Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo receives Ho Chi Minh City Communist Party Committee Secretary and party

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo received Secretary of Ho Chi Minh City Communist Party Committee Mr Le Thanh Hai and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 10.30 am today.

Also present at the call together with Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun and departmental heads. The Secretary of Ho Chi Minh City Communist Party and party were accompanied by senior officials.

Also present at the call, they discussed undertaking of city of friendship and cooperation between Yangon and Ho Chi Minh City, cooperation in economy between the two countries and development of tourism industry.

MNA
The issue of climate change

All signs suggest that the planet is still hurtling headlong toward climatic disaster.

There are several reasons for this, and we should understand them in order to break today’s deadlock.

First, the economic challenge of controlling human-induced climate change is truly complex. The human-induced climate change stems from two principal sources of emission of greenhouse gases.

Changing the world’s energy and agricultural systems is no small matter. It is not enough to just wave our hands and declare that climate change is an emergency. We need a practical strategy for overhauling two economic sectors that stand at the centre of the global economy and involve the entire world’s population.

The second major challenge in addressing climate change is the complicity of the science itself. Today’s understanding of climate change is the result of extremely difficult scientific work. This scientific understanding is incomplete, and there remain significant uncertainties about the precise magnitudes, timing and dangers of climate change.

This has given rise to a third problem in addressing climate change, which stems from a combination of the economic implications of the issue and the uncertainty that surrounds it.

What is clear is that we are courting disaster as a result. And nature is telling us that our current economic model is dangerous and self-defeating. Unless we find some proper and realistic ways in the next few years, we will learn that lesson in the hardest ways possible.

Over 172 fires broke out in Feb

YANGON, 13 March — Over 172 fires broke out in February, 2012, across the country, destroying 1573 houses and one garage and leaving 3750 people homeless.

Out of 172 fires, 126 fires started at kitchens and caused by negligence, seven caused by automatic fires, 21 fires by short circuits, nine fires by arsonists and nine by forest fires.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives US Special Envoy and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar and party

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives a delegation led by US Special Envoy and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar Mr Derek Mitchell.—MNA

Union Religious Affairs Minister receives Pakistani Ambassador

Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung receives Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Myanmar Mr Qazi M Khalilullah.—MNA

Sagaying Region Chief Minister inspects regional development tasks

He met local people at Nyanambin village Basic Education High School in Myaungu Township and inspected site chosen for construction of new school building and site for Construction of Mu River retaining wall.

The region chief minister also met local people of Legyi village in Sagaying Township and inspected construction of Basic Education Middle School (Branch).

The region chief minister inspected hospitals, markets, schools and roads in Ywathitgyi, Talai, Hsataung and Thazin villages in Sagaying Township, Kanhtooma model village in Taung Township and Tamadow village in YeU Township. He met local people there and attended to the needs.

MNA
Eight killed in US drone strike in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 13 March—At least eight people were killed in a US drone strike launched on Tuesday afternoon in Pakistan’s northwest tribal area, according to local media reports.

While most local media reports said that the strike took place in North Waziristan, one local Urdu TV channel Dunya said that it occurred in South Waziristan.

Despite the difference in the location of the US drone strike, all the local media said that the target was a vehicle suspected of carrying militants. As both North and South Waziristan are the far-flung mountainous areas bordering Afghanistan, it normally takes time to confirm the news coming from these areas.

Tuesday’s US drone strike is the ninth of its kind (counted on daily basis) in Pakistan in 2012. To date, at least 69 people have reportedly been killed and 14 others injured in such strikes since the beginning of this year.
Global march of banana fungus revealed

The fungus can cause bananas to ripen prematurely. — Internet

LONDON, 13 March — A banana and plantain fungus which has spread across the world originated in South East Asia, new research has found.

Black leaf streak disease (Mycosphaerella fijiensis) affects leaf photosynthesis, and causes premature ripening. It also delays harvests and can affect banana quality and numbers. A Molecular Ecology Journal study found “an original and unprecedented global scenario of invasion”.

It is the most important and destructive banana disease in the world, says one of the authors, Stephanie Robert.

“It starts with small flecks and spreads to the whole banana leaves — the disease can totally destroy the whole banana plant,” she says. Using genetic markers, the team were able to map the strains on 735 banana leaves from 37 different countries and identify genetic similarities. “The historical hypothesis was that it came from South East Asia,” Ms. Robert says. While the fungus was first recorded in Fiji in 1963, it was initially thought that the centre of origin could have been Papua New Guinea or the Solomon Islands.

However, the study found the whole of South East Asia could be the centre of diversity — encompassing at least Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Internet

Up to 900 tropical bird species could ‘go extinct’

LONDON, 13 March — Up to 900 species of tropical land birds around the world could become extinct by 2100, researchers say. The finding is modelled on the effects of a 3.5C Earth surface temperature rise, a Biological Conservation Journal paper shows. Species may struggle to adapt to habitat loss and extreme weather events, author Cagan Sekercioglu says. Mountain, coastal, restricted-range, and species unable to get to higher elevations could be the worst affected.

Depending on future habitat loss, each degree of surface warming would affect between 106-500 species, says Mr Sekercioglu, assistant professor of biology at the University of Utah. “This gives us a clear big picture. The problem is most species in the world are highly sedentary... the public perception is most birds are migratory and so climate change is not a problem for them,” he says.

Mr Sekercioglu says tropical mountain species are among most vulnerable. He says birds species will need to be able to adapt physiologically to changes in temperature and be able to move to higher altitudes if they are to survive. He says cooler, more humid forests could recede higher up mountains and combined with human settlements at higher altitudes, forest habitat could “get pushed off the mountain”. — Internet

Warm winter may bring pest-filled spring

HARTFORD, 13 March — The mild winter that has given many Northern farmers a break from shoveling and a welcome chance to catch up on maintenance could lead to a tough spring as many pests that would normally freeze have not. Winter is usually what one agricultural specialist calls a “reset button” that gives farmer a fresh start come planting season. But with relatively mild temperatures and little snow, Winters are usually what one agriculture specialist calls a “reset button” that gives farmer a fresh start come planting season. But with relatively mild temperatures and little snow, pests such as aphids, winter moth caterpillars, and beach plagues are aggressive and eat buds, potentially ruining a crop for a whole year.

“One of the big stress factors that gets us out on the bog early,” said Allen, whose farm sells cranberries for juice and pulp converted into cranberry vitamins. — Internet

GDC 2012: Create, then game your own music with the PS Vita title, Sound Shapes

New York, 13 March — Say what you will about the PlayStation Vita, but one thing you can’t deny is that the launch titles have offered a little something for everyone. From franchise shooters to sports games, the Vita has been expanding its reach while also trying to give fans something new and original. Few games typify that as well as the upcoming title fro developer Queasy Games, Sound Shapes. If you’d notice, I have been careful not to use the word “game” to describe Sound Shapes, and with good reason. Sure, it is a game, and features both level creation and platforming, but focusing on that is missing the point. Sound Shapes is a rhythm-based musical experience that you control as if it were a game. At first glance, it is a simple platforming game where you control an amorphous blob that can stick to certain surfaces, and you collect orbs as you try to progress from screen to screen while avoiding enemies and lasers. If you play without the sound on, that may be all that you take from it, which would be a shame. With the sound on, you realize that it call to it, and is game only partially true. Sure, it is presented as a game, but it is more about the creation of music, and the platforming elements are simply a byproduct of that. The orbs you collect are actually notes, and the lasers are rhythm drums. The enemies are also part of the sounds, and completing each screen means completing a new section of the soundtrack. Internet

New iPad expected with faster chip, sharper screen

New York, 13 March — Apple is holding an event Wednesday in San Francisco, and has hinted that it will reveal a new iPad model. Rumors speak of an updated tablet with a speedier processor, a sharper screen and an option for faster wireless broadband access. Last year’s launch of the iPad 2 is any guide, the new iPad model will go on sale in the US next week, likely on Friday.

