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Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Prime Minister U Thein Sein sends sympathy message to Japanese PM

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March— U Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, on 11 March, sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr. Naoto Kan, Prime Minister of Japan for the loss of life and property caused by earthquake and Tsunami in Sendai City, Tohoku Region and North Eastern parts of Japan.—MNA

True patriotism

- * It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- * Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

First regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw continues for tenth day

Raising and replying to queries, submitting proposals, holding discussion and approval seeking done at Pyithu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — The first regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw continued for the tenth day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann declared that the attendance of 432 made up 99.77 percent of 433 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives and the tenth-day session was therefore valid.

Afterwards, out of the questions raised by Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, permitted ones were raised, and members of the union level organizations Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung and Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein gave replies. U Aung Sein of Manaung constituency asked the hluttaw to open a technological training school in Rakhine State, U Zaw Tun

(See page 6)



Tenth-day first regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw in progress.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 16 March, 2011

Greater convenience in traveling

To achieve smooth transport fundamental to all-round development of a nation, more and more roads and bridges are being built on a self-reliance basis with the use of domestic inputs, in spite of geographical barriers such as mountain ranges, ravines and watercourses.

Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo-Myothit-Kanbya (Magway) tarred road, over 106 miles long, was commissioned on 13 March. Thanks to the newly-inaugurated transport facility, the distance between Nay Pyi Taw and Magway is now just a three-hour drive.

There are three roads between the two regions, the above-mentioned is the shortest with least number of bends and slopes. It is the sixth among the seven roads passing through Yoma mountain ranges built by the Ministry of Construction.

Previous to the roads, the regions were difficult of access with slow commodity flow. Now, the region enjoys swift commodity flow due to new roads, railroads and bridges.

Apart from roads, new bridges are being built and old ones, being renovated. Yin Creek Bridge near Myothit Township, Magway Region, was put into service the same day. It is the 261st among the above-180-foot bridges in the nation. The 250 feet long broad crest type facility can withstand 60 tons of loads for a vehicle.

With a growing number of roads and bridges across the nation, national races are in a position to have easy access to other regions in a short time and enjoy development at the unprecedented level.

Present weather condition warning

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March — Some impacts of global climate change processes, present Lanina process in Central Pacific Ocean and abnormal weather events over the world can slightly affect over Myanmar.

Weather processes such as untimely rain or thundershowers, isolated strong wind, thunder and lightning may occur before monsoon season. Present time is not storm season but if storm may early form in Myanmar water due to climate, it will issue in time as those news and warnings, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced.—MNA

Gallant to open engineering courses

YANGON, 15 March—Gallant Training Centre, the approved centre of City & Guilds Institute (England) opens degree and advanced diploma courses in engineering.

Those who have finished matriculation examination, graduates, and those who have already been working in engineering filed and wishing to get a internationally recognized diploma certificates.

The new section of diploma course in engineering will be opened on 21 March, on which day 20% discount will be offered. Those interested may contact the centre at No. 5, B (5), 4th Floor, U Tun Lin Road, Hledan, Kamayut, Tel: 73032670.—MNA

Peoples' Dharma

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

5th Meeting of 6th State Central Working Committee of Sangha concludes

YANGON, 15 March —The third-day session of the fifth Meeting of the sixth State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders took place at Maha Pasana Cave of Kaba Aye Hill, here, this morning.

Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Suddhamajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Pandavamsa presided over the meeting, and Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vijodhaya acted at MC.

Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Manitasiribhivamsa responded to the suggestions on the annual report and sought the approval of the meeting.

Next, Chairman of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga

Maha Suddhamajotikadhaja Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa presented certificates of Vinaya to members of the State Sangha Vinicchaya Committee and other State Vinaya Sayadaw.

The meeting came to an end after delivering an address by the Chairman of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders.

Today, (General Soe Win)-Daw Than Than Nwe and family, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe (Retired)-Daw Khin Hnin Wai and family, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win (Retired)-Daw Khin San Yi and family, (Lt-Gen Maung Bo)-Daw Khin Lay Myint and family, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than (Retired)-Daw Marlar Tint and family, Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe (Retired)-Daw Nann Khin Hla Win and family and Lt-Gen Ye Myint (Retired)-Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and family offered meals to the Sayadaws.

MNA

Mines Minister meets Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association



Minister for Mines U Ohn Myint meeting with Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association members.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—Patron of the Central Committee for Organizing the Myanmar

Gems Emporium Minister for Mines U Ohn Myint held a meeting with members of the Myanmar

delivered an introductory speech.

Chairman of the association U Tay Za gave an account of work progress of the association.

Secretary of the Central Committee Managing Director of the Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe reported on mining and trading gems.

Members of the association presented reports on gems industry. The minister and officials responded to the reports.—MNA

Gems Entrepreneurs Association at the Myanmar Gems Museum here this morning. The patron

Using effectively GIS and Google Earth

YANGON, 15 March—Myanmar Credent Technology will open Applied GIS and Google Earth course on weekends from 26 March to 9 April at the e-Learning centre of Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Info-Tech, Hline Township, here.

20% discount will be offered to staff of governmental departments, non-governmental organizations at home and abroad, members of MCF, and Myanmar Engineering Society, and students.

For enrollment, contact Myanmar Credent Technology at Room-7, Building-1, Myanmar Info-Tech, Ph: 652285 by 25 March.—MNA

MAT to conduct Food Science Course

YANGON, 15 March — MAT Professional Training & Services and Guardian Independent Certification Ltd (UK) will jointly conduct Food Science Course on 20 March.

The course is open to all those interested and will cover food packaging, distribution and management. Those interested may contact MAT Professional Training & Services, Ph: 246618, 242431 and Website: www.matprofessional.com. MNA

Blast rocks school in Afghan Jalalabad City

JALALABAD, 15 March—A bomb blast rocked a school in Jalalabad City, the provincial capital of Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar Province Tuesday morning, injuring at least two persons, an official said.

"A police unit reported a bomb explosion in Najm-ul Jihad high school in Jalalabad City that occurred at around 08:00 am local time, wounding two people including the principal of the school," spokesman for provincial administration, Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, told *Xinhua*.

He said the injured people had been taken to hospital for medical treatment.

However, a health official in the Jalalabad City hospital who declined to give his name asserted that the principal of the school succumbed to his injuries.

Meantime, a statement released to media by Nangarhar's Provincial administration confirmed that Bahram Khan, principal of the school, lost his life in the bomb blast organized by the enemies of Afghanistan, a term used against Taliban militants by Afghan officials.

No group or individuals have claimed of responsibility for the attack.

This is the second attack carried out by anti-government militants in Afghanistan since Monday.

In the previous attack a suicide bomber targeted Afghan army recruitment centre in northern Kunduz Province on Monday, leaving 35 people dead and 33 others injured.

Xinhua



Residents inspect at the site of suicide attack killing 16 and injuring more than 50 in Kabul recently.

INTERNET

Soldiers kill four alleged kidnappers in Mexico

MONTERREY, 15 March—Mexican soldiers killed four presumed kidnappers during a gunfight at a ranch in northeast Mexico, the army said Monday.

The Defence Department said in a statement that gunmen opened fire on troops who were investigating a tip about suspicious activity Saturday night at the ranch in the town of China, near Texas.

It said two adults and two children who had apparently been kidnapped were freed, and two other suspects were detained.

And authorities reported Monday that nine people were shot dead Sunday in the resort city of Acapulco, located in Guerrero State.

Guerrero State police said in a statement that the victims include a woman and her two children. Six others, including a retired navy captain, died in four separate attacks.

Also Monday, an

inmate stabbed to death the acting warden of a prison in the city of Nuevo Laredo, across the border from Laredo, Texas.

Warden Rebeca Nicasio Vazquez was on an inspection tour of the prison when the inmate approached her and stabbed her in the neck, according to a statement from the Attorney General's Office of Tamaulipas State. The inmate was restrained by guards after the attack. The warden had been inspecting the cell blocks to ensure prisoners had no hidden weapons.

Internet



A mother touches her wounded son after a suicide attack in Emam Saheb District of Kunduz Province recently. A suicide bomber killed at least 30 people in a government office in northern Afghanistan on Monday, officials said, with violence spiralling across the country even before an expected spring offensive.—INTERNET



Afghan policemen and security personnel inspect the site after a suicide attack at an army recruitment centre in Kunduz, Afghanistan, on 14 March, 2011.

XINHUA

13 people wounded in bomb attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 March—Thirteen people were wounded in separate bomb attacks in Baghdad and the city of Fallujah in Iraq's western province of Anbar, official and police sources said Tuesday.

In Baghdad, two roadside bomb went off in a quick succession near a police patrol in the southern district of Doura, damaging a police vehicle and wounding a police officer and two policemen aboard, an Interior Ministry source

told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Four passersby were also wounded by the blast, which caused damages to several nearby shops and buildings, the source said.

In the city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, unidentified gunmen planted bombs in three houses belonging to policemen late Monday, wounding six people, including two women, a local police source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Insurgents frequently attack Iraqi security forces, their homes and families as part of attempts to reassert the insurgents' control in some areas where they have been limited in freedom of movement, the source said, adding that the three bomb attacks are under investigation.

