

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XVIII, Number 336

4th Waning of Tabaung 1372 ME

Wednesday, 23 March, 2011

It is an absolute necessity to avoid relying on external powers

At present, our Armed Forces has assumed the various duties of the State, in addition to the duty of national defence. Preparations are being made to be ready in every aspect for a gentle transition to democracy and market-oriented economic system. Failure to make a systematic step-by-step transition from one system to another may endanger the nation and the people. During the transition to an unfamiliar system, countries with greater experience usually interfere and take advantage for their own interests. For this reason, it is an absolute necessity to avoid relying on external powers.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From the address delivered at the parade of 65th Anniversary Armed Forces Day)



Senior General Than Shwe felicitates Pakistani President

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March—On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Pakistan Day, which falls on 23rd March 2011, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.—MNA

Prime Minister U Thein Sein felicitates Pakistani counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March—On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Pakistan Day, which falls on 23rd March 2011, U Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.—MNA

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

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

First regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw continues for 13th day Queries raised and replied, proposals submitted and discussed, approval sought at Pyithu Hluttaw session



NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—The 13th day first regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw was held at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today.

It was attended by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

First, the Speaker took position and announced the validity and start of the 13th-day session as 432 or 99.77 percent of 433 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives were present.

Of the questions raised by Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, members of union level organization Minister for Immigration and Population and for

Home Affairs U Maung Oo and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo responded to the questions regarding “change temporary identity card with citizenship scrutinized card” submitted by U Zaw Kir Ahmed (a) U Aung Zaw Win of Maungdaw Constituency, “gambling like our days” submitted by U Saw Thein Aung of Hlaingbwe Constituency, “amnesty” submitted by U Sai Hla Kyaw of Langkho Constituency, “ward and village-tract administration” submitted by U Lwin Oo of Thanlyin Constituency, “assignment of duties to wards and village-tract heads” submitted by U Aung Kyaw Zan of Pautaw Constituency and “to increase subsidy” submitted by U Aung Zin of Pazundaung Constituency.

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First regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw for 13th day in progress.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 23 March, 2011

Delta seeing railroads one after another

Smooth transport contributes towards regional development and economic growth and fortifies relations and unity between national races.

Being blessed with a large number of watercourses, fertile soil and temperate climate patterns, Ayeyawady Delta is a land of crops, fish, meat and salt. In the past, boat was the only means of transport in the region. Now, the delta has witnessed many roads and railroads.

Pathein (Begaret)-Einme section of Pathein (Begaret)-Einme-Nyaungdon-Yangon (Hlinethaya) Railroad Project was put into service on 20 March. The 20-mile section has 46 bridges, large and small, on it.

Pathein-Yangon Railroad, 89 miles long, goes through Pathein, Kangyidaunt, Kyaunggon, Einme, Pantanaw, Nyaungdon and Hlinethaya townships. When the project is completed, Ayeyawady Region will be able to reduce its expenses on transportation of its local products to markets.

Pathein (Begaret)-Einme-Nyaungdon-Yangon (Hlinethaya) Railroad is an artery linking Ayeyawady and Yangon regions. Local people of the delta will be able to travel by train from and to Hinthada, Kyangin, Pakokku and Kalay through Pathein, to Sittway in Rakhine State through Minbu, and to Nay Pyi Taw through Pathein and Yangon.

Transporting people and goods by train costs less, but is very effective. The number of railroads across the nation is on the increase, thus contributing to transport and commercial growth of local people.

Luxury cruise liner of Bahamas visits Myanmar

YANGON, 22 March—A luxury cruise liner namely M.V Crystal Serenity of Bahamas carrying 651 sailors and 664 passengers aboard arrived Thilawa Port of Yangon from Thailand at 3:30 pm on 20 March.

After the visitors had visited Yangon, Bago, Bagan, Mandalay and Inlay Lake and observed Kalaywa Meditation Centre and Chanmye Yeiktha Meditation Centre, they sailed for Sri Lanka at 3:30 pm today.—MNA



People's Desire

- * 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

Commander attends new tarred road opening ceremony in Hlegu Township

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March — The opening of new tarred road took place at its archway in Hlegu Township of Yangon Region, attended by Chairman of Yangon Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Tun Than.

An official explained salient points of the road and a local spoke words of thanks.

Next, officials formally opened the new road and the commander unveiled the archway of the road.

Then the commander attended the cash donation

Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Pakistani counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March—On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Pakistan Day, which falls on 23rd March 2011, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Ms Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.—MNA

ceremony of families of All-Bus Line Supervisory Committee at the head office of the committee.

The commander and officials presented cash donations to five Defence Services Hospitals, 18 People's Hospitals and 11 social organizations through responsible persons.— MNA

48th Myanmar Gems Emporium concludes with sales figures of 13608 jade lots

Gem merchants at home and abroad purchasing jade lots through competitive bidding system at 48th Myanmar Gems Emporium.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—The 48th Myanmar Gems Emporium, organized by Central Committee for Organizing Myanmar Gems Emporium, continued for the last

day at Mani Yadana Jade Hall near Myanmar Gems Museum here today.

As gems merchants at home and abroad bid for jade lots at Mani Yadana Jade Hall, Secretary of the

Central Committee for Organizing Myanmar Gems Emporium Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and committee members supervised bidding

process.

In the afternoon, Patron of the Central Committee for Organizing Myanmar Gems Emporium Minister for Mines U Ohn Myint visited the emporium and viewed bidding process.

The minister presented certificate of honour and gift to Mr Gao Jian Ping of M/S Derong Jade Co Ltd from the People's Republic of China who purchased jade lots with highest price in total.

A total of 8,719 local and foreign gems merchants visited the 48th Myanmar Gems Emporium also the second emporium in capital from 10 March to date. The emporium successfully concluded at 3 pm today with sale figures of 13608 jade lots.—MNA

Kaung Myat Myanmar Amateur Open Golf Championship 2011 kicks off

YANGON, 22 March—An opening ceremony of Kaung Myat Myanmar Amateur Open Golf

Championship 2011, conducted by Myanmar Golf Federation and mainly sponsored by Kaung Myat Co Ltd,

took place at Yangon Golf Course (Danyingon) this morning.

Vice presidents of MGF U Min Thein and U Aung Kyi, Managing Director of Kaung Myat Co Ltd U Maung Maung Myint, exective

Managing Director U Maung Maung Myint of Kaung Myat Co Ltd tees off to open Kaung Myat Myanmar Amateur Open Golf Championship 2011.— MGF

of MGF and Yangon Golf Club U Khaing Soe Tha respectively teed off to open the tournament.

Yan Myo Aye with 71 strokes led to the men's event (open) of the tournament, Min Lagon Ein with 72 strokes and Ye Htet Aung with 73 strokes followed.

MNA

52 feared dead in Pakistan coal mine explosion

SORANGE, 22 March—Rescuers used shovels and bare hands Monday to dig out miners buried after a gas explosion deep in a coal mine in southwestern Pakistan, lining up wooden caskets to await the bodies from an accident that left 52 feared dead.