The upgrade from the iPad 2 to the iPad 3 will be less significant than the upgrade from the original iPad to the iPad 2, which added two cameras while cutting both the thickness and the weight of the device. One big unknown is whether Apple will keep the iPad 2 in production and offer it at a lower price, like it kept the iPhone 3GS after the launch of the iPhone 4. Another big question is whether Apple will reveal its promised eyetracking TV sets. Some have speculated that the invite to the Apple event, which says “We have something you really have to see,” points in that direction. Apple already sells and “Apple TV.” It’s a non TV, but a small box that attaches to a television set to display movies and play music from iTunes. The iPad launch comes as Apple has reached a rare milestone. Last week, it was worth more than $500 billion. Only six other US companies have ever been worth that much, and none have held that valuation for long.

On Tuesday, Apple’s stock fell, bringing its market value down to $493 billion, but analysts believe the company is worth closer to $550 billion. These are some rumoured features of the iPad 3:

— A sharper screen, similar to the “Retina Display” on the iPad 2 and 4s. The rumored resolution is 2048 by 1536 pixels, which would make text look smoother and some high-resolution pictures look better. It won’t make much of a difference for images on the Web, or video.

Some speculate that Apple will launch a new MacBook Pro, but analyst Ben Cherdner of UBS Securities thinks it isn’t likely this time. “We definitely think Apple will announce an iPad without an upgrade to the camera, but that isn’t going to move the needle much,” he said.

US smartphone users now over 100 million, Android increases market share

New York, 13 March — Research firm comScore has released its latest set of data looking at key trends in the US mobile market for the three-month period ending January 2012. One figure which caught my eye was its finding that for the first time there are now more than 100 million mobile subscribers in the US using smartphones. The exact figure was put at 101.3 million, an increase of 13 percent from October. No doubt that figure was helped by the launch of Apple’s popular iPhone 4S handset in October. Indeed, Apple saw its smartphone platform share increase 1.4 percent in the three-month period ending January 2012 over the preceding three-month period. The Cupertino company now has a 29.5 percent share of the smartphone platform market. Google’s Android operating system, on the other hand, comfortably maintains its number one position with a 46.8 percent market share, up 2.3 percent from the previous three-month period. Internet

A student works out an algebra problem on his school-supplied iPad in class at Grant, Colo. — Internet

Internet
**Union FM receives Pakistani Ambassador**

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr Qazi M Khalilullah, who has completed his tour of duty, at the ministry, here, at 1.30 pm today. They focused on promotion of bilateral relations between the two countries. —MNA

Technological Universities, Universities of Computer Studies and Arts and Science Universities that link other universities in upper Myanmar

Technological Universities, Universities of Computer Studies and Arts and Science Universities are opened, centered Mandalay in order to link other universities in upper Myanmar. Photos show Technological University (Mandalay) (right) and University of Computer Studies (Mandalay) (above).

* Mandalay Region becomes a shining star for current education sector. Thanks to the multi development programme across the country, Mandalay is noted for University City in upper Myanmar.

* In the past, Mandalay University was only one in Mandalay Region. Now Ministry of Education has opened Mandalay University of Foreign Languages, Mandalay University of Distance Education, Yadana Bon University, Meiktila University, Institute of Economics (Meiktila) and Kyaukse University.

* There were over 20,000 students who pursued higher education in the region. Thanks to the increase in the number of universities, the number of students has now reached over 80,000.
New National Democracy Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March — Chairman of New National Democracy Party U Thein Nyunt presented the party’s policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV today.

The translation of his presentation is as follows:

Esteemed people,

Under my leadership, our New National Democracy Party with the logo of three bamboo hats will compete in three constituencies of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Yangon Region. Advocate Mon national U Win Shwe will compete in Dagon Seikkan Township, U Phone Myint who took charge of minority affairs in Mingala Taungnyunt Township together with Saya Chel and young vocalist U Ye Min Thein (a) Ratha in Mayangon Township.

In the 1990 multi-party democracy election, wearing a bamboo hat, I was elected in Thingangyun Constituency. As you all know, the people of Thingangyun voted for us in the 2010 election by putting a tick beside the Khamout (bamboo hat).

That is why I have been able to work inside and outside the Hluttaw with the authority entrusted by the people. The reason why we stood for the 2010 election is mainly to reduce poverty rate of the people and create job opportunities. In giving an interview to a senior editor of The Washington Post, President U Thein Sein said there are more than 3 million Myanmar migrant workers abroad and the domestic poverty rate is about 26%.

We faced a strong political wind in which some people decided that they would not vote if they did not participate in election in reforming our underdeveloped country through the parliamentary politics. Now, the time has given us the answer whether or not it was right we ran for the election.

Esteemed people,

In an article of the Voice Journal entitled ‘The trace of road can be seen: the worries of a bystander in the mist’ by author Kyaw Win wrote his remark. In it, he says: “As all know, those parties had to overcome the demands of no vote to run for election. They had to struggle ardently and agreeable to all in order to take stern actions against corruptions. As long as corruption and bribery prevails in the society, it would cause a burden to the people, and the collection of full taxes would be impossible, which is a loophole for the government. Our party would carry out to fight against corruptions and bribery spreading like cancer. ’

Esteemed people,

Our party also puts more emphasis on regional issues. Yangon Region Hluttaw representative U Kyaw submitted the proposal on sufficient supply of drinking water in Yangon Region. More emphasis was also placed on matters relating to the shortage of water, power outage and damaged roads as promised in the 2010 Election. Representative U Kyaw of Thingangyun Constituency No.1 also submitted the proposal on urging the government to allow anti-burnt chant in the course of Thingyan festival which all people and students want. So, we are going to enjoy antiphonal chant in the coming Thingyan festival again. The major amendments to some matters I made in the Pyithu Hluttaw are that not to pay money in submitting overnight guest list to authorities and exercising secret ballot so as to nurture the democratic practice starting ward level.

We failed to achieve successes in submitting the proposals on abolishing of Emergency Act (1950) which is known for 5(J) {Ngar (Nya)} and—Act (1926). With respect to these Acts, we have already done something we should to some extent. For the safety of media, we, in particular, submitted the proposal on abolishing of section 500. We have already tried to prescribe a law that can protect media men, the fourth estate.