Violence and sporadic high-profile bomb attacks continue in the Iraqi cities despite the dramatic decrease of violence over the past few years.—*Xinhua*

Roadside bomb kills Afghan Provincial Council member

MEHTERLAM, 15 March—A member of Provincial Council was killed as a roadside bomb struck his car in Laghman Province 260 km east of capital City Kabul on Tuesday, an official said.

"A roadside bomb went off near the vehicle of Mohlim Malang a member of Provincial Council at around 8:30 am local time killing him on the spot," spokesman for provincial administration, Kochi Nasiri told *Xinhua*.

Malang's father was injured in the blast that occurred in provincial capital Mehterlam City, he added.

On the other hand, Taliban militants claimed responsibility for the explosion.

Zabihullah Mujahid who claims to speak for Taliban outfit in talks with media from undisclosed location said that Taliban fighters organized the roadside that killed a provincial council member along with three of his bodyguards.

Eastern Afghan Provinces have been seeing increasing Taliban-led violent activities over the past couples of months.

A bomb blast inside a school in the neighbouring Nangarhar Province also killed one person and injured another Tuesday morning.—*Xinhua*



The scene of devastation following a suicide attacker who rammed his truck packed with explosives into the Kanaan army barracks, some 70 kilometres (43 miles) northeast of Baghdad in the restive Diyala Province, on 14 March, 2011.—XINHUA

Civilian killed, 10 wounded in Baghdad's bomb attacks

BAGHDAD, 15 March—A civilian was killed and ten people were wounded in separate bomb attacks in Baghdad on Monday, an Interior Ministry source said.

A roadside bomb went off in a thoroughfare in Baghdad's western District of Amriyah, killing a civilian and wounding two others, along with damaging several nearby shops, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Another roadside bomb detonated near a police patrol in al-Ameen District in southeastern Baghdad, damaging a police vehicle and wounding three policemen aboard, the source said. Two passersby were also wounded by the blast, the source added.

A third roadside bomb ripped through Baghdad's southern District of Doura, wounding two civilians, while a fourth roadside bomb detonated at an intersection in Karrada District in southern the capital and wounded a civilian, the source said.—*Xinhua*

New explosion, higher radiation at crippled Japanese nuclear plant

BEIJING, 15 March—A fresh explosion rocked the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant, raising radiation in the area to dangerous levels, the Japanese government said Tuesday.

The explosion was heard at the No 2 reactor of Fukushima No1 nuclear power plant at 6:10 am (2110 GMT on Monday) and a fire later broke out at the No 4 reactor, causing more radiation near the complex.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan warned of further leaks and told people living within a radius of 30 km of the troubled plant to stay indoors.

Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO), owner and operator of the Fukushima complex, said it was evacuating all staff except those working to cool the reactor, signalling a deterioration in the situation.

The latest blasts come after previous explosions at its No 1 and No 3 reactors, caused by damage from Friday's earthquake and tsunami, which devastated much of north-west Japan.—Xinhua



Debris is pictured floating in the Pacific Ocean, in this photograph taken on 13 March, 2011 and released on 14 March.—XINHUA

Radiation fears spark panic buying, evacuations in Tokyo

TOKYO, 15 March—Panic swept Tokyo on Tuesday after a rise in radioactive levels around an earthquake-hit nuclear power plant north of the city, causing some to leave the capital or stock up on food and supplies.

Embassies advised staff to leave affected areas, tourists cut short vacations and some multinational companies told staff to move from Tokyo out after low levels of radiation were detected in one of the world's biggest and most densely populated cities.

In one sign of the panic, Don Quixote, a multistorey, 24-hour general store in Tokyo's Roppongi District, was sold out of radios, flashlights, candles, fuel cans and sleeping bags on Tuesday as a Reuters reporter visited the shop.

Tourists such as Christy Niver, of Egan, Minnesota, said they had

had enough. Her 10-year-old daughter, Lucy, was more emphatic.

"I'm scared. I'm so scared I would rather be in the eye of a tornado," she said. "I want to leave."—Reuters



Japan imposes fly ban within 30-km radius of Fukushima nuke plant

TOKYO, 15 March—Japan's transport ministry on Tuesday banned aircraft from flying within 30 kilometres of the Fukushima No 1 nuclear power plant amid escalating nuclear crisis, according to Kyodo news agency.

The move excludes aircraft engaged in search and rescue operations, and is not expected to have a large impact on scheduled commercial flights in the country, the report said.

Xinhua



Train carriages are seen overturned on the ground after being swept by tsunami in the town of Shinchi in Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, on 12 March, 2011.—XINHUA

Fire at Japan reactor extinguished

VIENNA, 15 March—A fire at a spent fuel storage pond of the quake-damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan has been extinguished, the UN atomic watchdog said Tuesday.

"Japanese authorities have confirmed that the fire at the spent fuel storage pond at the Unit 4 reactor of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant was extinguished at 02:00 UTC (Coordinated Universal Time)," the International Atomic Energy Agency said in a statement.

Earlier, the IAEA had said it had

been informed by the Japanese authorities that the spent fuel "is on fire and radioactivity is being released directly into the atmosphere."

The authorities had also informed the IAEA that there had been an explosion at around 6:20 am local time at the unit 2 reactor at the same plant, which may have been caused by a hydrogen explosion, the watchdog said.

"Dose rates of up to 400 millisievert per hour have been reported at the site," it added.

Internet

Internet

Slight temperature rise at two Japan reactors

TOKYO, 15 March—There has been a slight rise in temperature of two more reactors at a quake-hit Japanese nuclear plant, where engineers are battling to avert meltdown, the chief government spokesman said Tuesday.

There have already been explosions at four of the reactors at the Fukushima No 1 plant 250 kilometres northeast of Tokyo, after Friday's earthquake and tsunami knocked out cooling systems.

Spokesman Yukio Edano said the slight temperature rise was at the number-five and number-six reactors, where problems had not previously been reported.

California official says tsunami damage exceeds \$40 million

SANTA CRUZ, 15 March —A California official on Monday estimated that statewide damage from last week's tsunami triggered by a massive off-shore earthquake near Japan exceeds \$40 million.

Mike Dayton, acting secretary of the Emergency Management Agency, gave the estimate after touring Santa Cruz Harbor, where 18 vessels sank, about 100 were damaged and another 12 remained unaccounted for.

The damage in Santa Cruz Harbor alone is estimated at \$17 million.

Meanwhile, engineers were using sonar Monday to scour the bottom of Santa Cruz Harbor for missing vessels sunk by the surge.



A boat ripped from its anchor by a tsunami surge crashes into boats on the harbor in Santa Cruz, Calif. A ferocious tsunami unleashed by Japan's biggest recorded earthquake slammed into its eastern coast Friday, killing hundreds of people as it carried away ships, cars and homes, and triggered widespread fires that burned out of control. Hours later, the waves washed ashore on Hawaii and the US West coast, where evacuations were ordered from California to Washington but little damage was reported. The entire Pacific had been put on alert — including coastal areas of South America, Canada and Alaska — but waves were not as bad as expected.—INTERNET

Harbor officials and the Coast Guard had pulled four of the missing

boats from the bottom of the harbour by Monday Morning.—Internet

Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, Public Accounts Committee, Hluttaw Rights Committee and the Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee hold meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March — The First Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, the Hluttaw Rights Committee and the Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee continued meetings at their offices of Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here this afternoon.

Chairmen, secretaries and members of respective committees attended the meetings.

They participated in discussions on works of the committees.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, Public Accounts Committee, Hluttaw Rights Committee, Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee hold meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—The First Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, the Hluttaw Rights Committee and the Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee continued meetings at their offices at the Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here this afternoon.

The meeting were

attended by chairmen, secretaries and members of respective committees.

They continued to discuss works of the committees during the meetings. — MNA

Hluttaw candidates, election agents declared as persons of distorted qualification

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—The Union Election Commission issued Notification No.7/2011 today. The translation of the notification is as follows:-

The Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw Notification No.7/2011 11th Waxing of Tabaung, 1372 ME (15 March, 2011)

Hluttaw candidates and their election agents failed to submit election expenses in the prescribed period declared as persons of distorted qualification

1. According to Section 55 of the respective Hluttaw Election Laws and paragraph 77 of Rules, Hluttaw candidates and their election agents who run for Multi-party Democracy General Election held on 7 November, 2010 are to submit election expenses to the respective sub-commissions in line with the laws during 60-day as of the date the name of representatives-elect are announced.

2. To be able to decide whether those who fail to submit election expenses in accord with the law should be designated as persons of distorted qualification or not, the Union Election Commission formed election tribunals and ordered them to check with them.

3. The Election Tribunal found that the following Hluttaw candidates and their election agents failed to submit the election expenses during the prescribed period, and in accord with the respective Hluttaw Election Rules Paragraph 83 (a), designated them as persons of distorted qualification.