More than 200 people stood outside the mine waiting to help or hear news from the search, but since the

accident Sunday only bodies — 27 of them — have been recovered.

“We have yet to dig out and search the remaining two wings, but there is zero percent chance we can get anybody alive,” said government mine inspector Iftikhar Ahmed.

Ahmed said the mine, owned by the state-run Pakistan Mineral Development Corpor-

ation, was declared dangerous two weeks ago due to the presence of methane gas, but the warning was ignored by the contractor working it.

Methane gas is a major cause of coal mine explosions around the world. It can cause also cause asphyxiation.

Ghulam Mohamad said he feared for the lives of his friends.

Internet



Mine workers and residents gather outside a coal mine after a explosion in Sorange near Quetta, Pakistan on Sunday, on 20 March, 2011. A methane gas explosion in a coal mine in southwestern Pakistan killed 52, a top mining official said.—INTERNET



Rescue workers inspect an overturned raft while searching for the bodies of two US tourists who were killed in an accident at one of the waterfalls in the Iguazu Falls area in Puerto Iguazu, Argentina, on 21 March, 2011.

INTERNET

Two Americans die when raft overturns in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 22 March—Two tourists from the United States were killed Monday in an accident at the Iguazu Falls on northern Argentina's border with Brazil, authorities said. Laura Matejik Eberts, 28, and Philip Musgrove, 70, were in an inflatable boat that flipped over after hitting rocks near the base of the waterfall, said Jorge Veron, an official in Misiones province. He did not release their hometowns. Five other people suffered injuries and were treated at a hospital, Veron said. The injured included one American, two Germans, one Colombian and one Argentine. Veron said authorities were still trying to determine what caused the accident.—Internet

Mountain torrent traps 34 students, teachers in jungle

BENTONG, 22 March—A total of 34 people have been trapped in a jungle in Bentong of Pahang, a state in the east coast of Peninsula Malaysia, since Sunday, local media reported on Monday.

The stranded victims, including 16 male students, 13 female students and one teacher from a polytechnic institute in Malacca, a southern state in Peninsula Malaysia, as well as four tour guides, had went jungle-trekking at 3.30 am Saturday.

They were expected to return to the waiting area near a waterfall 5pm Sunday, said a teacher who did not join the group in Bentong on Monday.

The teacher, who has to look after two sick students, said he was waiting for the group at the designated place on Sunday, but had later sought help from the Bentong police station when he still did not see other people returning at 8pm.

Bentong police and the fire and rescue department from two districts have organized a team of 19 to search for the missing victims on Monday. Ambulances have also been sent to the scene to standby.—Xinhua



Afghan officials investigate the scene of a suicide attack in Kunduz, north of Kabul, Afghanistan on 14 March, 2011. A suicide bomber posing as an army volunteer struck an Afghan army recruitment center in the northern Kunduz Province on Monday afternoon, killing at least 33 people, Afghan officials said.

INTERNET



A displaced Iraqi boy drinks water from a tap at a camp in Najaf. Fifty percent of water resources are wasted in Iraq, where six million people have no access to clean water, the United Nations has said on the eve of World Water Day.—INTERNET

Three killed in Iraq's violence

BAGHDAD, 22 March—Three people were killed and two others were wounded in two attacks in Baghdad and Iraq's holy Shiite City of Najaf on Monday, the police said.

Gunmen using silenced weapons robbed a jewelry shop and a mobile phone shop in central the city of Najaf, some 160 km south of Baghdad, killing two workers in the shops and stole undetermined amounts of gold and money, a local police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Iraqi security forces sealed off the scene and launched an investigation in the incident, the source said. In Baghdad, gunmen in a car opened fire with their silenced weapons at a car carrying an Iraqi Oil Ministry employee and his family, killing his wife and wounding him and his son, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

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

US soldier killed in bomb attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 March—A US soldier was killed when a roadside bomb struck his convoy in southern Iraq, the US military said on Monday.

“A US service member was killed Sunday by wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device while conducting convoy operations in southern Iraq,” the military said in a brief statement.

The name of the deceased is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, the statement added. The latest death brings the number of US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to about 4,441, since the breakout of the US-led war on Iraq in 2003, according to media account based on Pentagon figures. In mid 2010, US troops in Iraq had been reduced to below 50,000. Washington said that the remaining US troops in Iraq are conducting support and training missions. US military forces are to pull out completely from Iraq by the end of 2011 according to the security pact named Status of Forces Agreement, or SOFA, signed in late 2008 between Baghdad and Washington.—Xinhua

Afghan security transition to start in seven areas

KABUL, 22 March—Afghan President Hamid Karzai said on Tuesday seven areas, including a key city in a Taliban stronghold in the south, would be among the first to be transferred from NATO forces to Afghan control in July.

Karzai said the relatively peaceful provinces of Bamiyan and Panjshir, the western City of Herat, areas around the Capital Kabul, part of Laghman province nearby and Mazar-i-Sharif in the north would be secured by Afghan forces alone from July. The city of Lashkar Gah in volatile Helmand province in the south, long a stronghold of the Taliban, was included in the list.—Reuters

Hluttaw candidates, election agents declared as persons of distorted qualification

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—The Union Election Commission issued Notification No. 9/2011 today. The translation of the notification is as follows:-

The Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No.9/2011
3rd Waning of Tabaung, 1372 ME
(22 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 the 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 law during 60 days as of the date the names of the 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 declared as persons of distorted qualification or not, the Union Election Commission formed election tribunals 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 Paragraph 83 (a) of the respective Hluttaw Election Rules, declared them as persons of distorted qualification.

Sr Hluttaw candidate	Election Agent	Constituency
(a) U Kyaw Aye	—	Maungtaw Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency Rakhine State
(b) U Nurul Hauk	—	Maungtaw Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency Rakhine State
(c) U Aung Hla	—	Buthidaung Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency Rakhine State
(d) U Nyi Lwe	—	An Township Pyithu Hluttaw Constituency Rakhine State
(e) U Maung Maung Tin	—	Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 1 Rakhine State
(f) U Ba Thein	—	Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 7 Rakhine State
(g) U Soe Win	—	Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 7 Rakhine State

Sr Hluttaw candidate	Election Agent	Constituency
(h) U Taw U Baydidein	—	Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 8 Rakhine State
(i) U Ali Hunsein	—	Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 9 Rakhine State
(j) U Aung Nyein	—	Amyotha Hluttaw Constituency No. 11 Rakhine State
(k) U La Bwe	—	MraukU Township Constituency No. 2 State Hluttaw Rakhine State
(l) U Khin Maung Than	—	Pauktaw Township Constituency No. 2 State Hluttaw Rakhine State
(m) U Maung Ba Tin	U Tha Aye	Minbya Township Constituency No. 1 State Hluttaw Rakhine State
(n) U Oo Tun Maung	—	Maungtaw Township Constituency No. 1 State Hluttaw Rakhine State
(o) U Khin Maung Myint (a) U Ananya Tula	—	Maungtaw Township Constituency No. 1 State Hluttaw Rakhine State
(p) U Chit Tun Aung	—	Maungtaw Township Constituency No. 2 State Hluttaw Rakhine State
(q) U Tin Oo	—	An Township Constituency No. 1 State Hluttaw Rakhine State
(r) U Chek Phar	—	An Township Constituency No. 2 State Hluttaw Rakhine State