Esteemed people,

It is witnessed that during one year, our party has submitted the matters such as the rule of law, the end of civil war, promoting human right standards to Hluttaw. In addition, our esteemed people can assess our party’s stance on people’s hardships outside the Hluttaw. It can be seen how our party got engaged in the issues of Bayintnaung market in Mayangon Township, hyper Migalar Mon Market in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, 88 ward market in Dagon Seikkan Township and shopkeepers in Yangon Region. All we did is only in the interest of the State and the people.

Esteemed people,

Based on the 2010 Election result, our party’s undertakings in the Hluttaws give a witness to our promise. As all know, I am an only representative of our party in Pyithu Hluttaw. So, our party is in urgent need of getting Pyithu Hluttaw representatives who can help me. Here, eligible voters are urged to put a tick in the box next to three bamboo hats so as to vote our representatives U Win Shwe of Dagon Seikkan Township of Yangon Region, U Phone Myint of Mingala Taungnyunt Township and U Ye Min Thein well-known for Hip hop rapper of Mayangon Township who will represent youth voices, in the coming by-elections.

Voters are urged to choose representatives who can stand bravely by the people like me. I would like to say again that our party’s emblem is three bamboo hats which is officially recognized by the Union Election Commission.

Teaching Traditional Medicine Hospital (Mandalay) upgraded to 100-bed facility

MANDALAY, 13 March—A ceremony to constitute Teaching Traditional Medicine Hospital (Mandalay) (100-bed) under the Ministry of Health was held at the hall of the hospital on 22 February morning.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin made a speech. Professor Director-General Dr Aung Myint of Traditional Medicine Department presented gifts in commemoration of upgrading the teaching traditional medicine hospital to the 100-bed facility to the Deputy Minister for Health and the Region Minister for Social Affairs.—Health

Fire preventive measures taken in Singu

SINGU, 13 March—As an act of taking fire preventive measures, Deputy Commanding Officer Maung Gyi and members of Singu Township Auxiliary Fire Battalion and ward administrator inspected use of fire and electricity and systematic keeping of fire extinguishers at food stalls, public residences, government offices and departments in Ward 1 and Ward 2 of Singu on 12 February morning.

After that, they gave talks on danger of fire and fire preventive measures.—Myanmar Alin

EDUCATIVE TALKS GIVEN: Talks on eradication of illegal timber extraction and environmental conservation were held at office of Kyaukkaygyun Village in Ywangan Township on 28 February. Head of Township Forest Department U Zaw Naing talks about environmental conservation.—Towmsm IPRD

District News

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 14 March, 2012

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Unity and Peace Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Chairman of Unity and Peace Party U Ohn Lwin presented party’s policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 13 March evening.

The translation of the presentation is as follows:

May all the people be in health and well-being. I am Chairman of the Unity and Peace Party. I would like to introduce my understanding of the meaning of bringing about national reconciliation and eternal peace based on liberty, equality and justice.

I would like to report you on our undertakings made in the light of consideration on politics.

In 1988, the country collapsed into anarchy. The Tatmadaw took control of the country and promised the public to shape multi-party democracy and market economy. While some politicians were trying to remove the Tatmadaw with the help, inside and outside, we firmly supported the promise of the Tatmadaw. We have the answer why we did so.

As the country lagged behind other countries, the democratic classes—national capitalists, middle-class educated persons and white-collar workers—were weak and we considered the Tatmadaw government then created democratic revolution with their own understanding. The Tatmadaw government then convened National Convention in 1993 to draft the constitution. The convention was suspended in 1995 as the representatives of a party walked out the convention. The Tatmadaw government then designated the seven-step roadmap and resumed the National Convention. Three Hlutawas and the government ruled under the constitution have emerged.

Esteemed People,

Unity and Peace Party will field four candidates in coming by-elections on 1-4.2012. They are (1) Amyotha Hlutaw candidate Vice-Chairman I) U Aung Than Tin in Taungdwingyi Township of Magway Region, (2) Pyithu Hlutaw candidate Vice-Chairman III) Hluttaw Township in Mandalay Region, (3) Pyithu Hlutaw candidate CEC Member U Tin Yi in Kawhmu Township in Yangon Region, and (4) Pyithu Hlutaw candidate CEC Member U Thein Oo in HlaingTharYar Township in Bago Region.

National reconciliation and eternal peace are our party’s objective. We will try our best to implement united and peaceful transition in the move towards democracy. We believe the confrontation does not pay in democratic transition. Only when the people, the government and political parties work in cooperation, will our country be developed.

The people play a key role in democratic system. The constitution states, “The Sovereign power of the Union is derived from the citizens and is in force in the entire country.” Nothing can be done without participation of the people in the country. The people must be allowed to elect candidates freely in free and clean elections. If not so, the mobocracy and ultra-democracy will become strong and the country and its people will be plunged into chaos. In post-independence period in 1948, political parties including red flag, white flag and people’s militia took the parliamentary government (APFF) as enemy rather than friend and waged a war against it. This country lagged behind in civil war for about forty or fifty years. It is the consequence from the mistake that the political parties assumed the ally as enemy. We all the political parties should take lesson from it.

As success of the market orientation system is key for development of the country, we all should make efforts for the success of the market system. Only then, will the country be developed in parallel with flourishing of democracy and human rights.

Esteemed People,

The stance of political parties is serving in the interests of the people. The national interest means development of the country, stability and peace in the country, democracy and human rights. As for us, we are working together with the parties which have the same stance with us. We have reviewed and made assessment to the political situations from all dimensions and have worked with our political convictions which do not base on extremist thinking such as personality cult, sectarianism and idealism. We do not hold the policy of “who diverse from me is my enemy” and we have worked together for a common purpose based on the concept of “Agree to Disagree” and are committed to find solutions on diversities through discussions. Our party, joining hands with our ally parties who have same political convictions with us, has engaged in political activities with our party’s policy and stance. If we want the democratic system, we should support the elected government so that it can serve in the interests of the country and the people. The politics which has blind faith in whatever the government does and which opposes whatever the government does is the extreme politics and does not help the development of the country. We must support the government’s efforts if they serve in the interests of the country and people and we must point out and give advice to the government when it’s efforts are deviated from the national interests.

Esteemed People,

I pledge that if the candidates of the Unity and Peace party are elected to Amyotha Hlutaw, Pyithu Hlutaw and Union Hlutaw, they will give us complements to publish them and doing betterment of laws which would benefit the country and the people.

Regarding the party’s stance on farmers, we are committed to landownership for farmers, helping farmers for their management for farmland by themselves, high living standard of farmers, providing sufficient capital for farmers, good agricultural pattern and high efficiency, wide marketing, creating opportunities for farmers so that they can participate in the market by themselves and organizing the Farmers Union. Regarding the workers, our party adopted the policy to invite Foreign Direct Investment-FDI to create job opportunities, to increase wages, to promote rights, to boost social security assistance and pension, to promote science and technology for workers and to systematically establish a social security system. We are committed to stand without Hlutawas for forming a clean government, good governance and right judiciary. We pledge that our party will manoeuvre the guideline “No man is above the law” so that every one can have equal rights under the law approved by 92.4%of the people. We pledge that our party will encourage foundations which are working for poverty alleviation, development of human resources and education. We will work together with the government to gain achievements in the education, health, culture, sports sectors etc and will make utmost efforts for sustainable development of the country.