Sr Hluttaw candidate	Election Agent	Constituency
(a) U Saw Nwe Shwe Maung	-	Putao Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency Kachin State
(b) U Kyaw Oo	-	Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No.9 Kachin State
(c) U Hla Ngwe	-	Mogaung Township Constituency No.1 State Hluttaw Kachin State
(d) U Aung Ni	U Win Naing	Phakant Township Constituency No.1 State Hluttaw Kachin State
(e) U Tun Tun Oo	-	Bhamo Township Constituency No.2 State Hluttaw Kachin State
(f) U PS Khan Do Nan	-	Tiddim Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency Chin State
(g) U Lain Kee	-	Kanpetlet Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency Chin State
(h) U Byat Kham	-	Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No.4 Chin State

Sr Hluttaw candidate	Election Agent	Constituency
(i) U Lan Zman	-	Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No.6 Chin State
(j) U Lun Kho Han	-	Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No.7 Chin State
(k) U Htan Kee	-	Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No.8 Chin State
(l) U Lain Paing	-	Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No.10 Chin State
(m) U Kyaw Kyaw Phyu	-	Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No.11 Chin State
(n) U Hon Htan	-	Kanpetlet Township Constituency No.1 State Hluttaw Chin State
(o) U Hla Mar	-	Haka Township Constituency No.2 State Hluttaw Chin State
(p) U Lyan Chun	-	Haka Township Constituency No.2 State Hluttaw Chin State
(q) U Kan Llyan Htan	-	Tiddim Township Constituency No.1 State Hluttaw Chin State
(r) U Htwan Gohtan	-	Tiddim Township Constituency No.1 State Hluttaw Chin State
(s) U Daing Lyan Paung	-	Tonzang Township Constituency No.1 State Hluttaw Chin State
(t) U Twar Dopaung	-	Tonzang Township Constituency No. 1 State Hluttaw Chin State

4. The Union Election Commission announced that the above-mentioned Hluttaw candidates and their election agents are persons of distorted qualification according to Paragraph 84 of respective Hluttaw Election Rules after judging the decision of Election Tribunal.

5. It is hereby announced that Hluttaw candidates and election agents who are declared as persons of distorted qualifications, in accord with the Section 88 of the respective Hluttaw Election Law, shall not contest in the election as a Hluttaw candidate, from the date of this declaration, in the existing Hluttaw term and the next Hluttaw term.

Sd/ Thein Soe
Chairman
Union Election Commission

First regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw continues...

(from page 1)

of Momauk constituency asked the Hluttaw to draft a bill that would let students to choose a literature of one of national races as an optional subject on the school curriculum, U Aung Tun Tha of MraukU constituency asked the Hluttaw to upgrade No.2 Basic Education Middle School in MraukU to the higher one and U Aung Sein of Manaung constituency asked the Hluttaw to maintain basic education schools and to establish a university of arts and science or a college for townships in southern Rakhine State.

Afterwards, the agree-to-discuss proposals

submitted by U Tun Myint Oo of Mongpan Constituency on taking census across the country and a proposal of U Khin Maung Yi (a) Khine Maung Yi of Ahlon Constituency to prescribe a compulsory education system "Duty to Educate Children" at the primary and middle school levels for 100 per cent literacy and new syllabuses and policies comprising examination systems for students to continue education in international universities in which the government and private education centres can participate. Members of the Union level organizations Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Oo and Minister for Education Dr. Chan Nyein made reviews and discussed the proposals and the approval of Pyithu Hluttaw was sought.

Afterwards, U Soe Win of Sangyoung Township

constituency submitted a proposal to review the pension scheme as there is a wide gap between the pension and current commodity prices and suggested to make pension salary grades depending on ages. U Aung Zin of Pazundaung Township constituency submitted a proposal to draft a bill that would allow farmers to keep their crops at governmental organizations and private garage at reasonable prices, paving ways for the farmers to earn stable price from crop production. Pyithu Hluttaw held discussion if the new two proposals should be brought to the Hluttaw or not.

Afterwards, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw announced that the tenth day session ended and the eleventh-day session would be held at 10 am tomorrow. The session ended at 1.45 pm.

MNA

Education Minister replies to Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Zaw Tun's question

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—U Zaw Tun of Momauk Constituency questioned at today's Pyithu Hluttaw regular session whether there is only plan to draft law to teach a language of national race as optional subject in addition to teaching Myanmar as main subject in government schools in respective Regions and States or not.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein replied to the question that the ministry set syllabuses for basic education with the coordination of scholars at home and abroad



Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein responds to question.—MNA

and experts of UN agencies to nurture well-educated good citizens with Union Spirit and nationalistic fervor.

Myanmar, home to over 100 national races, has many languages, including different languages from the same race based on the region. There will be students of different national races in the same class of the same school as various national races inhabit in each Region/State.

Subjects which could be learnt by children at their respective age are included in the current syllabuses with respect to

the education theory. Official language Myanmar and international language English are also included in the curriculum.

At current situation, to set respective languages of each national race is impossible in basic education curriculum as there are many national races in Myanmar. The learning of languages of national races outside school will be supported.

MNA

S & T Minister responds to question on opening of government technical training school in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—At today's Pyithu Hluttaw session, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Sein of Manaung constituency asked whether there is any plan to build a technical training school so as to turn out skilled labours needed for industries in Rakhine State.

Regarding the query, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung said; that Ministry of Science and Technology opens Government Tech-



Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung responds to question.—MNA

nical High Schools in order to turn out skilled labour needed for technological development; that Government Technical High School (Sittway) was opened in Sittway and that was the school which U Aung Sein wants to set up; that a total of 131 students are attending the school in which six subjects are being conducted; that they will work as skilled labour in factory, workshop, construction site and industry after pass-

ing their respective courses; that outstanding students from this school will have a opportunity to continue to join the first year of Government Technical Institute, Government Technical College and Technological University; and that those who have learned the courses at Government Technical High School for two years can get jobs; and that there is a plan for those who want to continue to attend advanced diploma courses.—MNA



U Aung Sein of Manaung Constituency making question.—MNA

Education Minister responds to query on difficulties of students from Shan State (North)

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—At Pyithu Hluttaw session, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein answered question on difficulties students majoring in economics from Shan State (North) raised by U Sai Boe Aung of Muse Constituency at eight-day Pyithu Hluttaw session, with the permission of Hluttaw Speaker.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein said that before 1988, students had to learn Economics only at Yangon Institute of Economics and about 1000 students were allowed there and

now Institute of Economics (Meiktila) and (Monywa) in which 6400 students are accepted have been opened; that designation of Institute of Economics is based on the most easy access and cost-effective according to their the region; that the factors make parallel development across the country and so education sector sees fruitful result; and that arrangements have been made to have parallel development across the country and to be able to learn education in their regions or in their nearby regions.—MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Three Pyithu Hluttaw representatives discuss proposal of U Tun Myint Oo to take census of the entire nation

Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Oo replies

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—At today's Pyithu Hluttaw session, three representatives discussed the proposal to take census of the entire nation submitted by U Tun Myint Oo of Mongpan Constituency.

First, U Sai Saw Tin of Mongyawng Constituency said that Myanmar is attempting to establish discipline flourishing democ-

racy system and has announced to the world that she will practice market-oriented economic system that suitable for her new political system.

In practicing market-oriented economic system, it is vital to know the correct and accurate census dividing into sex, age and region so as to calculate such important data as productivity, domestic con-

sumption and export sales.

By taking census, spread of diverse national races across the nation, population density, agricultural productivity and food sufficiency of respective regions will become apparent and health, education, literature, traditional customs and administrative matters of respective national brethren will be

managed correctly.

Furthermore, approximate lists of voters can be drawn up for elections. The current census is mere rough estimate one and thus he seconded the proposal of U Tun Myint Oo from Mongpan Constituency, said U Sai Saw Tin.

Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kunhing Constituency said that accurate census is instrumental in establishing a discipline flourishing democratic nation. Census was taken in Myanmar in 1933, 1953, 1963, 1973 and 1983 and since then it was not taken again.

She said that she found wrong census while going for election campaigns, and thus seconded U Tun Myint Oo's proposal.

U Tin Maung Win of Mingaladon Constituency said that the State needs correct and accurate census for it will contribute a great deal to socio-economic status of the peoples.

Taking census of the entire nation is massive work and is also a national work plan that calls for participation of the entire nation. It is a work to be done simultaneously across the nation and therefore requires sufficient period of time for it calls for participation of various fields such as finance, manpower, management, security, and administration. It is unlikely that the census will be accurate and correct census if it is done in haste.

And, therefore, sufficient time should be taken to take census of the entire nation for its accuracy.

In his response, Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Oo said that census means collecting complete information on a particular person in a particular region in a particular time and thus needs to be infused with four features, namely,



Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Oo responds to question.—MNA

individuality, universality, simultaneity and defined periodicity.

The Census Department took censuses in 252 townships in 1953 and 2143 village-tracts in 1954 as the nationwide campaign. In 1973, the census of the entire nation could be taken and lists of voters also made. To take census, 1972 Census Law of the Union of Myanmar was issued on 22 April, 1972.

Central Census Commission and different levels of census committees were formed in August, 1972 and about 13 months was taken for preparation works. The census of the entire nation was taken in 1983 and that time two years was used for preparation works.