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

5. It is hereby announced that Hluttaw candidates and election agents who are declared as persons of distorted qualification, 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

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

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—The First Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, Pyithu Hluttaw Rights Committee and the Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee meetings continued at their offices of Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here this afternoon. Chairmen, secretaries and members of respective committee attended the meetings. They participated in discussions on work programme of the committees.—MNA

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

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—The First Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, the Public Accounts Committee, Amyotha Hluttaw Rights Committee and the Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee meetings continued at their offices of Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here this afternoon. Chairmen, secretaries and members of respective committee attended the meetings. They participated in discussions on work programme of the committees.—MNA

Home Affairs Minister answers question on gambling like 'Our days'

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—At Today's Pyithu Hluttaw session, U Saw Thein Aung of Hlaingbwe Constituency raised a question about illegal gambling. He said gambling like 'Our days' that can harm the public morality and property is rampant in some regions of the nation as if it were legalized. So, he said he would like to ask whether there is any action taken against it.

In response to the query, Minister for Home Affairs U Maung Oo said that the State enacted the gambling law on 20 October 1986 in accord with the 1986 Pyithu Hluttaw Law No (6). According to gambling law section 2 (a), gambling means playing of games of chance or profession for money or materials no matter whether toll is collected or not. According to Section 2 (d), gambling equipment means playing cards, token, coin, table, chart, box, list, and things, animal/vehicle used in gambling.

With Order No.1/87 dated 23-6-1987, the ministry issued gambling procedures. They include the meaning of those involved in gambling, arrest procedures and formation of arrest teams.

Today, funfairs, drama, pagoda festivals and state or regional level anniversary celebrations are only approved by regional authorities in accord with the following rules and regulations.

- (a) To ensure a clean and healthy environment in the area of a festivity
- (b) To take security measures according to the plan
- (c) To hold a festivity within designated days
- (d) To stop the festivity immediately if informed that it is not appropriate to keep holding it for reasons of security, epidemic or other emergency cases
- (e) To ensure any form of gambling does not take place

In some regions, some games such as throwing balls and archery that infringe the gambling law are played in regional festivities and colloquially called 'Our days'.

The points clarified above will make it clear that the State shall not approve any form of gambling that violates the law. In connection with gambling cases, security and administrative officials take measures such as reporting in advance, taking action in line with the directives and laws and taking action against not only involvers but also those responsible for such cases.

According to facts and figures, nationwide, 1950 gambling cases were exposed, 3300 offenders arrested and K 241.9 million confiscated in 2010. Although more cases could be exposed year after year, more efforts are still needed to eliminate them.

Regarding the question about illegal gambling,

First regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw...

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Pyithu Hluttaw representatives discussed the approved proposal **"to make arrangement for submitting a bill which would pave ways for more job opportunities, creating a pleasant work environment and ensuring improvement of workers' skills at second regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw"** submitted by U Tin Maung Win of Mingaladon Constituency. Members of Union level organization Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi discussed the proposals. The Pyithu Hluttaw sought approval.

After that, U Soe Win of Sangyoung Constituency submitted a proposal **"to provide financial assistance to Small and Medium-Enterprises"**. The Pyithu Hluttaw sought the approval to discuss the submitted proposal.

The Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw announced the end of the 13th-day first regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw and the 14th-day session will be held at 10 am on 23 March (Wednesday).

The session came to an end at 12:40 am.—MNA

administrative and security bodies are taking measures such as banning, exposing cases by themselves or tip-off and taking action. So, there is no way the State shall not take action against such cases in accord with law. However, to achieve the success, public cooperation is necessary, the minister noted.

MNA

Home Affairs Minister replies to question on "Amnesty"

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March — U Sai Hla Kyaw of Langkho Constituency asked at today's regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw how amnesty will be granted to Shan nationals U Sae Htin, U Kun Tun Oo, U Sai Nyunt Lwin and other jailed persons without exception in this auspicious transition to multi-party democratic Republic of the Union of Myanmar as in other global nations granting pardons to prisoners on historic days, like the days on which old system was successfully replaced with a new one.

Regarding the query, Minister for Home Affairs U Maung Oo answered that Section 16 of 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar says "The Head of the Union and the Head of Executive of the Union is the

President" and, regarding pardons to prisoners, Section 204 of the Constitution states as follow:-

"The President has:

- (a) the power to grant a pardon;
- (b) the power to grant amnesty in accord with the recommendation of the National Defence and Security Council."

Article 401 (1) of Criminal Act regarding the power of the President to grant pardon to prisoners goes as follows:-

"401 (1).When any person has been sentenced to punishment for an offence, the President of the Union may at any time, without conditions or upon any conditions which the

person sentenced accepts, suspend the execution of his sentence or remit the whole or any part of the punishment to which he has been sentenced."

Granting amnesty to prisoners is not the concern of the Hluttaw or Judiciary but for the Head of Executive President of the Union, done with detail analysis of situations of the country. In granting pardon to prisoners by the President, it is done with recommendation of the National Defence and Security Council in order to avert losses of the country.

Now, the time is of the first regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to form new administration; although the President had been elected, he is not at the Office yet; and the National Defence and Security Council which will provide recommendation to the President has not been formed.

These are matters to be dealt with in time of the new administration.—MNA

I & P Minister replies to question about "changing temporary identity cards into Citizenship Scrutiny Cards"

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—At today's Pyithu Hluttaw session, U Zaw Kir Ahmed (a) U Aung Zaw Win of Maungdaw Constituency said that 90 per cent of population in Maungdaw of Rakhine State are Temporary Identity Card holders and are encountering difficulties in their education, travelling and business matters. It causes losses not only for the people but for the State. Similar grievances occur in other townships of Rakhine State. He asked when authorities concerned will take measures to change the temporary identity cards of locals in Maungdaw and other townships into Citizenship Scrutiny Cards.

Regarding the question, Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Oo replied that there were The Union Citizenship Act, 1948 and Union Citizenship Act, 1948 which allowed foreigners, half-breeds and those who are on suspicion of citizenship who are residing in the Union of Myanmar before Myanmar Citizenship Law was promulgated on 15 October 1982 to apply for naturalized citizenship. Those who want to apply for naturalized citizenship and live beyond doubt regarding the matter as to whether or not they are citizens can follow these Acts. The State conferred citizenships on those who follow prescribed laws. They have acquired citizenships according to law till posterity.

