawun River dredged

NGAWUN, 5 March—Due to silting, the original course of Ngawun River disappeared in Daunggyibet Village, near Thaunggyi Village of Ngathainggyoung Sub-Township in Pathin District of Ayeyawady Region.

Moreover, the embankment in Bawdigon Village, upstream Ngathainggyoung have been repaired for many times due to erosion.

So as to prevent bank erosion, the water course of Ngawun River is being dredged, far distance from the embankment, with the use of heavy machinery, by Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Myanma Alin
Man robs Girl Scouts of $200

HOUSTON, 5 March—Houston area Girl Scouts stood up to two thieves who nabbed their cashbox, leaving one girl injured and her troop mates shaken up, they say.

A black Toyota Camry pulled up in front of a Fort Bend Walmart just before 2 pm on Saturday, where members of troop No. 29152 were selling cookies, KPRC-TV, Houston, reported. A man got out of the vehicle, and approached the stand, saying he was interested in buying several boxes. He then grabbed the cash box and jumped back into the car to make a getaway, but not without Avicia Cotton on his heels. “I started hitting the boy in the passenger seat, so I think he learned his lesson a little bit and then they dragged my friend Rachel across the street, driving real fast,” Cotton told KPRC.

Rachel Johnson followed Cotton’s lead, springing into action and grabbing the car’s rear bumper to stop the man from getting away, beforeailing and suffering a few scrapes. Johnson had a message for the crooks that escaped with $200 dollars: “Hope your face hurts where it aches, you punchoedon, jerk, bums,” she said. “I hope your face hurts and I hope it leaves a scar. Who steals money from Girl Scouts, I mean, really.”

Two dead, 22 hurt in Malaysia tour bus accident

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 March—Two Indian tourists died and 22 other people were hurt on Monday when their bus overturned on a winding mountain road in western Malaysia, police said.

The coach loaded with Indian holiday-makers lost control, struck a highway divider and overturned en route from the Genting Highlands resort to the Capital Kuala Lumpur, district police official Mohamad Yusi Hasun Basi said. One woman and a man died while 22 other people including the Malaysian coach driver were admitted to hospital, some with serious injuries, he said. A two-year-old child was among the injured.

Police were investigating the cause of the accident, but the steep and curving road is prone to accidents.

The Indian tourists had arrived at the highland resort on Saturday and were planning to travel onward to neighbouring Singapore, Mohamad Yusi said. Deadly coach accidents are not uncommon in Malaysia, particularly in mountainous areas.—Internet
Kevin Anderson beats Matosevic to win Delray Beach title

Delray Beach, 5 March — Kevin Anderson beat Australian qualifier Marinko Matosevic 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 on Sunday to win the Delray Beach International Tennis Championships for his second career ATP title. The seventh-seeded Anderson, the first South African to win this 20-year-old tournament, is now 2-1 in career finals, having won his first title at the now-defunct 2011 Johannesburg tournament. “It’s fantastic,” said Anderson. “First title in the United States which is great. Apart from South Africa this is my second home. Winning one in the United States is especially exciting.” The 36th-ranked Anderson — he’ll move up to around No 30 in the next rankings — gained a lot of attention here this week as he beat the two American favorites — Andy Roddick in the quarterfinals and John Isner in the semis. The 22nd-ranked Matosevic had the best week of his career despite losing in his first career.

PSG sink Ajaccio to reclaim top spot in Ligue 1

Paris-Saint-Germain’s head coach Carlo Ancelotti looks at his players during the French Ligue 1 football match PSG vs Ajaccio at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris.

Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson draws his side grab a 3-1 away win at Spurs on Sunday despite being outplayed for long period.

Inter scramble draw as pressure grows on Ranieri

Mc, 5 March — Claudio Ranieri’s grip on his Inter Milan job alone appeared even more precarious on Sunday after his side had to fight back from two goals down to squeeze out a 2-2 draw against Catania. Ranieri’s team had lost seven of their previous eight games, without scoring a goal, and they were soon in trouble against their unheralded visitors from Sicily.