Since the last census was taken in 1983, no new census could be taken and contributory data in population calculation were collected in cooperation with United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA). In doing so, population change and birth rate data was collected in 1991 and birth rate and reproductive health data in 1997, 2001 and 2006.

Sample surveys were carried out in 36 townships in 2007 and 36 townships in 2008 so as to analyze the accuracy of the census and the rate of population change after 2006. The census of whole population of 26 townships in thirteen regions and states was

taken in 2009.

Primary local data were collected from Immigration and National registration Department in order to get correct lists of population constantly.

The previous experiences in taking census in 1973 and 1983 show that it took at least to prepare to take census and it took five days to take census. Making lists took two years and peoples cooperate in taking census as it was done was massive campaign.

So, taking census takes time and calls for participation of the entire nation. Ministry of minister alone can not accomplish it and it is a time-consuming task to be undertaken by the Government at an opportune time, concluded the minister.

Next, the Hluttaw Speaker said that he hoped that every one would understand the situation now as three representatives and the minister had discussed the proposal of U Tun Myint Oo. Taking census of the entire nation should be and is to be done. He continued that he understood that it should be done at an opportune time as the work is massive and time consuming.

The Pyithu Hluttaw accepted the proposal of U Tun Myint Oo of Mongpan Constituency as hluttaw representatives agreed that the proposal should be put into practice taking time.

MNA



U Tin Maung Win of Mingaladon Constituency participating in discussion.—MNA



U Sai Saw Tin of Mongyawng Constituency participating in discussion.—MNA



Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kunhing Constituency making question.—MNA

Education Minister responds to query on maintenance of basic education schools in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March— At today's Pyithu Hluttaw session, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives U Aung Sein of Manaung constituency asked whether there is any plan for maintenance of

basic education schools in Rakhine State for its durability with enough fund of the government.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein responded that maintenance of the schools is being

carried out systematically with the allocation of the State's fund and that maintenance of 185 schools has been undertaken with the use of that fund in 2010-2011 financial year.

MNA

No plan at present to open University (or) College in south of Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March— At today's Pyithu Hluttaw session, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives U Aung Sein of Manaung Constituency asked whether there is any plan to open

an Arts and Science University (or) a College in the southern townships of Rakhine State.

Regarding the question, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein explained that at present

there is no plan to open an Art and Science University (or) a College because Rakhine State has Sittway University in Sittway and Kyaukpyu Education College in Kyaukpyu.

MNA

Construction Minister replies to question of Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Zon Hlyal Htan of Chin State Constituency-2

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March — Amyotha Hluttaw representative of Chin State Constituency-2 U Zon Hlyal Htan stated that the Union Highways mean roads and bridges implemented by the Union government; and questioned whether “Kyeekha-Tongzan-Tiddim-Falam-Haka-Thangtalan Union Highway, Haka-Matupi-Paletwa Union Highway and Pakokku-Mindat-Kanpetlet Union Highway which will connect all the towns in Chin State will be constructed or not”.

Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint explained Kyeekha-Tongzan-Tiddim-Falam-Haka-Thangtalan road in Chin State has three sections — 157 miles and three furlongs long Kyeekha-Tongzan-Tiddim-Falam road section, 43 miles and three furlongs long Falam-Haka road section and 21 miles and four furlongs long Haka-Thangtalan road section.

Kyeekha-Tongzan-Tiddim-Falam road section has the length of 157 miles and three furlongs with 58 miles and seven furlongs long tarred road, 55 miles and six furlongs long gravel road and 42 miles and six furlongs long earth road. Falam-Haka road section is 43 miles and three furlongs long with 34 miles and one furlong long tarred road and nine miles and two furlongs long gravel road. Haka-Thangtalan road section is 21 miles and four furlongs long with three miles and four furlongs long tarred road and 18 miles long gravel road.

These road sections were upgraded step by step from earth road to hard road, hard road to gravel road, gravel road to tarred road by defining three classes of road. Up

to date, a total length of tarred road reached 96 miles and four furlongs. The Ministry of Construction will continue to upgrade other road sections yearly depending on its fund.

The upgrading of all Union highways to tarred road when the ASEAN community will be established in 2020 is the main project of the Ministry of Construction. Upgraded in previous 20 years, the development of roads in Chin State could be seen.

Public Works upgraded 21361 miles and two furlongs of road out of above 10000 miles into tarred road. Fifty per cent of roads have been tarmacked and other roads are being upgraded in particular priority. Asia Highway and ASEAN Highways are first priority; Inter-Region/State Union Highways, second priority; Inter-District roads, third priority; and Inter-Township roads, fourth priority.

The Union Highway means roads which connect Regions and States.

Haka-Matupi-Paletwa road has two sections — 172 miles and six furlongs long Haka-Matupi road section and 135 miles and three furlongs long Matupi-Paletwa road section. Haka-Matupi road section has two miles and six furlongs long tarred road, 49 miles long gravel road and 121 miles long earth road. Two miles long road on this section in Yezwa was tarmacked this year. Upgrading will be continued depending on annual fund. Matupi-Paletwa road section has three furlongs long tarred road, two miles and one furlong long gravel road, 132 miles and seven furlongs long earth road (alignment). There is no plan to implement this

road section because of high cost based on the topography.

Pakokku-Mindat-Kanpetlet road has two road sections — 89 miles and three furlongs long Pakokku-Mindat road section and 38 miles long Mindat-Kanpetlet road section. Pakokku-Mindat road section has 88 miles and three furlongs long tarred road and one mile long gravel road. Mindat-Kanpetlet road section has 22 miles and one furlong long gravel road and 15 miles and seven furlongs long earth road.

In upgrading these road sections from earth road to hard road, hard road to gravel road and gravel road to tarred road, a total of 100 miles and four furlongs have been tarred. The Ministry of Construction will continue to upgrade other road sections yearly by the State fund.

Chin national U Ngon Hsan Haw was assigned as Chin State Superintendent Engineer. Two deputy superintendent engineers, two district superintendent engineers, seven township engineers, seven assistant site engineers, three township (branch) engineers, 13 site engineers (1), four drawing staff, 75 office staff and 300 labours were undertaking construction works. A total of 166 vehicles, including 14 bulldozers, eight land leveling vehicles, 12 excavators, 33 rollers, seven stone crushers, one crane, 72 dumper trucks, four oil/water tankers, 15 administration vehicles, are used in addition to other mobile vehicles based on the site requirement. The construction works are being carried out and will be carried out in Chin State as well as in the entire nation with added momentum.

MNA

Construction Minister replies to question over “any plan to be implemented for upgrading of motorways linking Rakhine State and mainland for better transport”

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March — At the session of Amyotha Hluttaw held today, U Maung Tha Khin of Rakhine State Constituency 8 said that Rakhine State once can be reached from the mainland only through Taungup-Pandaung road. Yangon-Sittway road and Thandwe-Gwa-Ngathaingchaung road linking with Ayeyawady Region emerged in the time of Tatmadaw government. Locals in Rakhine State have easily access to mainland thanks to emergence of road networks and bridges linking between southern and northern parts of Rakhine State.

As Rakhine State has an annual rainfall of more than 200 inches, this causes damages to roads and bridges frequently. He asked about “whether or not there is any plan to be implemented for upgrading of motorways linking between Rakhine State and mainland for better transport”.

Regarding the question, Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint replied that there are three main roads—Minbu-An-Sittway road linking with Magway Region, Pyay-Taungup-Thandwe road linking with Bago Region and Ngathaingchaung-Gwa-Thandwe road linking with Ayeyawady Region—to link Rakhine State with other States and Regions. Under long-term plans, these roads are being upgraded.

Altogether 23 construction groups and 36 companies are carrying out the construction of three road sections of 296-mile and five-furlong long Minbu-An-Sittway road with the help of 645 vehicles and 2360 workers. The road



Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint responds to question.—MNA



U Maung Tha Khin of Rakhine State Constituency-8 making question.

MNA

will be upgraded step by step up to tarred one. Wooden bridges along the road will be substituted with reinforced concrete ones.

Road accidents occur frequently on Metaung uphill on An-Sittway road, causing injuries and deaths. Road works are being carried out day in, day out to be safe for trucks and passenger buses to run on the Metaung uphill in order to complete the works before rainy season. Now, the road was leveled down up to about 200 feet and road construction will be completed soon.

Three suspension bridges were upgraded to reinforced concrete ones

and An (Aukya) suspension bridge is under construction to be upgraded as a reinforced concrete one.

The upgrading of 146-mile and three-furlong long Pyay-Pandaung-Taungup-Thandwe road is underway by Nay La Thitsar construction company limited under B.O.T system. Four bridges are being upgraded to reinforced concrete ones by the Public Works. Arrangements are being made by Nay La Thitsar construction company limited for tarmacking of the road.

Shwe Moe Group construction company limited will upgrade 49-mile and two-furlong long road section on Ngathaingchaung-Gwa-Thandwe road section and the remaining 83-mile on Thandwe-Gwa road section is being upgraded by the Public Works. Plans are underway to upgrade four bridges on the road section between Gwa and Thandwe.