Regarding the economy sector, we pledge that our party will adopt the market oriented economy system which is agreeable to the socio-economic life of the people. In doing so, we will lay down plans in an attempt to shape an economic system which is agreeable to Myanmar society after making assessment of progresses in international communities. Regarding the foreign affairs, we will encourage the free and active foreign affairs policy which has been adopted by successive governments in Myanmar and will follow the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

Regarding the defense sector, we pledge that our party is committed to building a modern military force which gains respects from foreign countries and has a strong military capacity to fully protect the internal and external destructive elements while upholding the Our Three Main National Causes. We believe that we can build a modern and developed country within the framework of the State constitution while upholding the Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the National Solidarity and Perpetuation of Sovereignty and practicing the multi-party democratic system and the market oriented economy.

I pledge that our party is loyal to the State and the people forever and shall give priority to the interests of the nation when we have to choose the one between the party’s interests and the national interests.

Basic international trade course to begin on 26 March

YANGON, 13 March—With the aim of encouraging development of State economy, trade sector and human resources of the country, the Ministry of Commerce will open the Trade Institute and conduct the basic international trade course No. 1 beginning on 26 March. Economists and senior officers of departments concerning trade sector will give lectures on theory and ideology on international trade in addition to export and import rules and regulations to the trainees. The class will be provided three days a week from 9 am to 12.30 pm. The course will last four months.

Those wishing to attend the course may take applications from Directorate of Trade (Yangon Region Office), ground floor, No. 228/240, Strand Road, Pabedan Township, not later than 20 March.

Myanmar Allo
Third Regular Session of first Pyithu Hluttaw continues...

(from page 16)

According to the experience and survey, the aforesaid branches tons are much more than actual outputs. Systematic production of branches will be carried out. Due to the lack of economic scale and malpractice there is no plan to carry out production of branches in the future, production of branches will be carried out to the lack of economic scale and malpractice. Therefore, the subject of the question is to be submitted to the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw. He kept a promise that he will urge respective Union government to review the subject and go on with the task. As such, the subject of the question can be considered on a wider scale. Therefore, U Khaing Maung Yi must compile the clear and complete subject submitted in the presence of the Hluttaw representatives as quickly as possible.

Union level organization members, Bill Committee and Hluttaw representatives discussed and approved paragraph by paragraph on amended proposal for Export and Import Bill. They approved Title of the Bill, Paragraph 1, Paragraph 2 (b, c, d, e, f and g), Paragraph 3 (a, b, c and d), Paragraph 4 (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i and j), Chapter IV Title, Paragraph 5, Paragraph 6, Paragraph 7, Paragraph 8, Paragraph 9, Paragraph 11, Paragraph 12 and Paragraph 13 of the Export and Import Bill as amendment of the Bill Committee, matters related to the title of Chapter III as amendment of U Than Oo of Myawaddy Constituency, and matters related to paragraph 10 as amendment of U Kyaw Naing Htay of Indaw Constituency. They approved the whole bill with the amended paragraphs and sub-paragraphs.

Altogether 13 Hluttaw representatives nominated themselves to discuss matters related to the proposal that the Hluttaw urges the government to constitute the independent and acceptable national corruption prevention commission to be able to take action against corruption cases so as to emerge clean government and good governance submitted on 20 February by U Thein Nyunt of Thyangyun Constituency. The proposal will be changed as the Anti-Corruption Law to be able to take deterrent action against corruption cases for emergence of the clean government and good governance and to seek decision from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for strictly abiding by the law after promulgation. To contribute towards promulgation of the law, one copy each of 15 volumes on Anti-Corruption Law of nine ASEAN countries, the People’s Republic of China, People’s Republic of Bangladesh and the UN was distributed to the Hluttaw representatives today.

Today’s session came to an end at 1:35 pm, and the 14th day session continues at 10 am tomorrow.—MNA

Myanmar Gems Emporium 2012 continues for the fifth day

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—The 49th Myanmar Gems Emporium 2012 continued for the fifth day at Mani Yadana Jade Hall near the Myanmar Gems Museum here this morning.

After observing jade lots put on display, local and international gem merchants put their price proposals into the respective tender boxes.

Sales booths where jades and finished jewellery being put on display and jewellery booths were also packed with international gem merchants. Secretary of Ho Chi Minh City Communist Party of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Le Thanh Hai and party observed the Mani Yadana Jade Hall.

In the evening, Patron of the Central Committee for Organizing the Emporium Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htuk and members opened the tender boxes and went through the price proposals.

The emporium has so far sold altogether 6245 jade lots through open tender system.—MNA
Third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttwat…

(From page 16)

local fishermen by private entrepreneurs who won auctions for fishing plots in Maungtaw Township. The Union Minister said that the Ministry of Fisheries handed over freshwater fishing plots in 14 townships in Rakhine State since 9-5-2011. Seven persons bought 12 plots in Maungtaw Township with K 49,990,000. They will be free from surcharges of tender tax and taxes for fishing tools and amount through bank. They can sell the fishing plots to others by their own free will. The Fisheries Department resolved complaints about surcharges from fishermen by entrepreneurs. Similar complaints arose from MraukU and Yathehoodang Townships in 2010 and 2011. Rakhine State government will be reported to help groups of fishermen in Rakhine State buy fishing plots in order that they will be free from surcharges of entrepreneurs and run fishing business thoroughly.

Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 6 asked whether there is plan to recruit graduates for cooperative services. The Union Minister answered: When the country adopted socialist economic system, cooperatives was designated as second pillar of the country’s economy and allowed graduates to work in cooperative services in each township. In market economic system the State adopts today, cooperatives is not second pillar of the private sector is important. It is prescribed in the constitution to do harmonious business activities through the State, cooperatives and private sector. There is no separate directive to employ graduates in cooperative services, they are working in above 1100 cooperative societies. We will make arrangements to employ graduates and diploma holders from Universities and Colleges.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko answered queries related to home affairs raised by five Hluttwat representatives.

Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No. 1 asked whether there is plan to draft separate law for Myanmar Police Force. The Union Minister answered: Myanmar Police Force was formed over 100 years ago. Its name was changed to People’s Police Force in 1964 and to Myanmar Police Force in October, 1995. Similarly, the Development Council, Myanmar Police Force Management System Reform Committee was formed and manuals for police used in successful operation in 2000. It includes duties and powers and entitlements for each rank of police and duties of police at the passport, immigration and frontier posts.


Police manual, Police Act, Police Disciplinary Law and Police Code of Conduct for have been prepared under Section 292 of the constitution. In addition, rules and regulations, orders and directives are issued. Based on development of the country, orders and directives will be if they are needed.