After enacting Myanmar Citizenship Law on 15 October, 1982, it was stated that citizens prescribed in the following sections are allowed to hold National Registration Cards.

- (A) Section (3): Nationals such as the Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine or Shan and ethnic groups as have settled in any of the territories included within the State as their permanent home from a period anterior to 1185 B.E., 1823 A.D. are Burma citizens.
- (B) Section (5): Every national and every person born of parents, both of whom are nationals are citizens by birth.
- (C) Section (6): A person who is already a citizen on the date this Law comes into force is a citizen. Action, however, shall be taken under section 18 for infringement of the provision of that section. (Section-18 says "A citizen who has acquired citizenship by making a false representation or by concealment shall have his citizenship revoked, and shall also be liable to imprisonment for a term of ten years and to a fine of kyat fifty thousand.)
- (D) Section (7): The following persons born in or outside the State are also citizens:
 - (a) persons born of parents, both of whom are citizens;
 - (b) persons born of parents, one of whom is a citizen and the other an associate citizen;
 - (c) persons born of parents, one of whom and the other a naturalized citizen;
 - (d) persons born of parents one of whom is a



Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Oo replying to queries.—MNA

- citizen; or an associate citizen; or a naturalized citizen and the other is born of parents, both of whom are associate citizens;
- (e) persons born of parents, one of whom is a citizen; or an associate citizen; or a naturalized citizen; and the other is born of parents, both of whom are naturalized citizens;
- (f) persons born of parents one of whom is a citizen; or an associate citizen; or a naturalized citizen;

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and the other is born of parents, one of whom is an associate citizen and the other a naturalized citizen.

If firm evidences are not shown, naturalization cannot be made. Persons have been made citizens or foreigners who are suspected of citizenship. Persons who have entered and resided in the State anterior to 4th January, 1948, and their offspring born within the State may apply under Section 42 and 43 of Myanmar Citizenship Law, 1982 for naturalized citizenship as follow:-

- (A) Section (42): Persons who have entered and resided in the State anterior to 4th January, 1948, and their offspring born within the State may, if they have not

yet applied under the union Citizenship Act, 1948, apply for naturalized citizenship to the Central Body, furnishing conclusive evidences.

- (B) Section (43): The following persons born in or outside the State from the date this Law comes into force may also apply for naturalized citizenship:
- (1) persons born of parents one of whom is a citizen and the other a foreigner;
 - (2) persons born of parents, one of whom is an associate citizen and the other a naturalized citizen;
 - (3) persons born of parents, one of whom is an associate citizen and the other a foreigner;
 - (4) persons born of parents, both of whom are naturalized citizens;
 - (5) persons born of parents, one of whom is a naturalized citizen and the other a foreigner.

However, it is required to have the following quali-

fications prescribed in Section (44). They are as follow:-

- (a) be a person who conforms to the provisions of section 42 or section 43;
- (b) have completed the age of eighteen years;
- (c) be able to speak well one of the national languages;
- (d) be of good character;
- (e) be of sound mind.

So it is necessary to collect and submit firm evidences and facts of a person and his forefathers for ensuring a right to hold a certain kind of card in accord with the law. As the Ministry of Religious and Immigration has been formed with the aim of ensuring to enjoy rights by the national races and other races who are living in Rakhine State in accord with Immigration and Citizenship Laws, the procedure for issuing cards will be carried out as soon as possible after receiving directives and decisions of respective hluttaws and the government.

MNA

A & I Minister responds to question about increasing subsidy

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—At today's session of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Aung Zin of Pazundaung Constituency in his question said that the government provides agricultural loans to farmers at the rate of 80,000 kyats an acre. But the overall cost for one-acre land is 150,000 kyats. Since 1954, the Agricultural Bank in providing agricultural loans has cut 6000 off each 100,000 kyats as farmers' savings. He asked if the savings are enough to provide small loans that cover all the expenses on agricultural farming.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo said that the Myanma Agricultural Bank has been providing agricultural loans since its birth in 1953. The rate for one-acre land has increased from 160 kyats in 1988-89 to 20,000 kyats in 2010-2011.

Not every paddy farmer needs agricultural loans.

Loans are provided for only farmers, each of whose paddy field is less than 10 acres. The bank is planning to provide loans for farmers each of who has more than 10 acres of paddy fields.

In order to ease the difficulty, purchasing deposits, the Ministry of Cooperatives and other organizations are taking measures region-wise. Farmers have deposited their money since 1 October 1993, not since 1954. Up to 28 February 2011, 2,938,965 farmers have saved 44,601.17 million kyats, accounting for only 15,176 kyats a farmer. In 2010, over 24,000 million kyats has been lent for cold season crops and over 15,000 million kyats for power-tillers and water pumps.

When the savings of farmers are increased, that will make greater contribution to farmers.—MNA



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo responding to question.—MNA

Home Affairs Minister replies to questions on ward/village administration

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—At today's Pyithu Hluttaw session, U Lwin Oo of Thanlyin Constituency asked how the person who will assume the duty of administering ward and village, revealing that Article 289 of the Constituency states, "Administration of ward or village-tract shall be assigned in accord with the law to a person whose integrity is respected by the community" and this also means that the inclusiveness of will of the residents of ward or village is needed.

He said that misapplication of power and misappropriation may happen as the administrative groups are dealing with public management daily; if this happens, it will cause loss of respect by the community and may affect the rule of law; to avoid such cases, the carrot and stick approach should be used. He asked how those who is assigned administration of ward and village will be awarded and how they will be checked and balanced in accord with the law.

He also stated that there are persons with the experience of administration of ward and village and asked if they will be continued to assign administration duty and how long the term and how many times of their duty will be designed.

U Aung Kyaw Zan of Pauktaw Constituency asked how the appointment of persons to administration of ward of village or if the procedures will be issued.

Minister for Home Affairs U Maung Oo answered regarding the questions that person whose integrity is respected by the community means person who is held in high esteem by the community, with high morality and justic. Only the community will know the person has this qualifications or not. Only those who meet qualifications will be appointed. Qualifications issued in directive with notifica-

tion No 216/2-1/SLORC of State Law and Order Restoration Council dated 13 November, 1988; with telegraph No 1. NaWa 5. Ya by SLORC dated 30 January 1989; and with notification No 023/1-1/SLORC by SLORC dated 7 February, 1989 are as follow:-

- (a) person who is respected by ward/village-tract
- (b) person who doesn't involve in any political organization
- (c) person who is not opportunism in every administration
- (d) person who is not badly behaving for many years under the influence of family and relations
- (e) person who takes advantage of others by approaching township level organizations
- (f) person who participated in recent protests or who supported the protests in anyway
- (g) person who disapproves of the authorities of the State
- (h) person who is retiree from civilian or military post, or who is respected by the community, or with high morality
- (i) not to assign other staff in action as member except clerk of ward/village-tract
- (j) person who has never committed any crimes

Appointment system under the directive with notification No 216/2-1/SLORC issued by SLORC dated 13 November, 1988 is as follow:-