Ring roads for isolated islands in Rakhine State are under construction. Manaung Island ring road and 190 bridges on it were built. Besides, construction of Yanbye-Aunghlapyin road and Hlainggyugyi (See page 9)

Construction Minister replies to question...

(from page 8)

detour on Buthidaung-Maungtaung road and upgrading of Bandoola-Maungtaung-Angumaw road are underway.

The plan for upgrading of all bridges in Regions and States to reinforced concrete ones has already been drawn by the Public Works of the Ministry of Construction. Wooden bridges in Rakhine State will be upgraded to reinforced concrete ones.

Upgrading of roads and bridges in Rakhine State is being carried out by 49 groups of the ministry and companies under the supervision of the Rakhine State superintending engineer.

Four inter-townships roads aspired by dwellers of Rakhine State is under construction. Motorways emerged in 17 townships

in Rakhine State. Nine bridges will be built on Yathaedaung-Ponnagyun road. Two bridges on Pauktaw-Minbya are under construction. Upon

completion of Myebon-Kantha-Kapaing road that will link Myebon and Yangon-Sittway road, passengers will have easy access to Yangon and Mandalay from Myebon without any delay. Preliminary engineering works for construction three bridges on Myebon-Kapaing (Kyainntaung) road are underway.

Three bridges will be built on Kyauktaw-Paletwa road. Heavy rain caused serious damages to the 16th Mile road section on Buthidaung-Maungtaung road and it was repaired within one month. Giri-hit roads, bridges and dykes in Kyaukpau district were

reconstructed within two months.

Preliminary engineering works for construction of road that will link Rakhin State with Mizoram Province in India via Paletwa and Kaletwa in Chin State are being carried out by Max Myanmar Co., Ltd and IRCON (Indian Railway Construction Company Limited). Upgrading of Kyauktaw-Paletwa earth road to gravel road is being carried out by the Ministry of Construction.

While upgrading of roads and bridges in 17 townships in Rakhine State are underway, roads linking Rakhine State and Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions are being upgraded. As a result, Rakhine State sees better transport which is contributing towards greater improvements in economic, social and education sectors.—MNA

When ongoing projects are in full swing, education sector of Chin State will be improved with added momentum

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—At today's session of Amyotha Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Paul Thang Thaing from Chin State Constituency (3) in his question said that in the time of the Tatmadaw government, 24 regions have been designated for special development with a specialist hospital (200-bed), an arts and science university, a university for computer studies, and a technological university each; that he would like to know if Chin State is one of the 24 regions, and if there is a plan for development of Chin State.

Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw Win of the State Peace and Development Council Office replied that the government designated the 24 regions for special development to narrow the development gap between one part and another; that in the process, the regions with dense population and economic prospects are in the centre; that more projects are also being implemented for development of other regions; that Governmental Technical Institute (Haka) was established in Chin State on 16 December



SPDC Office Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw Win responds to question.—MNA

2008, and now 120 youths are pursuing education at the institute; that when the number of students waiting for B.E course meets the fixed number of candidates, the institute will be upgraded to a technical college running B.E and M.E courses; that the college also has the I.T Department where youths can learn computer science; that the institute will be upgraded to a technological university; that there will be a plan for human resources in Chin State according to the number of youths wishing to pursue education; that 741 students are learning at the Arts and Science University (Kalay), 141 at Technological University (Kalay), eight at

University for Computer Studies (Kalay), 226 at Arts and Science University (Pakokku), 50 at Technological University (Pakokku) and 3 at University for Computer Studies (Pakokku); that Chin State has 24 hospitals with a total bed capacity of 990, 59 rural health centres, 9 maternal and child health centres, eight traditional medicine centres and one nurse training school; that due to sparse population, Chin State is not designated as a development region, but as a Union territory; and that when ongoing projects are in full swing, the education sector of the state will be improved with added momentum.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Zon Hlyal Htan puts question about construction of border trade routes linking Chin State with India and Bangladesh Construction Minister U Khin Maung Myint replies

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—At today's Amyotha Hluttaw session, Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Zon Hlyal Htan of Chin State Constituency (2) put a question about construction of border trade routes linking Chin State with India and Bangladesh.

He said that Chin State is expected to experience economic growth if its need for particular infrastructure would be satisfied. Chin State is rich in fertile soil and thus produces bumper harvest. He asked whether the Government would be able to build Mandalay-Gangaw-Falam-Reedkawdah Road, Kalay-Tiddim-Reedkawdah Road and Pakokku-Matupi-Paletwa-Myeikwa Road through Chin State to link it with India and Bangladesh in order that local products can be transported to any directions.

Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint

replied that current roads linking Chin State with plain regions of the nation and India and Bangladesh are Mandalay-Gangaw-Falam-Reedkawdah border trade route (394 miles 2 furlongs long), Kalay-Tiddim-Reedkawdah border trade route (88 miles long), Pakokku-Matupi-Paletwa-Myeikwa border trade route (377 miles 1 furlong long).

Of those routes, the first one is made of 285 miles 4 furlongs long tarred road, 62 miles 6 furlongs long gravel road and 46 miles long earthen road, totaling 394 miles 2 furlongs.

The second one is made of 36 miles 6 furlongs long tarred road, 42 miles 7 furlongs long gravel road and 8 miles 3 furlongs long earthen road, totaling 88 miles. The last one is made of 200 miles 2 furlongs long tarred road, 2 miles 1 furlong long gravel road and 174 miles 6 furlongs



Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Zon Hlyal Htan of Chin State Constituency-2 putting question.—MNA

long earthen road (alignment), totaling 377 miles 1 furlong. The Government is currently unable to construct Matupi-Paletwa section of the last road for it needs a large sum of cash due to geographical features. Nevertheless, Indian Railway Construction Company Limited (IRCON) of India and Max Myanmar Co Ltd of

Myanmar are already carrying out pre-engineering works for construction of 41 miles 7 furlongs long Paletwa-Kaletwa (Myeikwa) Road of Paletwa-Kaletwa (Myeikwa)-Pakokku border trade route with the assistance of India, as part of Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project.

Upon completion of Paletwa-Kaletwa (Myeikwa) Road, India-Myanmar trade route will be connected with Pakokku via Kyauktaw-An-Padan. Of the two roads linking India and Chin State which are Falam-Reedkawdah Road (67 miles 6 furlongs long) and Tiddim-

Financial Management at Wise

YANGON, 15 March—Wise International School for Executives (ABE Accredited College) will open a certificate course in financial management on 18 March.

The course is suitable for managers, auditors, accountants, financial officers, business development managers, and those interested in financial management.

The fee of the ten-day course is K 50,000 and those interested may contact the school at No. 1009, 10th Floor, Yuzana Tower, at the junction of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Shwegondine Road, Bahan Township, here, Ph: 01556183.—MNA

Reedkawdah Road (32 miles 3 furlongs long), Myanmar and India have agreed to upgrade Tiddim-Reedkawdah Road as first priority and are already surveying the alignment. The road currently is earthen facility and Public Works will upgrade it

phase by phase.

To link Chin State with Bangladesh, a road is under construction from Paletwa to Kyauktaw of Rakhine State, to complete Paletwa-Kyauktaw-Sittway-Buthidaung-Maungtaung border trade route.—MNA

First regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw...

(from page 16)

Next, members of the respective Union level organizations Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun clarified and U Sai Win Maung of Shan State Constituency No-5 held discussions on the permitted proposal "to raise pensions of retired persons of the armed forces and government department, who did not catch up to current pay scales according to their ranks when they retired"

submitted by U Zhun Khan of Chin State Constituency No-1. Then the approval of Amyotha Hluttaw was sought.

Regarding the proposals "to distribute enough basic commodities to servicemen and government personnel who are serving the interest of the nation and their families at reasonable prices" submitted by U Zhun Khan of Chin State Constituency No-1 and "to grant freedom of press

on education, economic and social affairs of tribes in their languages except publications that could oppose the government" raised by U Paw Lian Lwin of Chin State Constituency No-9, they withdrew their proposals to Hluttaw.

The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw announced the end of the first regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw for tenth day and the eleventh-day session will be held at 10 am on 16 March (Wednesday).

The session came to end at noon.—MNA

Proposals submitted, approvals sought at Pyithu Hluttaw session

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March — Today's Pyithu Hluttaw session made decisions on whether new proposals submitted by Hluttaw representative should be discussed or not.

First, U Soe Win of Sangyoung Township Constituency submitted a proposal to review the pension scheme as there is a wide gap between the pension and current commodity prices and suggested to make pension salary grades from two to three

grades depending on ages.

It was seconded by Dr. Than Win of North Okkalapa Township Constituency.

Afterwards, the approval of Pyithu Hluttaw was sought to discuss it, and then the hluttaw accepted the approval.

The proposal submitted by U Soe Win of Sangyoung Township Constituency will be discussed at eleventh-day Pyithu Hluttaw session to be held on 16 March. The

hluttaw announced that those representatives who want to discuss the above proposal are to register at Deputy Director-General of Pyithu Hluttaw.

Afterwards, U Aung Zin of Pazundaung Township Constituency submitted a proposal to draft a bill that would allow farmers to legally store their crops at garages of governmental organizations and private garage at reasonable prices, paving ways for the farmers to earn stable price from crop production.