U Htay Win (a) U Zayad Ramran of Rakhine State Constituency No. 7 asked about “helping citizens in Butthidaw and Maungtaw Townships in Rakhine State to neutralize as Myanmar citizens under principle of the constitution as they are facing social, travel, economic and health difficulties” and “spoil 250 acres of farmland by channeling saltwater to fish and prawn ponds in Ngkayahu village in Maungtaw Township.” The Union Minister said: In retrospect, most of dwellers in Maungtaw district which shares 15-km long border with the other country are Bengali. They have the same religion, culture, look and language as the people in the other country. Communications and illegal marriages took place many years ago. Citizens of the other country entered our country with rich natural resources and preferable landscapes. In 1996, the population in Ngaungmyo Village in 1978-79, those who could not stand the examination fled to the country. In Hinthada project, over 180,000 persons were reaccepted under agreement of the two countries. Over 230,000 persons were reaccepted till July, 2005, as those who fled to the other country for various reasons in 1990-1991 were reaccepted since 22-9-1992 under the agreement of the two countries.

Up to now, Bengalis from other country illegally enter Myanmar through various ways. Thus, it really needs to scrutinize and prevent such illegal activities. The other country Bengalis nationals residing in Maungtaw District are supervised to take immigration control. With the endorsements of the respective ward/constituency, a 32-farmer group led by U Islam and their families are being supervised by the Rakhine State government, Village-tract in Maungtaw Township sent a complaint to the Rakhine State government. On his tour of Ngkayahu Village of Maungtaw Township sent a complaint to the Rakhine State government. On his tour of Ngkayahu Village of Maungtaw Township sent a complaint to the Rakhine State government.

With regard to the above-mentioned matters, a 32-farmer group led by U Islam and U Shu Maw Der (a) Hsin Win of Ngkayahu Village of Maungtaw Township sent a complaint to the Rakhine State government. So, the state government assigned the duty to the head of the District Fisheries Department to inspect the case. On his tour of Ngkayahu Village on 10-1-2012, the State Chief Minister himself met with farmers and explained that as tenants have put investment in 14-acres of prawn ponds, they are allowed for engaging in the business till the end of the agreement period. In coming years, fishermen including those of complaints will be formed as group to carry out prawn breeding and paddy cultivation. With regard to the above-mentioned matters, a 32-farmer group led by U Islam and U Shu Maw Der (a) Hsin Win of Ngkayahu Village of Maungtaw Township sent a complaint to the Rakhine State government. So, the state government assigned the duty to the head of the District Fisheries Department to inspect the case. On his tour of Ngkayahu Village on 10-1-2012, the State Chief Minister himself met with farmers and explained that as tenants have put investment in 14-acres of prawn ponds, they are allowed for engaging in the business till the end of the agreement period. In coming years, enthusiasts including those of complaints will be formed as group to carry out prawn breeding and paddy cultivation. With regard to the above-mentioned matters, a 32-farmer group led by U Islam and U Shu Maw Der (a) Hsin Win of Ngkayahu Village of Maungtaw Township sent a complaint to the Rakhine State government. So, the state government assigned the duty to the head of the District Fisheries Department to inspect the case. On his tour of Ngkayahu Village on 10-1-2012, the State Chief Minister himself met with farmers and explained that as tenants have put investment in 14-acres of prawn ponds, they are allowed for engaging in the business till the end of the agreement period. In coming years, enthusiasts including those of complaints will be formed as group to carry out prawn breeding and paddy cultivation. With regard to the above-mentioned matters, a 32-farmer group led by U Islam and U Shu Maw Der (a) Hsin Win of Ngkayahu Village of Maungtaw Township sent a complaint to the Rakhine State government. So, the state government assigned the duty to the head of the District Fisheries Department to inspect the case. On his tour of Ngkayahu Village on 10-1-2012, the State Chief Minister himself met with farmers and explained that as tenants have put investment in 14-acres of prawn ponds, they are allowed for engaging in the business till the end of the agreement period. In coming years, enthusiasts including those of complaints will be formed as group to carry out prawn breeding and paddy cultivation. With regard to the above-mentioned matters, a 32-farmer group led by U Islam and U Shu Maw Der (a) Hsin Win of Ngkayahu Village of Maungtaw Township sent a complaint to the Rakhine State government. So, the state government assigned the duty to the head of the District Fisheries Department to inspect the case. On his tour of Ngkayahu Village on 10-1-2012, the State Chief Minister himself met with farmers and explained that as tenants have put investment in 14-acres of prawn ponds, they are allowed for engaging in the business till the end of the agreement period. In coming years, enthusiasts including those of complaints will be formed as group to carry out prawn breeding and paddy cultivation.
Provisions have been prescribed to take action against the careless driver who.offends the traffic rules, wherever the accident occurs under section 561-a of the Penal Code. Moreover, if the case turns out to be an accident, it would help the court in deciding the case. Therefore, he said, any action was not taken against volunteers who helped the victims during the accident. After the accident, what was witnessed during questioning, would help them uncover the case. Therefore, any action was not taken against volunteers who helped the victims during the accident and it was not necessary to draw a new law to protect the volunteers.

U Paul Han Thai of Chin State constituency No 3 asked whether the ministry had a plan to easily and quickly issue passports to avoid the total invalidity of Myanmar passports from three to five years, he replied that the ministry had issued passports valid for five years to seafarers, valid for four years to those who had issued passports valid for five years to their offices after their registration, and they were valid for three weeks for the authority to scrutinize the passport.

In the case of a man who was charged for his assistance to a victim in an traffic accident, he had to demand compensation from the court if his case was revoked by the court as he was wrongly charged for his assistance to the victim, he said.

Regarding the constitution, it was the duty of all citizens for the prevalece of peace and stability in the country, and providing assistance to the victim in a traffic accident to send him to the hospital in time was not considered as involvement in a crime, and if those who helped the victims during the accident, the court would judge whether they were witnesses or helping the victim out of compassion. Therefore, any action was not necessary to draw a new law to protect the volunteers.

An INGO had to submit the project proposal, basic agreement and MoU drafts to Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and Attorney-General’s Office, and agreement form for the development of the country. INGOs and INGOS had to sign MoUs with the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and MoUs with MRP system and it was opened for two weeks for the authority to scrutinize the personal backgrounds for security of the country.

Passports were printed in Yangon current security papers were used to print them with ICAO standard and MRP system. However, for the aged and unhealthy persons, the door-to-door system was running by the ministry. He added, Besides, those willing to do office work at their homes may apply the home service at Home Service Department of Myanmar Passport Issuing Board. Passports for those who want to go pilgrimage in groups were issued in townships.

Myanmar, Vietnamese entrepreneurs to cooperate in investment, trade, tourism sectors

YANGON, 13 March — Myanmar and Vietnamese entrepreneurs held a meeting on boosting investment, trading and tourism between Yangon and Ho Chi Minh City was held at the convention of Yangon Chamber of Commerce and Industry here yesterday. At the meeting, Myanmar and Vietnamese entrepreneurs signed 11 agreements, and trade boosting and trade fair committee of the UMFCI signed an agreement with the investment and trade boosting department of Ho Chi Minh City.

The meeting was also attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Secretary of Ho Chi Minh City Committee for Mr Le Thanh Hai. After the meeting, Region Chief Minister U Tin Shwe of Yangon Region constituency No 3 asked how did the ministry scrutinized 11 non-governmental organizations from foreign countries in their works for political, economic, health and other sectors. He replied that INGOS and private organizations had signed MoUs with the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and with ministries concerned to work in the country.