- (a) to make field trip by township members and select at plenary tea party with people of ward/village-tract
- (b) to obtain biographies of nominated members and to scrutinize whether their attitude on public is right or not
- (c) to interview nominated members
- (d) to seek approval from Sayadaws of ward/village

- tract Sangha Nayaka Committee
- (e) to select three members and three reserve members and appoint out of them as Chairman by the township

Headmen of village were not paid under Myanmar traditions, but they got commission for collection of revenues. Article 4 of Myanmar District Cesses Act states that the revenue collector is returned 10 per cent of land taxes collected by him. The headmen are privileged to set land tax as he wants under Article 7(1), (f) of Towns Act, Myanmar Act No (3) of 1907. Former headmen had worked only for the dignity. The commissions are provided till now depending on the tax they collected. They needn't pay because they are granted privileges and powers under Ward/Village Act. If they evaluate dignity, the administration system will be stable. As their privileges and duties are assigned under Duties and Powers Section of Article 6 of Village Act, Myanmar Act No (6), of 1907, they will work within the law.

Former ten-house or hundred-house heads will be continued to assign duties in ward administration. If the term of the administrative is long, unwanted administration processes are likely to happen. So the term is three years and action of dismissal is taken against those who is unjust and misappropriative. There are 3042 wards and 13629 village-tracts in the nation. New chairmen are being selected and appointed. Only 0.007 per cent of them were dismissed. Term and times for repeated appointment is not set. If the complaints are arised, investigation is being conducted, action taken and the complained person dismissed. Village heads who are not complained are continued to assign the duty.—MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Commerce Minister responds to query about transport of rice to Shan State (North)

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Tun Kyaw of Shan State Constituency-10 put a question about transportation of rice at today's Amyotha Hluttaw session.

Minister for Commerce U Tin Naing Thein responded to the question saying his question was found to be the same as that of Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Ye Tun (a) U Min Tun of Hsipaw Township Constituency and it was already answered on 11-3-2001.

Regarding the fact that the 16th Mile Checkpoint between Mandalay and PyinOoLwin is imposing a restriction on transport of rice to Shan State (North) and coordination is necessary to do so, **the camp is not be opened with the aim of restricting the flow of commodities. It is opened for security reasons to check arms, ammunitions, explosives and narcotic drugs.** In the past, 16th Mile Checkpoint prioritized security and later on, measures had to be taken to check whether restricted items were carried or not as there had been cases of carrying illegal goods. The camp seized illegal general goods worth

K 93.90 million, narcotic drugs worth K 698.40 million and jewellery worth K 2.40 million in 2009-2010 fiscal year; illegal general goods worth K 57.79 million, drugs worth K 70 million and jewellery worth K 1.80 million in 2010-2011 fiscal year. As for the seizure of smuggled goods by the checkpoints along Mandalay-Lashio-Muse Road, general goods worth K 2328.96 million, drugs worth K 940.43 million and jewellery worth K 452.10 million were confiscated in 2009-2010 financial year; and general goods worth K 4482.49 million, drugs worth K 213.02 million and jewellery worth K 3086.44 million in 2010-2011 financial year. Permission has been given to transport local foodstuff for the people of the townships of Shan State (North). But for transportation of crops such as rice, beans and pulses and wheat that are likely to be smuggled out, they can be transported only after being checked by the camp whether they have been approved or not. **It is learned that for the**

people of Shan State (North), rice merchants are distributing about 20000 bags of rice a month and rice merchants associations from states and regions and rice merchants distributed 280960 bags of rice for the year 2010.

It is not necessary to offer bribes to any checkpoints, including 16th Mile Camp, for distribution and transportation of rice by merchants and if there is any bribery case, complaint can be lodged for taking action. In the past, rice was distributed to Laukkai and other regions after seeking approval from the said camp. Now again, permission is being granted to do so for townships in need of rice.

Concerning the matter of profit loss because of failure to transport rice from one region to another and purchase of rice from black market by the local people at high price, the minister clarified that in the past Ayeyawady Region alone was regarded as the granary of Myanmar. Thanks to the guidance of the Head of State and efforts of local authorities and peasants, Bago Region, Sagaing Region and Rakhine State have enjoyed rice sufficiency as well as surpluses. **The government is also encouraging boosting production of rice in other states and regions requiring rice. Now, the whole nation produces 12 million tons of rice and the amount of rice distributed to the regions by major rice producing regions is only 1.2 million tons, accounting for one-tenth of the nation's total rice production.** So, that amount cannot affect the peasants of rice producing townships. It seems that there is no cases of buying rice from black market as rice shops in every town and market are selling their rice normally and openly. It is necessary for regions with rice sufficiency to boost production and for regions with insufficient rice to make efforts for self-sufficiency. Then, the nation will restore the status of becoming the largest rice exporter of the world. Some nations have offered to grow and produce rice by hiring some land in Myanmar although they are able to produce



Minister for Commerce U Tin Naing Thein responding to question.—MNA

enough for their self-sufficiency. When reviewing those points, it is required of the people to work hard with national outlook.

As to the matter of the hilly region people's loss of forest resources, climate change and difficulty in water course due to slash-and-burn agriculture, it can be found that Yunnan Province including Xishuangbanna region like the hilly region of U Tun Kyaw are growing coffee, tea and rubber. Such long-term cultivation can earn more income and maintain more fertile soil than slash-and-burn farming. It is therefore needed to work for changes and developments.

Regarding the matter of harming morality of staff from checkpoints and bribery cases, the minister said checkpoints are opened to inspect arms, explosives and drugs for security of the lives and property of the people. But there were some cases in which smugglers offered bribes to staff in order to smuggle out their illegal goods and some cases in which some corrupt staff took bribes from merchants. Such cases are being exposed and under investigation and action is being taken. So, the people are urged to cooperate in eliminating smuggling and bribery by informing authorities concerned about such cause if there is any. —MNA

Commerce Minister responds to query on permit for import of cars under 2000cc

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—At today's Amyotha Hluttaw session, representative Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency-4 put a question about "permit for import of cars under 2000cc".

He said that he would like to put a question on **import permit for cars under 2000cc with a view to promoting the living standard of the people according to Section 36 and Sub-section (c) in Chapter-1 of the Constitution, based on six basic principals of the State.** Using new cars in public transportation sector will have the benefits. The new cars mean both brandnew and recondition.

Due to high prices, cars manufactured in industrial zones have yet to be within middle-class people's reach. The majority of present-running cars are model 1990. Using these cars causes accidents. It can be found that people can buy Cherry cars in China and (Narno) Tar Tar cars in India at affordable prices. Since 1997, the government has granted permission to import small cars. **So, import of these cars should be taken into consideration. He also asked whether or not the directives could be revoked because import of cars under 2000cc is not prescribed by the Law, a car owner can buy a latest model car after entrusting his old-model car to the government auction, the government auction board would put the old-model cars up for auction and tax rate imposed on import of new cars would be reduced.**

In response to the question, Minister for Commerce

U Tin Naing Thein said that the government is placing much emphasis not only on development of agricultural sector but also on being an industrial-developed nation. In importing materials and goods, the government gives priority to import of industrial raw materials needed for national building tasks and household utensils. For industrial development, import of goods that can be produced in the country is limited and encouragements are given to produce import-substitute goods. Regarding the import of heavy machinery, priority is given to import of machinery, trucks and public buses more than 500 cars a month.