The proposal was seconded by Daw Zar Talam of Thantlang Constituency and the approval of Pyithu Hluttaw was sought to discuss it, and then the hluttaw accepted the approval.

The proposal of U Aung Zin will be discussed will be discussed at eleventh-day Pyithu Hluttaw session to be held on 16 March. The hluttaw announced that those representatives who want to discuss the above-mentioned proposals are to register at Deputy Director-General of Pyithu Hluttaw.—MNA

Up to now it is too early to launch free, compulsory middle education system in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—At today's session of Pyithu Hluttaw, four representatives held discussions about the proposal submitted by Hluttaw Representative U Khin Maung Yi (a) Khine Maung Yi from Ahlon Constituency to prescribe a new system "Duty to Educated Children" and syllabuses with an exami-

that so Myanmar should launch the second step only after the first step has been completed; and that according to ads in journals, magazines and TV commercials, there are many private-run schools whose outstanding candidates can join the schools in foreign countries.

Daw Zar Talam of

extensively around the world; that for instance, compulsory education system is for children aged 11 to 16 years in India, and for 11 years in Russia, and compulsory primary and middle education in China; and that so she said she is in support of the proposal.

Daw Mi Myint Than of Ye Constituency



Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr Maung Maung Htay in discussion.—MNA

nation system in which successful candidates can join international university and education system in which the government and private sector can participate.

U Kyi Myint of Latha Constituency in his discussion said that the majority of the countries find it hard to implement the free compulsory primary education; that even Britain can practise free compulsory education no more than primary level;



Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyi Myint in discussion.—MNA

Thantlang Constituency said that free system should be practised if compulsory education system is to be launched; that now, primary level school drop-out rate is still high in Myanmar; that primary education does not prescribe subjects to improve reasoning power, and at least middle education is enough for to improve students' intellectual power; that today, compulsory education system is exercised



Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Mi Myint Than in discussion.—MNA

said that educational reforms should be made to bring about an international level education system; that basic education is free in the international community; that it is needed to sharpen the abilities of Myanmar youths all the more; and that so she is in support of the proposal.

Dr Maung Maung Htay of Pwintbyu Constituency said that the National Education Committee is short- and long-term plans



Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Aung Zin of Pazundaung Constituency in discussion.—MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Soe Win of Sangyoung Constituency in discussion.—MNA

to improve the nation's education standard; that under Millennium Development Goal, every country is trying to achieve Universal Primary Education by 2015; that Article 28 (c) of the constitution says, "The Union shall implement free, compulsory primary education system"; that so, up to now it is too early to launch free, compulsory middle education system in Myanmar; that the Universities Central Council chaired by the Minister for Education is pursuing plans to improve syllabuses and curricula to the international level; that now Myanmar is a member of ASEAN Universities Network (AUN) and is dealing with syllabuses and curricula in line with Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA); that present achievement in education promotion plans is very heartening; and that the

proposal should not be discussed further more.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein said that United Nations Millennium Summit (2000) adopted eight millennium goals, one of which is Universal Primary Education to be completed by 2015; that the second phase of the 30-year basic education plan covers programmes for completion of basic education; that in Myanmar free, compulsory primary education system benefits 5.15 million children; that only after the free, compulsory primary education system will it be wise to launch the middle education system; that in line with the 30-year national education promotion programme is underway to meet the international standard; that to achieve the goal, seminars are held yearly, education development programmes

are reviewed, assessed and amended and the ministry is working in cooperation with international universities; that many other plans are ongoing for participation of private section in the education sector; and that he considers that the proposal should not be under discussion any longer.

The speaker said that four representatives and the minister have held thorough discussions about the proposal; and that he would like to know the stance of the presenter.

In response, U Khin Maung Yi (a) Khine Maung Yi expressed thanks, submitting to the hluttaw that the proposal does not need further discussions.

The speaker declared the hluttaw approved his submission, so the hluttaw does not need to discuss the proposal any longer.—MNA

Finance & Revenue Minister answers query

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March — In the discussion of the proposal 'to raise pensions of retired persons of the armed forces and government departments, who did not catch up the current pay scales according to their ranks when they retired', submitted by U Zhun Khan of Chin State Constituency-1, U Sai Win Maung of Shan State Constituency-5 said the difference between the pension of service personnel who retired with old salaries and that of those who retired with current salaries is very big. It is true that a retired government employee with an old salary had to face economic difficulties whenever the government increased the salaries of departmental staff after 1988. However, at the moment, it is not easy to decide to increase the salaries or pensions. When occasion arises to increase them, commodity prices will skyrocket and pensioners will get no results. The main requirement



Finance and Revenue Minister U Hla Tun responds to question.—MNA

is to boost production for national economic growth. And then, the people will be economically protected and enjoy the increased salaries completely. So, productivity is a first priority and every citizen has to play a part in building up a modern, developed democratic nation.

For the time being, it is not possible to consider the matter of increasing

the pensions of retired service personnel because of the financial situation of the State and the difficulty in collecting the exact data of the number of retired service personnel. Inflation after pay rise is another thing to consider.

As prescribed in Section 26 Sub-section (a) of the constitution, 'the State shall enact necessary laws for the economic welfare of retired service

Foreign Minister U Nyan Win sends sympathy message to Japanese FM

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March— U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, on 11 March, sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr. Takeaki Matsumoto, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan for the loss of life and property caused by earthquake and Tsunami in Sendai City, Tohoku Region and North Eastern parts of Japan.—MNA

personnel when Myanmar is able to stand tall as a democratic nation', it is hoped that new salaries the service personnel with old salaries are expecting will come at an opportune time. So, it is not possible to insist on pay rise from the State for a want, discussed U Sai Win Maung.

In his clarification, Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun said the discussion of U Sai Win Maung is perfect and complete. The pension system Myanmar is practising is in conformity with the existing laws and rules. Unlike other nations which pay pensions to retired service personnel after cutting part of their salaries, Myanmar grants pensions from its own budget depending on the service of a

staff member.

After 1948 when the nation regained independence, the government enacted laws for retired service personnel to enjoy pensions. It granted not only a service pension but also a family pension in 1956; increased the 30-year staff pension to 42-year service pension and extended the duration of family pension from 10 to 15 years in 1973; granted temporary living allowance plus pension in 1977 and granted extra cash assistance plus pension in 1988.

Measures were also taken such as granting temporary cash assistance and extra cash assistance plus original pension by abolishing the rule of not paying a pension of more than 600 kyats in 1989; increas-

ing the pensions up to 25 percent as necessary in 1993; granting family pension from four-thirds of staff pension, instead of a half, and increasing the duration of pension for spouses until their death, instead of 15 years, in 1994; and increasing pensions twofold in 2000.

The minister then requested the withdrawal of the proposal to increase the pensions as it is necessary consider the situation of national development, inflation, the circulation of money, commodity prices and GDP.

U Zhun Khan of Chin State Constituency-1 then submitted the withdrawal of the proposal. Later, the Hluttaw approved the withdrawal.

MNA

Proposal on upgrading of school in MraukU withdrawn

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March— At today's Pyithu Hluttaw session, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives U Aung Tun Tha of MraukU Constituency withdrew the question on whether Ministry of Education

has any plan to upgrade No.2 Basic Education Middle School of MraukU to a High School (or) to BEHS (Branch). He said that according to the decision of No.48/2010 meeting of the government of the Union of

Myanmar, No. 2 BEMS in Aungtat ward in MraukU Township has been upgraded into BEHS with letter No. Branch (1/kha) dated 18 January 2011 of Basic Education Department. MNA

MNA



Mines Minister U Ohn Myint observing jade lots at 48th Myanmar Gems Emporium.—MNA

Proposals withdrawn by Amyotha Hluttaw representatives

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March— Proposals submitted by representatives to Amyotha Hluttaw were withdrawn at today's Amyotha Hluttaw sessions.

First, U Zhun Khan of Chin State Constituency No.1 withdrew his proposal on distribution of enough food stuff for service men and civil servants and their families.

Then, U Paw Hlyan Lwin of Chin State constituency No.9 also withdrew his proposal to the Hluttaw

for freedom of press on education, economic and social affairs of tribes in their languages except publications that could oppose the government.

His proposal has the same opinion on the answer to the question of the minister for education submitted by Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency No.7 at Amyotha Hluttaw session held on 11-3-2011.

MNA

Mines Minister greets gems merchants

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March— Minister for Mines U Ohn Myint cordially greeted gems merchants at sixth-day 48th Myanmar Gems Emporium held at Mani Yadana Jade hall near Myanmar Gems Museum here this morning.

Local and foreign gems merchants put proposals for jade lots into tender boxes to buy them in tender system. A total of 2589 jade lots were sold out in tender system today.