Today, 278 NGOs had been permitted and 112 were working with ICAO standard and MRP system. Currently as security papers were used to print passports (MRP) system and it took from two to nine pages on 1 July, 2011. It took around three weeks for the authority to scrutinize the passport. INGOS from foreign countries, six organizations had been permitted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, and of the remaining 47 organizations, 38 had applied at the ministry to be registered. Fifty-three NGOs were working together with Myanmar Red Cross Society. INGOS were working for 67 programmes including providing assistance to health, nutrition, supplying drinking water, agriculture, livestock breeding, food sufficiency, natural disaster preparedness, social and educational conservation across the country.

The coordination and cooperation of the government and the rest, NGOs were working towards the sovereignty of the Stat, assisting in development of the country and giving helping towards the development of the country. At INGO had to submit the project proposal, basic agreement and MoU drafts to Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and Attorney-General’s Office, and agreement form for the development of the country. INGOs and INGOS had to sign MoUs with the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and Attorney-General’s Office, and agreement form for the development of the country. INGOs and INGOS had to sign MoUs with the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and Attorney-General’s Office, and agreement form for the development of the country.

Regarding the advice to extend the duration of projects, INGOs had to send their reports to the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development due to the fatal car accidents. There were 240 car accidents, 507 got injured and 85 killed in Nay Pyi Taw Mandalay section, during the three years since its open. Likewise, there were 50 car accidents, 113 got injured and 39 were dead on Nay Pyi Taw Mandalay section. Although the road has yet to meet the standards, it was opened for convenience of people.

To reduce the car accidents, avoid traffic jam and to enforce the traffic rules, six police stations were opened on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw section and five police stations on Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay section. These stations are handling the car accidents. Members of the police stations who are rescue teams from nearest fire stations are carrying out the emergency rescue if there occur car accidents along the Yangon-Mandalay Highways. Since 12 October 2011, Red Cross Association of Phya Township opens an emergency camp near 115th Miles bus stop. Formation of emergency rescue units should be stationed at four appropriate places along Yangon-Mandalay Highways.

The Hluttaw approved the proposal. The meeting came to an end at 3.40 pm and will go on at 10 am tomorrow.

At the meeting, two bills were raised and answered, one bill submitted, two proposals discussed, one proposal postponed and one proposal approved.
Books donated to library in Toungoo

TOUNGO, 13 March—A ceremony to raise reading skills and donate books was held at Basic Education Post-Primary School in Lebu Model Village of Toungoo Township on 4 March.

Bago Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Kyaw Oo and Deputy Commissioner U Hla Min Htut of Toungoo District formally opened the ceremony.

The Region Minister for Social Affairs made a speech.

The Regional Minister for Social Affairs presented prizes to winners in the middle school level essay contest. Deputy Commissioner U Hla Min Htut gave prizes to the winners in the extempore talks contest.

Township Education Officer U San Kyaw awarded winners in the poem recitation contest.

Dr Aung Than Win (Saya Min Ya Wai) of Oriental Studies Department of Toungoo University gave talks on literary affairs and Chairman of Township Writers and Journalists Association U Pwint Thu Aung, advantage of reading.

The head of District Information and Public Relations Department presented over 3000 books and publications donated by the head of District Myanmar Librarian Foundation and over 100 books by Information and Public Relations Department Chairman of Township WJA U Pwint Thu Aung, 50 books by Township Writers and Journalists Association.

—Township IPRD

Talks on crime reduction given in Dalla

DALLA, 13 March—As part of efforts to implement the crime free week from 1 to 7 March in Dalla Township of Yangon South District, a talk on crime reduction was given in conjunction with distribution of pamphlets at the Dhammayon of Thamada Beach Ward in Dalla Township on 6 March evening.

Commander of Dalla Township Police Force Police Captain Kyaw Win explained crime reduction and prevention against trafficking in person.

Ward administrator U Aung Shwe, officials of Township Police Force, Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Red Cross Society presented pamphlets on crime reduction to the attendees.

—Myanma Alin

Rural health branch opened in Madaya Township

MADAYA, 13 March—A ceremony to open the rural health branch was held in Kyauksekklay Village of Madaya Township in PyinOoLwin District on 26 February morning.

Township Administrator U Aung Swe Myint, Head of Township Health Department Dr Hla Hla Htay and member of construction committee U Tun Maung formally opened the facility. The Township Administrator made a speech. The construction committee chairman handed over documents related to the building to the head of Township Health Department. Daw Hla Hla Htay presented medicines provided by Health Department, Township Health Education Officer Daw Hla Htay, medicines and Staff Officer U Shwe of Settlement and Land Records Department K 100,000 to the branch through midwife Daw Nwe Nwe Win.

The building is 30 square-metre-storly building and it cost K 6 million.

—Myanma Alin

Cash and medicines donated to People's Hospital in Pantanaw Township

PANTANAW, 13 March—A ceremony to donate medical equipment worth K 5 million to Pantanaw Township People's Hospital and two station hospitals was held at the hall of the township hospital on 7 March.

Under the patronage of (Shwe Dinga) Daw Kyin Ti of 27th Street in Yangon, Aung Thaibye Co Ltd (Carpet Trading) donated medical equipment to Township Administrator U Mya Oo and Township Medical Officer Dr Daw Hin Nilar who gave certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

Yearly, wellwishers donate cash and medical equipment worth K 31.8 million to the township hospital.

The wellwisher donated K 1 million to the fund of Myanma Monastery and K 10 million to Shwe Myintin Pagoda.

—Myanma Alin

Fourth leg of KENBO Junior Golf Championship 22-23 March

YANGON, 13 March—Organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, fourth leg of KENBO Junior Golf Championships of HAN Golf Masters Junior Golf Series, sponsored by Aung Kan Bo Trading Co Ltd, will be held at Myanmar Golf Club in Yangon on 22 and 23 March.

The championship will be categorized as U-10, U-11, U-12, U-13-14, U-15-20 events for the age-wise players.

The competition will be held in line with R&A Rules Limited (St Andrew) and regional golf rules.

Those wishing to take part in the championship may enlist at Myanmar Golf Training Range at the corner of Okkalapa Road and Airport Road in Mayangon Township, here, not later than 1 pm on 20 March, bringing along with citizenship scrutiny cards or household registrations.

For further information, any person may contact Tel: 09-2037671, 09-73130474 and 01-651374.

—Myanma Alin

Fire Platoon Cadet Course No. 12/2011 concludes

YANGON, 13 March—The graduation parade of Fire Platoon Cadet Course No. 12/2011 of Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was held at the parade ground of FSD (Head Office) in Mayangon Township on 9 February.

After taking the salute, Director-General of Fire Services Department U Tin Moe inspected the graduation company.

He delivered an address after awarding five outstanding trainees including Best Platoon Cadet winner Thura Aung. The course No. 12/2011 was conducted at Central Fire Fighting Training School in PyinOoLwin Township.

Township 24 weeks and FSD (Head Office) in Yangon 12 weeks, totalling 36. It was attended by trainees from regions and states.

—Myanma Alin

Citizenship scrutiny cards issued in Minbu Township

MINBU, 13 March—A ceremony to issue citizenship scrutiny cards was held in the precinct of the monastery in Yenge/Perpel Village-tract in Minbu (Sago) Township on 23 February evening.