It can be seen as a tradition that every country is trying every possible way for development of their countries. With joint venture system, China and India manufactured cars in cooperation with foreign car companies before Cherry wagon and (Narno) Tar Tar cars. They got experiences in car manufacturing. In 18 industrial zones, there are 300 carmakers. Ministry of Industry-2 and private companies manufacture more than 10,000 cars a year. During the period from 2003-04 to 2010-11, 65975 cars have been manufactured there. In manufacturing cars, most of engine parts and car bodies are imported from the foreign countries. The question of use of new cars in public transport sector could benefit is put into practice from their standpoints. But, due to traffic jam caused by small cars, even some developed countries have disadvantages such as traffic

jam, more fuel consumption and having affects on domestic industries by allowing import of car from foreign countries, etc. So, the directives shall not be abolished because the government is putting limit on import of cars under 2000cc at present time. Restriction on import of single items is not usually prescribed by the law and import and export procedures are occasionally issued.

It is not possible to put the points included in the question into practice. According to the nature of selling and buying private property privately, the auction of cars by both the government and the private enterprises are not popular in international. Government-owned old vehicles are being substituted with new cars of Industry-2. As government's intervention in private sector has become unpopular in international, the wish to take part in the private sector by the government is outdated during the period of transition to market-oriented system.

Regarding the question to reduce tax rate on import of new cars, Customs Department exercised trade revenue and custom duties on import of cars since the department announced the list of Myanmar customs duties in accord with Section 3 and 4 of Customs Duties Law, 1992. According to list of Myanmar custom duties 2007 which comes into practice on 1 April 2007, cars above 2000cc are taxed 40 per cent and cars under 2000cc 30 per cent.

Under AFTA agreement, only 5 per cent is to be paid for imports of cars with country of origin certificates manufactured in ASEAN countries. Customs duties of all ASEAN member countries have to be reduced to zero per cent in 2018. Internal Revenue Department could not afford to reduce trade revenues on import of cars.

MNA

Proposal “to provide financial assistance to Small and Medium Enterprises” submitted

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—At today’s Pyithu Hluttaw session, Pyithu Hluttaw sought the approvals to discuss the proposals submitted by the representatives.
U Soe Win of Sangyoung Con-stituency

submitted a proposal “to provide financial assistances to Small and Medium Enterprises”.

It was seconded by Daw Mi Myint Than of Yay Constituency. After that, the approval of Pyithu Hluttaw was sought and

the Hluttaw decided whether to accept the proposal.

The Hluttaw announced that representatives can enlist at deputy director-general of Hluttaw Office to discuss the proposal.—MNA

Proposal to assist farmers in getting reasonable price of paddy submitted at Amyotha Hluttaw

NAYPYITAW, 22 March—Amyotha Hluttaw sought the approvals to discuss the proposals submitted by the representatives.

Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency No. 7 submitted a proposal “to assist farmers in getting

reasonable price of paddy.”

It was seconded by U Kyaw Thein of Mon State Constituency No.4.

After that, the approval of Amyotha Hluttaw was sought and the Hluttaw decided whether to accept the proposal.

The Hluttaw announced that if there are representatives who want to discuss the proposal, they are to register at deputy director-general of Hluttaw Office at the time when the session was ended.

MNA

L&F Minister responds to query on “high tax being paid by fishermen”

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—At today’s Amyotha Hluttaw session, Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Banyar Aung Moe of Constituency-7 of Mon State said that **collecting tax should be done fairly in accord with the law; tax should not spoil production and enterprise; if the industry was destroyed, revenue would decrease; if the tax is collected fairly under the law, the revenue will rise yearly than that collected at present; he made the question with the intention of increasing revenue of the State; local people catching fish inshore are paying high taxes which force them to stop the business, leave the native land and work in other countries. He asked whether the government knows this situation or not and whether serious measures should be taken for recovery from this situation or not.**

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Maung Maung Thein answered the query that **the ministry is planning sustainable development of fisheries industry with the objectives of fisheries sufficiency in the whole nation, nutrition development of entire nation, uplifting of health and fitness of the entire nation and individual fish consumption improvement. In supervising fisheries sector, Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, four fisheries laws were issued and tasks — to ensure sustainable development of the fisheries sector, to prevent fish species extinction, to prevent water of fish breeding from degradation, to collect reasonable taxes which the State should get and to administer the fishery industry under the law — are being carried out.**

In doing so, 561540 tons of salt-water fish were produced in 1988 and individual fish consumption is 17 kg in 1988 when the State Law and Order Restoration Council assumed responsibility of the State. In 2009-2010, the production of salt-water fish reached to 2060780 tons and average individual fish consumption increased to 43 kg. The individual consumption increases yearly in parallel with increasing fish production.

In 2000-2001 fiscal year, 949670 tons of salt-water were produced and average individual fish consumption is 23 kg. In 2008-2009, 1867510 tons of salt-water were produced and average individual consumption is 43 kg.

The Fisheries Department is registering fishing boats and fishermen and taxing under Myanma Salt-water Fishery Law. Marine products are resources owned by the State. So, the State is taxing breeding entrepreneurs and marine workers at the rates set in Notification No (5/2003) and (7/2003) of the Fishery Department.

The tax rates for offshore fisherman are K 300 per year for boat, from K 600 to K 3000 for motorboat, from K 500 to K 12000 or fishing equipment, for one ton of wet fish is from K 300 to K 3000. A motorboat will cost only from K 3500 to K 11000. Marine workers are systematically registered and being charged K 500 for registration fee but the offshore marine workers are not charged.

Taxes are found to be very low for marine workers in comparison with current price of a viss of fish. No fisherman has so far made complaints about the taxes imposed by the Department of Fisheries.

According to the statistics registered in Department of Fisheries, tax from fishing industry, and progress of offshore and fishing industry and marine workers are 754 trawlers, 6,933 offshore trawlers, tax of K 2.172 million, and 28,339 marine workers in 1988-1989, 1987 trawlers, 26099 offshore trawlers, tax of K 246.950 million and

64637 marine workers in 2000 -2001, 1746 trawlers, 28670 offshore trawlers, tax of 1479.000 million and 125084 marine workers in 2008-2009. Then the number has increased year by year and 2077 trawlers, 30842 offshore trawlers, tax of K 1718.320 million and 130793 marine workers.