From 14 March

to date, a total of 5131 jade lots had been sold out. The selling in tender system will continue on 18 March and the competitive bidding system selling will take place from 19 to 22 March. —MNA

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mili
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Tin Ohnmar Tun

B.A (LAW) LL.B, LL.M (UK)

P.O. Box 109, Ph: 09 73150632

(For. Allen & Gledhill, Advocates & Solicitors, Singapore)

Dated. 16 March, 2011.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KOTA MACHAN VOY NO (289)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MACHAN VOY NO (289) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.3.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Revelers take part in the carnival parade in Basel, north Switzerland, on 14 March, 2011. The carnival starting at 4 am Monday morning kicked off three days of events for revelers.
XINHUA

US Embassy in Gabon raises alarm over visa fraud

LIBREVILLE, 15 March—The US Embassy in Gabon on Monday raised the alarm over Internet scams for those seeking to get the visa.

"The US Embassy in Libreville would wish to remind the Gabonese nationals to be more careful while using private entities to apply for the American visa. This is because of increased cases of fraud through e-mails, websites and advertisements offering visa services," the US diplomatic mission in Libreville said in a statement.

The embassy was more concerned about a recent e-mail asking those applying for the visa to send money through the

Western Union to the US Embassy in London.

"Those seeking to participate in the US visa lottery are advised not to send money to any address," the statement said.—Xinhua



People of Tibetan ethnic group move a giant prayer wheel in Dukezong ancient City of Shangri-La County, Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of Deqen, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 14 March, 2011. The prayer wheel made of copper in Shangri-La weighs 60 tonnes with a height of 21 metres.
XINHUA



Local residents cook together after the earthquake damaged their living places in Yingjiang County of southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 14 March, 2011.—XINHUA

Eating fish 'cuts women's eyesight loss risk in old age'

WASHINGTON, 15 March—Women who regularly consume fish and omega-3 fatty acids have a lower risk of developing age-related macular degeneration (AMD), according to a new study. Researchers at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston collected data on 38,022 women, who had not been diagnosed with AMD.

Information on their eating habits, including their intake of omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, was collected and their eye health tracked over 10 years.

The researchers found that women who consumed the most omega-3 fatty acids had a

38 percent lower risk of developing AMD compared with those who ate the least.

Consuming one or more servings of fish a week was linked to a 42 per cent lower risk of sight loss compared with eating one serving a month.

It also showed that consumption of one or more servings of fish per week was linked to a 42 percent lower risk of AMD when compared to less than one serving per month. "This lower risk appeared to be due primarily to consumption of canned tuna fish and dark-meat fish," said lead author William G Christen.

"These prospective data from a large population of women with no prior diagnosis of AMD indicate that regular consumption of omega-3 fatty acids and fish significantly reduced the risk of incident AMD," concluded the authors.

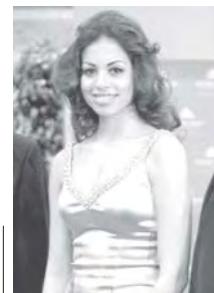
Internet

Further probe opened in Berlusconi sex scandal

ROME, 15 March — Italian prosecutors are looking into a newspaper report alleging that two Italians offered cash to a Moroccan official to change the birth certificate of the teenage girl at the centre of Premier Silvio Berlusconi's prostitution scandal. Berlusconi faces trial on charges he paid for sex with a Moroccan girl nicknamed Ruby, who at the time was a minor.

Italian, a leftist newspaper opposed to Berlusconi, said two Italian men traveled to Morocco in February and sought to bribe a registry office employee into changing Ruby's year of birth from 1992 to 1990.

Internet



This 3, March 2011 file photo shows Karima el-Mahroug, nicknamed Ruby, prior to the Opera Ball in Vienna, Austria.
INTERNET

London stock market sharply falls in early trading

LONDON, 15 March—London stock market sharply fell on Tuesday with the leading FTSE 100 index down by 81.4 points, or 1.4 percent, to 5,693.84 points in early trading.

Nearly all the shares in the FTSE 100 were down, with mining shares among the biggest fallers. Eurasian Natural Resources Group and Kazakhmys were down 4.70 percent and 4.16 percent separately.—Xinhua



A porcelain dinner service thought to be worth up to 60,000 euros (\$83,000) is among some 10,000 objects from the estate of the late Dutch Queen Juliana to go under the hammer for charity on Monday, according to the Sotheby's auction house.

Marijuana bales found in clogged Ariz sewer line

Authorities in a southern Arizona City near the Mexico border have found two feces-covered bales of marijuana tied to a rope feeding into a sewer system.

Nogales police say public works employees hauled out an estimated 39 pounds of pot while investigating a clogged sewer line on Wednesday.

Investigators told the *Nogales International* newspaper that the bales were smaller than the size of a suitcase and tied to 900 feet of rope in a narrow pipe that connects systems in the US and Mexico.

Police Lt Carlos Jimenez says it's the first time they've discovered marijuana tied to a rope they believe smugglers were planning to maneuver through the line. Police say a search at the Rio Rico sewer plant, where the feed ends, did not turn up more drugs.

The drugs' street value was estimated at more than \$20,000.

Koons sculpture could fetch \$30 million at auction

Jeff Koons' iconic "Pink Panther" sculpture is hitting the auction block in May and could sell for as much as \$30 million, which would be a record for the artist, Sotheby's said on Friday.

The 1988 porcelain sculpture of a semi-naked blonde woman cuddling a large pink panther toy is the artist's proof from an edition of only three, according to the auction house. The others are in the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art and a private US collection.

It is expected to be one of the highlights of Sotheby's contemporary art auction on 10 May. "Pink Panther" is one of the most outstanding achievements of Jeff Koons' illustrious career. It is immediately identifiable as a masterpiece

not only of the artist's historic canon, but also of the epoch of recent Contemporary Art," said Tobias Meyer, Sotheby's worldwide head of contemporary art about the vibrant pink-and-yellow work.

The record for a Koons is \$25.7 million, set when "Balloon Flower (Magenta)" was sold in June 2008 on the eve of the financial crisis that sent art market prices tumbling.

Lucian Freud holds the auction record for a work by a living artist, with \$33.6 million for "Benefits Supervisor Sleeping," also set in spring 2008.

Sotheby's said the work from Koons' "Banality" series combines his themes of materiality and artificiality, eroticism and naivety, pop culture and rarefied elitism.



This undated photo provided by Sotheby's auction house shows a porcelain sculpture by artist Jeff Koons titled "Pink Panther." The work is estimated to bring \$20 to \$30 million when offered at auction.

News Album



A woman holds a cat during a cat show held in Kiev, capital of Ukraine, on 12 March, 2011. Some 230 cats of 50 species were displayed during the 2-day cat show.

Ninja-playing Pa dad left child, 4, alone

Police say a western Pennsylvania man left his sleeping 4-year-old son home alone while he went outside and pretended to be a ninja warrior.

Online court records show 28-year-old Ross Hurst, of Scottdale, has applied for a public defender but has yet to

be appointed one. *The Daily Courier of Connellsville* reports Hurst was charged 3 March after police found him outside about 1:30 am dressed all in black and "playing ninja" on a borough street. Scottdale is about 35 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

Police say Scott told

them his mother was watching the child, but the boy's grandmother said Hurst never asked her to babysit.

Hurst's listed telephone is not in service. He faces a preliminary hearing 30 March on a charge of endangering the welfare of a child.

Charlie Sheen shows sell out in 18 minutes

LOS ANGELES, 15 March—Tickets for Charlie Sheen's shows in Detroit and Chicago next month sold out just 18 minutes after they went on sale. The time is a Ticketmaster record, according to TMZ.com.

More dates are reportedly planned for

his tour, dubbed "Charlie Sheen LIVE: My Violent Torpedo of Truth/Defeat is Not an Option." In the meantime, the fired star of "Two and a Half Men" will play Detroit's Fox Theater on 2 April, and the Chicago Theater on 3 April.

Sheen announced

the tour Thursday on Twitter. Ticketmaster listed seat prices as \$35-70, not including fees. His official website added that \$1m from every ticket sold will be donated to the Red Cross to earthquake victims in Japan.

Reuters



Actor Charlie Sheen.
INTERNET



A model waits backstage before the Os Burgeses Autumn/Winter 2012 collection show during Lisbon Fashion Week on 13 March, 2011.—XINHUA

Steven Soderbergh plans to retire from filmmaking

LOS ANGELES, 15 March—Steven Soderbergh says he's done with Hollywood.

The Oscar-winning director — whose credits include "Traffic," "Erin Brockovich" and "Ocean's Eleven" and its two sequels — said in an interview with "Studio 360's" Kurt Andersen that after he shoots his next two movies he's planning to retire from filmmaking.

"When you reach the point where you're, like, 'if I have to get into a van to do another scout I'm

just going to shoot myself,' it's time to let somebody else who's still excited about getting in the van, get in the van," Soderbergh, 48, he said in the interview that aired Friday on "Studio 360." "And so it's just time. For the last three years, I've been turning down everything that comes my way, so you're not going to have Steven Soderbergh to kick around anymore," he quipped.

Soderbergh said he's got two more movies to shoot — "Liberace,"

starring Damon and Michael Douglas, and "Man From U.N.C.L.E.," starring George Clooney — and then he's going to call it quits.