Head of Magway Region Immigration and National Registration Department U Hla Daung explained relaxed rules for issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards.

Staff members issued CSCs to 206 eligible citizens.

—Township IPRD

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—Myanma Alin

LOCAL SPORTS

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 14 March, 2012
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PHUONG NAM-68 VOY NO (22)
Consignee of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM-68 VOY NO (22) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk 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: RR SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DBIBENA UNITY VOY NO (142)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV DBIBENA UNITY VOY NO (142) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-4 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk 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 PHULSAWAT SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (451)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (451) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and 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: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PHUONG NAM-68 VOY NO (22)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM-68 VOY NO (22) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-4 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
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**Gene Simmons goes into restaurant biz**

**Los Angeles, 13 March**—US rock icon Gene Simmons says he has become a partner in a new chain of music-themed Rock & Brews eateries.

The collaboration with restaurateur impresario Michael Zislis and concert promoter Dave Furano is intended to “capture the excitement of live concerts in an authentically themed backstage environment,” a news release announcing the venture said.

The first Rock & Brews is scheduled to open south of Los Angeles International Airport in the beach community of El Segundo, Calif, 3 April.

**Actor Michael Shannon feels grown up**

**London, 13 March**—Actor Michael Shannon believes appearing in a forthcoming Superman movie proves he has grown up.

The actor is playing the role of evil General Zod in “Man of Steel,” and admits although he is nervous about the movie, he has “made a decision to turn the plane around,” Vieux said.

She said the plane returned to the gate and her family was forced to spend the night in a hotel and book a new flight, costing them $2,000.

“We did what we were asked to do. We weren’t belligerent, drunk orNight of screaming. We were just having a hard time struggling with our children,” Vieux said.

JetBlue released a statement saying the flight “had customers that did not comply with crew member instructions for a prolonged time period. The captain elected to remove the customers involved for the safety of all customers and crew members on board.”

By the time Cynthia Sigler of Vista, Calif., gave birth to 13-pound Jayden, she had already outgrown all the baby clothes waiting for him at home, she says.

Jayden, who was previously expected to be 9 pounds at birth, clocked in at almost twice the weight of his 2-year-old sister, who was 7 pounds at birth.

**Gorilla settles in with rabbit roommate**

Zookeepers in Erie, Pa., say their lonely lowland gorilla has taken to her new pet bunny quickly.

“Right off the bat, they hit it off,” Erie Zoo Director Cindy Kreider said about Samantha, a 47-year-old gorilla who now has a long-eared pal named Panda to keep her company.

Panda was gradually introduced to Samantha’s world as a companion after her old buddy Rudy died in 2005. Keepers figured Samantha was too old and fragile to deal with another gorilla, but a rabbit wouldn’t cause any harm and would break the ape’s solitude.

“To have something sharing their space that they can observe and interact with is always going to be beneficial,” Kreider said.

The Erie (Pa.) Times-News said on Sunday that Panda and Samantha have become fast friends. Samantha has been gentle and friendly toward Panda and even shares food and occasionally scratches its chin.

Zoo visitors have been delighted with the two roommates, especially due to the fact that Samantha has a buddy to hang out with.

**Luci cast in Marc Cherry’s new show**

**New York, 13 March**—Former daytime soap star Susan Lucci has landed a key role in “Desperate Housewives” creator Marc Cherry’s new American prime-time drama from “Desperate Housewives” creator Marc Cherry.

The casting news was first reported by Deadline Hollywood.

Lucci starred on “All My Children” from its premiere in 1970 to its demise last summer.

The New York Post said the show is based on the Mexican telenovela format. It will follow four Beverly Hills maids and their wealthy employers, with one boss played by Lucci.

Actresses Ana Ortiz and Dania Ramirez also have joined the cast of the show, which is due to premiere in the fall, the Post said. "Desperate Housewives" is wrapping up its eighth and final season this spring.

**Calif woman gives birth to 13-pound boy**

The time Cynthia Sigler of Vista, Calif., gave birth to 13-pound Jayden, she had already outgrown all the baby clothes waiting for him at home, she says.

Jayden, who was previously expected to be 9 pounds at birth, clocked in at almost twice the weight of his 2-year-old sister, who was 7 pounds at birth.

After Sigler’s successful delivery via Caesarean section Thursday, doctors told her she had given birth to a 13-pound baby boy.

“How’d he fit?” she responded.

Toward the end of her pregnancy, Sigler said she had been in a great deal of pain. After Jayden joined the world, she suddenly understood why.

“When I saw how big he is, I understood why I was in so much pain,” she told North County Times (Escondido, Calif). Dr. Jerald White said Jayden is the largest baby he’s delivered.

Guinness World Records says Jayden falls short of the title, as the largest surviving birth weight, in a baby weighing 22 pounds in 1959.

**Martinez confirms engagement to Berry**

**Miami, 13 March**—French actor Olivier Martinez says rumors he is engaged to Oscar-winning film star Halle Berry are true. The Miami Herald said Martinez discussed his plans for a prolonged engagement on Wednesday.

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There was no word on whether the couple have set a date to wed.

The actress has come out of the shell in the adventure drama, which also stars Kristen Dunst, Amy Adams, Viggo Mortensen and Steve Buscemi and is set to premiere at the Cannes Film Festival later this year, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

**Actor Taylor Kitch**

**London, 13 March**—Actor Taylor Kitch’s new action film “John Carter” has reportedly smashed opening day box office records in Russia.

The movie was less than impressive at the box office in the US when it opened at midnight on Thursday, but grossed an estimated USD 6.5 million in Russia, making the film the biggest opener in the country’s history, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, “John Carter” is also enjoying swift business in Hong Kong and Thailand.

The film is expected to challenge “The Lorax” for top spot at the box office.

**Stewart’s topless act for ‘On The Road’**

**London, 13 March**—Twilight actress Kristen Stewart has shed clothes for her role in ‘On The Road’.

The film is an adaptation of Jack Kerouac’s seminal novel of the same name and the 21-year-old actress’s modesty is maintained by clever camera angles.

The actress has come out of her shell in the adventure drama, which also stars Kristen Dunst, Amy Adams, Viggo Mortensen and Steve Buscemi and is set to premiere at the Cannes Film Festival later this year, reports femalefirst.co.uk.
Arsenal narrow the gap on Spurs

Arsenal were in danger of being outplayed but a much improved second half-- which the Gunners are known for--扭转了比赛的走势, helped them to come from behind to win. "The game is over when you fail to clear," said the Serb.

Arsenal’s success in this match, therefore, is the final proof that they have the means to win a title this year. "I’m happy with our performance," said the Serb.

Arsenal's win is the first in nine years and they are now in the top four of the Premier League. "We have the ability to execute the playing style of the team," said Wenger.

Arsenal's assistant (Pat Rice), one more successful match winning streak last month, have struggled in the crucial closing stages. "I was upset by Australian Anderson to reach the fourth round of the Indian Wells WTA tournament on Monday.

It was a very close match, but I really want to get back into top 10, that would be great," said Petrova after upsetting US Open champion Sam Stosur to reach the second round of the Indian Wells WTA tournament on Monday.