Man United boss expects City showdown to decide title

London, 5 March — Sir Alex Ferguson believes the destiny of the Premier League title race will be decided by the outcome of Manchester United’s trip to face current leaders Manchester City at Estadio do Marques 30 April. United manager Ferguson is convinced his side took a major step toward retaining the English crown with the hard-fought 3-1 victory at Tottenham on Sunday. The travelling fans were out-played for long periods but capitalised on two defensive errors by Spurs before Ashley Young capped victory with his second goal of the game. Ferguson admitted his side rode their luck, but believes the form shown by United since the turn of the year confirms they are stepping up the pressure on City, who currently sit two points clear at the head of the table. “We have had all the big teams since January including City and Liverpool and we’ve had FA Cup,” Ferguson said. “We have come through that and credit the players. They have played well in most of the games. Today was a bit disappointing but the one thing we did do was show the determination to get the result.”

Column: Mcllroy is the new face of golf

Palm Beach Gardens, 5 March — For more months than we care to think about, the only real question in golf has been this: What’s wrong with Tiger? Maybe now we should be asking what’s going well with golf. Plenty, if you judge from a Sunday afternoon in Florida, where a new star helped cement his claim to greatness even as he head on coming down the stretch that could only mean Tiger Woods was on the mark.

No 1 in the world was on the line for Rory McIlroy, but that wasn’t even the biggest subplot of the day. That was owned by a player in bright red whose game finally matched the brilliance of his shirt. Woods’ 62 may not have put a scare into McIlroy, but it did put everyone on notice that he can still play golf. Doing it on Sunday after it’s been so long since Woods won a real tournament screamed you was Woods, indeed, back.

The question is how much it still matters. To the crowd count, yes, and maybe even to the count always in Woods’ head — the 18 majors won by Jack Nicklaus.

Real Madrid smash Espanyol to go 10 points clear

Madrid, 5 March — Real Madrid and Cristiano Ronaldo pulled away from Espanyol 5-0 on Sunday to record a 10th straight league victory and restore their 10-point advantage over Barcelona in the battle to top of La Liga. Two goals from Gonzalo Higuain, and one each from Cristiano Ronaldo and Sami Khedira, who hasn’t even played the biggest big moment of the season. Real coach Jose Mourinho, who has already been installed as favourite to replace the sacked Andre Villas-Boas at Chelsea, opted to skip the post-match news conference, sending out his assistant Aitor Karanka instead.

Everyone can see that Higuain is a special player. When he is not happy you can see it and when he is happy you can tell as well. — Internet

Real Madrid’s Argentine forward Gonzalo Higuain celebrates after scoring against Espanyol playing at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid.

Inter Milan’s coach Claudio Ranieri (R) gives a ball to Inter Milan’s Argentine defender Javier Zanetti during a Serie A match against Catania at the San Siro stadium in Milan. — Internet

Kevin Anderson

The 36th-ranked Anderson — he’ll move up to around No 30 in the next rankings — gained a lot of attention here this week as he beat the two American favorites — Andy Roddick in the quarterfinals and John Isner in the semis. The 22nd-ranked Matosevic had the best week of his career despite losing in his first career.
Champion Klitschko warns challengers to think twice

DUESSELDORF, 5 March — World champion Wladimir Klitschko has issued a warning to any fighters looking to step up to the heavyweight division to think twice after he knocked out Jean-Marc Mormeck in the IBF, IBO, WBO and WBA title bout at the Esprit arena in the western German city of Duesseldorf on March 3. Klitschko has issued a warning to any fighters looking to step up to the heavyweight division to think twice after he knocked out Jean-Marc Mormeck. The 35-year-old defend his IBF, IBO, WBO and WBA heavyweight title. “I think all the light heavyweights who have ambitions to get into heavyweight division should think twice,” he said, having claimed the 57th win of his career with a perfect first-round stoppage of Mormeck. The Frenchman failed to make the distance and was stopped in the first round.