"That's a great way to sort of step off," he said.—Reuters



Actress Jennifer Aniston gestures during an autograph signing session as part of promotional activities for her fragrance "Jennifer Aniston" in Mexico City on 10 March, 2011.—XINHUA

60s LSD figure Owsley Stanley dies in Australia

CANBERRA, 15 March—Owsley "Bear" Stanley, a 1960s counterculture icon who worked with The Grateful Dead and was a prolific LSD producer, died in a car crash in Australia, his family said Monday. He was 76.

Lyrics sung by The Grateful Dead, Jimi Hendrix and Frank Zappa reference Stanley and his brushes with the law, underlining his influence.

Stanley produced an estimated pound (half a kilogramme) of pure LSD, or roughly 5 million "trips" of normal potency of the hallucinogenic drug, after enrolling in 1963 at the University of California at Berkeley and becoming involved in the drug scene that underpinned the hippie movement, according to the BookRags.com website.

He was an accomplished sound engineer who worked for the psychedelic rock band The Grateful Dead.

Sam Cutler, a firm friend of Stanley since 1970 when Cutler became the band's tour manager, described him as was "a wonderful man and a great teacher."

"His death is a grievous loss to his family and the tens of thousands of people from the 60s on who were influenced by his work with The Grateful Dead," Cutler said.

Internet

Barca star Messi in doubt for Getafe match

MADRID, 15 March — Barcelona's top scorer Lionel Messi bruised his right knee during a weekend Spanish league match and is in doubt for the club's match at home against Getafe, the league leaders said on Monday.

The 23-year-old Argentinian international hobbled off the pitch unaided at the end of his side's 1-1 draw away to Sevilla on Sunday after he clashed with keeper Javi Varas just before



Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi lies on the pitch during their Spanish league football match.—INTERNET

halftime.

"Messi suffered a bad knock on his right knee and his availability for Saturday's game will depend on his progress during the week," Barcelona said in a statement.

The World Player of the Year is tied on 27 goals as the top scorer in La Liga with Real Madrid's Portuguese winger Cristiano Ronaldo.

Barcelona also said that forward Pedro was in "serious doubt" for the match against Getafe because he is suffering from a sports hernia.

The Catalan side are now just five points behind nearest rivals Real Madrid before the two sides go head-to-head next month at the Bernabeu.—INTERNET

Ibrahimovic suspended for Milan derby

ROME, 15 March — Serie A leaders AC Milan's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic was ruled out on Monday of their crucial derby with Inter Milan as he was handed a three match suspension for his red card in last weekend's match with Bari.

Ibrahimovic will miss the match on April 3 after being sent-off for aiming a karate chop into the ribs of Bari defender Marco Rossi in the 74th minute of the 1-1 draw last Saturday.

Milan - who lead defending champions Inter by five points - have appealed the decision and it will be heard on either Thursday or Friday this week, though, most observers feel they have little chance of winning it.

INTERNET



Serie A leaders AC Milan's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic.—INTERNET

Wozniacki ends Martinez jinx, Soderling crashes at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, 15 March — Top seed Caroline Wozniacki stepped up her bid to win her first Indian Wells title by brushing aside Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez to reach the fourth round on



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark serves to Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez of Spain during the BNP Paribas Open.—INTERNET

Monday.

The 20-year-old Wozniacki, who lost to Martinez Sanchez in their three previous matches, swept past the Spaniard in straight sets 6-1, 6-3 in the \$9 million dollar WTA and ATP Masters 1000 hardcourt tournament.

Wozniacki, who needs a strong showing in Indian Wells to hold onto her No. 1 ranking, dispatched Martinez Sanchez in just 71 minutes, winning 85 percent of her second-serve opportunities and saving two break points.

INTERNET

S P O R T S

Van Gaal dreaming of Inter's downfall

PARIS, 15 March — If Bayern Munich succeed in knocking titleholders Inter Milan out of the Champions League it will spark a day of



Bayern Munich's Dutch head coach Louis van Gaal follows a training session at the club's training session.—INTERNET

rejoicing at the Bavarian giants, coach Louis van Gaal said on Monday.

Van Gaal's men go into Tuesday's last 16 tie at their Allianz Arena as favourites after taking the first leg in Milan 1-0, but despite that advantage van Gaal sounded a note of caution.

"My team have regained their confidence (after hammering Hamburg 6-0 in the league on Saturday).

"But Inter are difficult rivals, we have to pay attention.—INTERNET

Bilbao keep Europa hopes alive with late goal

BARCELONA, 15 March — A last gasp header from substitute Urko Vera salvaged a 2-2 draw for European chasing Athletic Bilbao against Getafe on Monday.

The battle for a place in the Europa League remains wide open as none of the contenders appears capable of asserting their authority on the race.

Athletic suffered four straight defeats before their win against Sevilla last weekend and again they were far from their best against a Getafe side

whose own European hopes appear over having gone six games now without a win.

"In the circumstances a point was not a bad result because it was not a good game for us," said Bilbao coach Joaquin Caparros.—INTERNET



Spanish striker Fernando Llorente.—INTERNET

Nets beat Celtics 88-79 for 5th straight win

NEWARK, 15 March — Brook Lopez scored 20 points, Deron Williams



Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce (34) goes up for a rebound on a shot by New Jersey Nets' Brook Lopez, back, during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game, on Monday, in Newark, N.J.—INTERNET

added 16 and made the clinching 3-pointer, and the New Jersey Nets extended their longest winning streak in three years to five games with an 88-79 victory over the Boston Celtics on Monday night.

Kris Humphries had 16 points and 15 rebounds, following his strong performance against Blake Griffin by turning in one against Kevin Garnett to help the Nets snap a nine-game home losing streak against the Celtics.

New Jersey has won five in a row overall for the first time since late December-early January in the 2007-08 season.

INTERNET

We won't choke, says Ferguson



Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson.—INTERNET

MANCHESTER, 15 March — Sir Alex Ferguson believes his Manchester United side can cope with the pressure and demands as they target winning further silverware at Old Trafford this season.

With United fighting on three fronts, Ferguson says his trophy-chasing

players have been here before as he issued a rallying cry for the rest of the campaign.

And the veteran Scot believes his side can raise their game as they now have a fully-fit squad at their disposal during the run-in of the season.

"It's an important time, with us being involved in three tournaments," said Ferguson.

"But we are experienced enough to do what we are doing at the moment - taking each game as it comes.

INTERNET

Asia chief to reveal FIFA presidency aspirations

LONDON, 15 March — Asian football chief Mohamed Bin Hammam will announce on Friday whether he intends to challenge Sepp Blatter for the FIFA presidency.

Bin Hammam, the president of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), has dropped repeated hints in the past two months that he may stand and has been gauging possible support.

He will hold a news conference at the headquarters of the Asian Football Confederation in Kuala Lumpur on Friday.



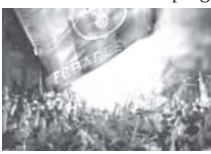
Asian football chief Mohamed Bin Hammam.—INTERNET

Bin Hammam posted a message on the microblogging site Twitter which said: "I will hold a press conference on Friday, 18 March, at AFC House. I will clarify my position regarding the FIFA presidency elections, which take place in June 2011."—INTERNET

Barca, Valencia reject doping claims

MADRID, 15 March — Spanish footballing giants Barcelona and Valencia on Monday rejected allegations by a Spanish radio station that they may be involved in doping.

Barcelona "wishes to publicly express its total indignation at these unfounded references which link the club to doping



Barcelona supporters are seen in 2009. Spanish footballing giants Barcelona and Valencia on Monday rejected allegations by a Spanish radio station that they may be involved in doping.—INTERNET

practices" while Valencia described the allegations on the Catholic radio station Cadena Cope as "false."

Cadena Cope on Sunday quoted a "representative" of Real Madrid, who was not identified, as saying the club planned to "ask the Spanish football federation for serious anti-doping controls."

It said Real could not understand how Eufemiano Fuentes, a doctor who was one of six people charged in December with trafficking offences in an athletics doping probe dubbed Operation Galgo, could have worked for "a first division club, specifically Valencia, curiously when it won two championships"—INTERNET

- ★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
- ★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

- ★ Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
- ★ Riots beget riots, not democracy
- ★ Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

- ★ VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
- ★ RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
- ★ Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

First regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw continues for tenth day

Raising and replying to queries, holding discussions on proposals and withdrawal of some proposals carried out

NAV PYI TAW, 15 March — The first regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the tenth day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

The Speaker announced that the tenth-day session was valid as the attendance of 222 made up 99.55 per cent of 223 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

Of the questions submitted by Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, members of the respective Union level organizations Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw Win of the State Peace and Development Council Office responded to the permitted ones about “whether or not there is any plan to be implemented for upgrading of motorways linking Rakhine State and mainland for better transport” raised by U Maung Tha Khin of Rakhine State Constituency No-8 and “whether or not there is a plan to build border trade routes linking with India and Bangladesh in order to transport products of Chin State to all corners” and “whether or not there is a plan to build Union Highways linking with all towns in Chin State” raised by U Zon Hlyal Htan of Chin State Constituency No-2 and “whether or not Chin State includes in the 24-Special Regions” raised by U Paul Thang Thaing of Chin State Constituency No-3.

(See page 10)



Tenth-day first regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw in progress.—MNA