Like, the entire nation has seen progress in fishing industry and Taninthayi Region and Mon State have witnessed progress in fishing industry. Taninthayi Region, saw 247 trawlers, 3407 offshore trawlers, tax of K 0.903 million and 293820 tons of sea-water fish production, average consumption of 20.99-kilogram fish per head and 5811 marine workers in 1988-1989, 402 trawlers, 10833 offshore trawlers, tax of K 13.932 million, 542390 tons of sea-water fish production, average consumption of 37.41 kilogram fish per head and 18660 marine workers in 2001-2002, 590 trawlers, 12052 offshore trawlers, tax of K 278.290 million, 973340 tons of sea-water fish production, average consumption of 58.81-kilogram fish per head, and 49636 marine workers in 2008-2009, and increased to 686 trawlers, 11680 offshore trawlers, tax of K 319.30 million, 1080850 tons of sea-water fish production, average consumption of 63.40 kilogram-fish per head, and 52257 marine workers in 2009-2010.

Mon State saw 29 trawlers, 549 offshore trawlers, tax of K 0.002 million, 32300 tons of sea-water fish production, average consumption of 16.55-kilogram fish per head, and 1937 marine workers in 1988-1989, 227 trawlers, 1866 offshore trawlers, tax of K 5.590 million, 60950 tons of sea-water fish production, average consumption of 21.15-kilogram fish per head, and 4108 marine workers in 2001-2002, 155 trawlers, 1568 offshore trawlers, tax of K 31.306 million, 201370 tons of sea-water fish production, average consumption of 62.86-kilogram fish per head, and 6263 marine workers in 2008-2009, and increased to 148 trawlers, 1606 offshore trawlers, tax of K 32.078 million, 263350 tons of sea-water fish production, average consumption of 80.83-kilogram fish per head and 6505 marine workers in 2009-2010.

Likewise, production of sea-water fish, numbers of onshore and offshore trawlers, tax, average consumption of fish of individual in Ye and Yebyu townships in those two states have increased year by year, with slight change in number of marine workers. Yebyu Township saw 282 offshore trawlers, tax of K 1.040 million, 41132 tons of sea-water fish production, average consumption of 49.45-kilogram fish per head, 1740 marine workers in 2007-2008, 295 offshore trawlers, tax of K 1.010 million, 42848 tons of sea-water fish production, average consumption of 51.92 kilogram-fish per head, 1813 marine workers in 2008-2009, 296 offshore trawlers, tax of 1.129 million, 48394 tons of sea-water fish production, average consumption of 54.52-kilogram fish per head, and 1848 marine workers in 2009-2010.

Ye Township saw 59 trawlers, 455 offshore trawlers, tax of K 12.515 million, 67900 tons of sea-water fish production, average consumption of 33.80-kilogram per head, and 2426 marine workers in 2007-20008, 60 trawlers, 452 offshore trawlers, 74200 tons of sea-water fish production, average consumption of 36.10-kilogram fish per head, 2470 marine workers in 2008-2009, 59 trawlers, 455 offshore trawlers, tax of K 13.046 million, 90400 tons of sea-water fish production, average consumption of 39.80-kilogram fish per head and 2503 marine workers in 2009-2010.



Minister for Livestock & Fisheries U Maung Maung Thein replying to queries.—MNA

According to the above figures, tax collected by Fishery Department in Ye and Yebyu Townships ranges between K 3500 and K 11000 for the whole year. The rate is fair and would not be tax burden for those fishermen. Fishery department grants tax exemption on small fishing gears. The number of fishermen is on the increase yearly.

The aims of tax collection by Fishery Department are to register systematically, to manage and to collect tax that the government should deserve. Fishery Department is making the arrangement to conserve resources in order to exploit fish resources.

According to the figures compiled by Fishery Department, fishermen from Mon State and Ye and Yebyu Townships in Taninthayi Region do not have to pay heavy tax.

Taxes collected by the government are not too much. So, the factor does not cause a halt to fishing industry. According to statistics, there were no any dramatic drop in the number of fishery entrepreneurs and fishermen.

According to the statistics of Fishery Department, there are no decrease in the number of trawlers, fishery entrepreneurs and fishermen. Fishermen working on managerial scale are doing their traditional businesses in their own regions. Fishery Department has issued announcements and restrictions for preserving fish resources. In order to boost fish resources, the Department puts fishes and prawns into the sea. To create better eco-system for plants and animals, mangrove swamps in which fishes breed are grown. The Department also educates fishermen to follow code of conduct for responsible fisheries.

After asking and answering queries, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker discussed that according to provisions of the Hluttaw, asking and answering questions shall be allowed only at one hour of morning session; that but there is a reason to allow it till over 2 pm by the Hluttaw Speaker; that Article 11 Sub-section (a) of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar prescribed that three sovereign powers—legislative power, administrative power and judicial power are to be separately practiced with check and balance system; that Hluttaw is a sovereign organization; that so it is important to know administrative and judicial sector thoroughly.

MNA

If entire people including U Za Khun Ting Ring and representatives participate in processes being implemented in accordance with the constitution, eternal peace will be achieved in the whole country including Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—At today's session of Amyotha Hluttaw, Hluttaw Representative Za Khun Ting Ring from Kachin State Constituency (4) in his question said that national unity was undermined by hundreds of years long federal rule and colonial rule; that in the post-independence period, some national races launched armed revolts against the government due to political and racial extremes, which caused great hindrance to national development; that those regions lagged behind others in development; that nation-building tasks could not be implemented effectively due to disunity among national brethren; that the nation can enjoy development only with peace and stability; that those national races are facing least development in the political, economic, education and health sectors as they do not get assistance from the government; that national unity reinforces non-disintegration of the Union and perpetuation of sovereignty; that peace talks were not successful and operations were therefore launched in the times of successive governments; that only if stability, peace and the rule of law are restored across the nation, will it be possible to implement projects for national development; that from 1990 to date, many regions have enjoyed gradual development due to ceasefire with national race armed groups; that ethnic groups admire peace and worry that development will go downhill due to lack of peace; that some groups are not ready yet to make changes for perpetual peace and development; that armed insurrection poses grave threats to the nation and the people; that the government is responsible for peace and development in the interest of the people; and that he would like to ask "what the government is planning to deal with armed groups to expedite tasks for restoration of peace and stability and all-round development of the nation".

Leader of the Government Spoke Authoritative Team Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan in his reply said that like national races, the government admires peace and does not want to see less development due to lack of peace. So, the government is working with genuine goodwill, farsightedness and understanding for eternal peace.

In 1988, the Tatmadaw took up State duties as anarchy reigned supreme across the nation and the effectiveness of administrative machinery came to a halt at the instigation of internal and external elements. Thenceforward, the government has been working hard for stability, peace and national development in accordance with the objective "National reconsolidation" embodied in the four political objectives of the 12 objectives.

Peace and stability lies at the core of national development. Without peace, it is impossible to implement nation-building tasks. The nation lacked stability and peace from 1948 to 1962 due to multicoloured armed insurgent groups. Restoration of peace and stability was not satisfactory either from 1962 to 1988. The governments from 1948 to 1988 could not build peace and so they could not implement development tasks effectively.