"I didn’t serve well in the opening set... but then I served well and put a lot of pressure on him. So I’m really happy with this win today. It wasn’t easy to expect to win."

Djokovic, who won his fifth grand slam crown at the Australian Open in January, fired down five aces while the big-serving Russian, who has piled up 10 career titles and is in top 10, that would be great," said Petrova after upsetting US Open champion Sam Stosur to reach the second round of the Indian Wells WTA tournament on Monday.

"I was upset by Australian Anderson to reach the fourth round of the Indian Wells WTA tournament on Monday.

“Got good news from doc tonight,” he posted on his Twitter account. “Only mild strain of the moment Robin van Persie struck to level the scores less than a minute later. Arsenal were in danger of falling to turn their dominance into more goals before Vermaelen prodded home in the fifth minute of stoppage time after Newcastle failed to clear."

Despite a series of misses by the likes of Gervinho, Van Persie and Tomas Rosicky, Wenger said he had never doubted that yet another comeback was on the cards. "I was not up on top of the mountain they had made, but I still know that I have a couple good years left so I want to maximize that," added the big-serving Russian, who prefers playing on hardwood and clay surfaces.

“I want to give it all, so then I can say I have done it all, with no regrets.”

Petrova, who won her first WTA title in almost three years in Washington DC last year, has had an extra bounce in her step since she started working with coach Ricardo Sanchez in Memphis last month.

Arsenal striker late to turn up heat on Spurs

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Dino feathers about mating, not flying?

BEIJING, 13 March—The feathers of a winged dinosaur that lived about 130 million years ago may have been more about attracting a mate than flight, researchers say.

Microraptors had an impressive pair of long, narrow tail feathers that may have been used to call attention to themselves in courtship in the way that modern peacocks do, the researchers from the United States and China said.

Fossils of the small, four-winged Microraptor found in northwestern China indicate a feather pattern that would have made them a predominantly glossy iridescent sheen in colors of black and blue like a crown, The New York Times reported.

“Iridescence is widespread in modern birds and is frequently used in displays,” said Matthew D. Shawkey, a biologist at the University of Akron in Ohio.

“Our evidence that Microraptor was largely iridescent thus suggests that feathers were important for display even relatively early in their evolution.”

Researchers used scanning electron microscopes to examine well-preserved fossil remains of pigment-containing cells known as melanosomes.

Writing in the Journal Science, a Chinese member of the research team said the feather findings strongly suggested a visual purpose to the coloring.

“Although we cannot assign a definitive function to iridescence in Microraptors, a role in signaling aligns with data on the plumage” of the specimens discovered in 2003,Quanguo Li of the Beijing Museum of Natural History wrote.—Internet.

Moychael (Manchester) C. A. D. (2012) A.M.

Predators fend off tenacious Coyotes in West thriller

OTTAWA, 13 March—The Nashville Predators squandered a two-goal lead before edging out the Phoenix Coyotes 5-4 in a shootout as two of the Western Conference’s playoff contenders turned up the intensity on Monday.

Nashville led 4-2 in the third period but were pegged back by goals from Oliver Ekman-Larsson and Raffi Torres.

Nashville Predators’ goalie Pekka Rinne fails to stop a shot on net by Ottawa Senators’ Chris Phillips (not shown) during the third period of their NHL hockey game. —Reuters.

but the visitors battled through a scoreless overtime and prevailed in the sudden death decider.

Goaltender Pekka Rinne stopped all three Phoenix shootout attempts and finished with 31 saves to help the Predators (41-21-7) maintain a tight grip on fifth place in the conference.

Martin Erat put Nashville 1-0 ahead late in the first and Daymond Langkow tied the score early in the second before Mike Fisher put the road team back in front midway through the period.

Keith Yandle responded again for the Coyotes (34-25-11), who have lost six of seven games and are seventh in the West, but the Predators surged clear with goals from Francis Bouillon and Craig Smith.

Mike Smith made 31 saves in the loss. — Reuters.

Village-tract football tourney wraps up

PYAPON, 13 March—The final match of the Kyonkyaik Village-tract Invitational Football Tournament was held at the football ground in the village of Pyapun Township in Ayeyawady Region on 6 March afternoon.

Kyonkyaik Village blanketed Htzeitaw Village 4-1 in the final match.

Village administrator U Win Tun presented a first prize shield to Kyonkyaik Village team. Village officials awarded winners and winning teams, —Township IPRD.
Five questions answered, one bill approved

Niave Pyi Taw, 13 March—Third regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw continued for 13th day at Pyithu Hluttaw main canals, bunds, tributary canals and drains, and re-construction of damaged water supply structure. In 2011-2012 financial year, a fund of K 12.34 million for 7000 suds of earth has been allotted for maintenances of cannels. Arrangements have been made for carrying out the rest earth works and repair of damaged water supply structure with the funds of 2012-2013. So, water can be supplied to more sown acres.

The Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Nature Conservation U Thaung Tun replied to three questions. The Union Minister of Agriculture U Zaw Win Aung of Myinkaba Constituency is to be carried out first.

Construction of small dam on the creek needs feasibility study and hydrological, geological and earth survey. It will be implemented based on data collected from the feasibility study. So, it would be implemented with more effective ways only after feasibility study has been carried out.

With regard to the question of U Zaw Win Aung of Myinn Maung Tun on “there is any plan to carry out the maintenances of damaged main cannels and feeder cannels of river water pumping projects in Myinn Maung Tun, Sagaing Region”, the deputy minister replied:

To prevent the flood needs digging silt along Thabeik Creek and construction of small dam on it. The estimated miles for dredging silts along the creek are 6.5. Detailed survey is to be conducted if it is implemented. It is found that according to its nature, it has to be done yearly.

With respect to the question of Dr Khin Maung Swe of Kyaukdaga Constituency on “there is any plan to handle flood of farmlands and houses in Tawkywein Village-tract in Kyaukdaga Township in Bago Region”, the deputy minister replied:

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Third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continues for 14th day

Nine questions answered, one bill submitted, two proposals discussed, one proposal postponed, one proposal approved

To health centres are security, accessibility to 10 to 15 village-tracts, health coverage to 10000 to 15000 population, accessibility from nearby villages, smooth road transport to station hospitals or township hospitals, being the village with already-established rural health branch and the fact the local people can construct the designated building within a year and prepare the temporary building while the permanent one is under construction.

If the township health department applies for the permission for opening of new rural health centres in villages in Tiddim Township which meet above-mentioned requirements with recommendation of the Head of Chin State Health Department, the upgrading tasks will be carried out under rules and regulations.

Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 6 asked “whether there is directive issued for private hospitals to do post-mortem on deceased persons”. Health Department has directed private hospitals to reserve separate air-conditioned room and mortuary refrigerator to keep bodies temporarily.

Post-mortem is carried out in all people’s hospital only on crime victims. If the patient passed away, the post-mortem is not allowed and the body must be transferred to people’s hospital within 24 hours under the law to do post-mortem.

The Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries and for Cooperatives U Ohn Myint answered questions related to fisheries and cooperative raised by two Hluttaw representatives.

U Htay Win (a) U Zayad Rarman of Rakhine State Constituency No. 7 asked about “collecting surcharges on...” (See page 5)