England manager search has turned into a farce - Terry Butcher

LONDON, 5 March — Former England captain Terry Butcher has called the Football Association’s search for a new manager “a farce”. Fabio Capello quit in February and the FA’s head of development Sir Trevor Brooking has stated a permanent appointment will be made before Euro 2012 begins in June. Caretaker boss Stuart Pearce has said he is available to manage England at this summer’s major championship. “I think it’s a farce,” Butcher told BBC Radio 5 Live’s Sportweek. The Inverness manager added: “We’ve got two warm-up games in May before the European Championships. You’re looking to get a settled squad and an idea of what that starting side will be for the first match at the Euros and we’re a million miles away from that. ‘I think the FA must be looking elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Tenacious Hsieh wins BMW Malaysian Open title

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 March — It was a match too far for Petra Martic, who handed Taiwanese qualifier Hsieh Su-Wei the BMW Malaysian Open title after retiring in the third set of the final Sunday due to fatigue.

Hsieh Su-Wei poses with her trophy after defeating Petra Martic of Croatia during their final singles match at the BMW Malaysian Open women’s tennis tournament in Kuala Lumpur. — Internet

The Croatian took the first set 6-2, but Hsieh, who has made it a habit to chase down lost causes, fought back in the second, coming from 2-3 down to win 7-5. Twice in the third set Martic called for the trainer and after being broken for the third time in the match, which gave Hsieh a 3-1 lead, she looked a beaten woman.

After Hsieh held serve to go 4-1 up, Martic called the trainer for a third time and decided she could not continue, handing Hsieh the first WTA title of her career. Women’s Tennis Association tour supervisor Pam Whetzer said Martic had to pull out as she was suffering from heat exhaustion. “She is not injured and just needs a bit of rest. She had a big day today, playing nearly five hours of tennis and is completely exhausted,” she said. — Internet

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session continues for 18th day

Union Ministers make clarifications, proposal on condolence made, two bills discussed and approved

Concerning the discussion of road maintenance or maintenance of old roads, it is regrettable that due to typing errors, repairing and maintenance of new roads implied that new roads were built now and damaged then. Actually, the subject is about maintenance and repairing of old roads in border regions. As the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and regional authorities are carrying out greening tasks, regarding the discussion of naming the exact title for the law entitled others, it means that greening tasks are being carried out in the campus of University for Progress of National Races in the Union (Sagaing).

Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency-7 discussed that all heavy industrial projects in the 2011-2012 fiscal and the ones that will start in the 2012-2013 fiscal should be halted for State-owned capital. In this regard, industrial development projects are being undertaken with special loan from the People’s Republic of China. Loan agreements were signed in 2010. By halting the projects, it is impossible to use those loans for other purposes. And there cannot be extra implemented on a joint-venture or public-owned basis or with foreign investment. This is why it is necessary for people’s representatives to consider that those industrial projects are being undertaken with the national goal of building an industrialized nation.

In his clarification, Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan said U Aye Mauk of Maunglaing Constituency discussed cooperation with private sector in order for the Information Ministry to reduce cost for media investment and machinery purchases and media development. Regarding this, for over the past 7 or 8 years, the ministry has been cooperating with the private sector in effectively carrying out media tasks and saving State funds after laying down new policies. Channel-4 and its related programmes are being broadcast in cooperation with Forever Media Group. Similarly, in collaboration with Sky Net Media, Sky Net programmes including Myanmar International are being broadcast. In radio broadcasting, six FM radio stations namely Mandalay FM, Padamya FM, Shwe FM, Pyinsawady FM, Cherry FM and Bagan FM are airing their programmes. As a result, expenditure from State funds could be reduced and media coverage has been expended than ever. In addition, some programmes (See page 10)