The Tatmadaw and the Head of the Tatmadaw as well as the Head of State sought better ways, taking lessons from past events. A new policy was adopted which was not designed for political gains, which represented benevolent attitude, which complied with realistic conditions of the nation, which would benefit local people, and which was

acceptable to national race armed groups. The policy manifested several points such as ceasefire would be called and the groups could still hold arms temporarily; but they shall stay in the designated region; they shall not recruit new members, reinforce their troops or collect extortion money; the government would provide aid for their living; the government would lay down projects for development of their regions; and they could submit political issues to the National Convention and the issues would be addressed in accordance with the constitution. So, all 17 major and 23 small armed groups returned to the legal fold and three break-away groups remained underground. Now, peace and stability has been restored almost the whole nation and the people have begun to enjoy fruitful results.

The government adopted the Project for Progress of Border Areas and National Races for development of the border areas where stability and peace had been restored. The project is chaired by the Head of State. So far, over 341.52 billion kyats has been spent on the project. The 24 special development zones have been designated to expedite tasks. Seven rural development programmes were also laid down. Similarly, five-year plans for economic development were implemented. Today, the nation has enjoyed development at the unprecedented level. The government has built almost all the infrastructural buildings for national development. So, the nation will continue to enjoy development. The nation will be able to enjoy incredible development if all national races work closely.

Despite various obstacles and challenges, the government managed to hold the National Convention for democratization. And the constitution was approved through a referendum. Now, hluttaws are in sessions in line with the constitution to form legislative, executive and judicial bodies at the Union and Region/State levels. The forthcoming bodies will soon pursue the national goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed democratization.

Peace groups have been transformed in a smooth way for perpetual peace. The majority of the peace groups have dissolved themselves in accordance with the constitution. Some of them have formed political parties to practise national politics. Armed groups are sharing national defence duties as border guard forces and regional people's militia.

However, it is disheartening to note that some national race armed groups have not honoured the constitution. The government is still opening the peace door to them. The upcoming government will continue to open the peace door. The ruling government and the upcoming government are against war and bloodshed. However, it is still engaged in battles unavoidably for security and perpetuation of the nation and security of the people.

The remnant armed groups have to be in favour of peace like the government and the people. Yet, some groups not only are not in favour of peace but also are misleading other groups from building peace. In that regard, they use coercion and violent means. Some remnant insurgents, dissidents, certain powers and some INGOs are pursuing and organizing the national race armed groups, which have yet to comply with the constitution, to relapse into their old way.

The drive for putting an end to armed insurrection



Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan replying to queries.—MNA

in border areas calls for cooperation of certain powers, some INGOs and the neighbouring country. Near Myanmar borders inside the neighbouring country are many so-called refugee camps that run with the assistance from certain countries, some INGOs and the neighbouring country. There may be some true refugees in the camps, but the rest are remnant insurgents, their families, and dissidents. Taking a stronghold in the camps, the insurgents attack Myanmar. That is the root cause of fire exchanges go on.

Once, BCP with large numbers of troops were active in the northeast of Myanmar. The Tatmadaw had to launch fierce battles against BCP troops. The neighbouring country honoured the point "non interference in the internal affairs of other country". So, BCP troops have dwindled away and peace and stability has been restored in the region.

In like manner, peace and stability can be restored the whole country if the neighbouring country maintains good neighborly relations and does not accept the remnant insurgents.

Anyhow, the present government and the upcoming government will keep trying in line with the constitution to achieve peace and stability the whole country including Kachin State. And the government will expedite tasks for all-round development and flourishing of Union Spirit in the regions where peace and stability has been restored well. The government will render assistance to enable Region/State governments to boost stability and peace in them.

The people including U Za Khun Ting Ring will have to make efforts in accordance with the constitution in cooperation with the Union government, and Region/State governments for greater development and peace and stability then eternal peace of their regions. That is the most appropriate and the most correct and the best way for all.

The minister concluded his speech, saying that all in all, the ruling government is working hard not only for development but also for peace through peace door. The new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will continue to open peace door and try its utmost with genuine goodwill, farsightedness and understanding in line with constitution for development, peace and stability across the nation including Kachin State. He noted that if the entire people including U Za Khun Ting Ring and representatives participate in the processes being implemented in accordance with the constitution, eternal peace will be achieved in the whole country including Kachin State.

MNA

First regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw...

(from page 16)

The Amyotha Hluttaw sought the approvals.

Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency No.7 submitted a proposal

"the government to render assistances to farmer in order to get fair prices for crops". The Amyotha Hluttaw sought the approvals.

The Speaker of

Amyotha Hluttaw announced the end of the 13th-day first regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw and the 14th-day session will be held at 10 am on 23 March (Wednesday).

The session came to an end at 1:55 am.

MNA

Talks on Australia Education, scholarship programme on 28 March

YANGON, 22 March— STI Education has been serving for youths to pursue their education in foreign institutes and universities including Austria, England, Singapore etc.

Also, it has now arranged to hold a discussion with Director Mr. Brad Dorahy from Marketing and Business Development about Queensland Institute of Business &

Technology (QIBT) at Traders Hotel here from 2 pm to 4 pm on 28 March.

Any interested persons may take part in the talk.

For more details, contact STI Education, No. 377 in Shwewontha Street (upper), Pabedan Township, and Room 7, Building 4, Myanmar Info Tech, Hlaing Township, Ph: 507151, 507152, 507048, 250056 or 700273.—MNA

Electric Power No.1 Minister discusses proposal for building heavy hydropower station at Bontala Waterfall in Matupi

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—The proposal **“to build a heavy hydropower station in Bontala Waterfall”** submitted by U Paul Lyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency No.9 was seconded by U Paul Than Htai of Chin State Constituency No.3 and discussed by Minister for Electric Power No.1 U Zaw Min at today's session of Amyotha Hluttaw.

U Paul Than Htai said using water power at Bontala waterfall, 15 miles from Matupi, Chin State, will benefit Chin State and it is expected that the fall would provide hydropower enough to produce electricity. If a heavy hydropower station is built at the fall, it can supply power not only to Matupi but also to villages in neighbouring townships including Mindat, Haka, Thantlang, he said.

Afterwards, Minister for Electric Power No.1 U Zaw Min discussed the proposal. **He said the State had already built 33 power plants which are not linked with the national grid till 2008. Of them, the small plants are equipped with generators which can generate 0.12 megawatt while the big plants are equipped with generators which can generate 5 megawatt. A**

power plant which can generate 10 megawatt is considered as the small one, he added.

He continued to say that according to the survey, waterpower at Bontala waterfall can be used to generate at least 1.8 megawatt. A hydropower plant at Bontala waterfall can be the small one and can generate only for the local community. It is not a heavy hydro power station, the minister said.

According to the Section-188 in the 2008 Constitution, Schedule Two, Page 189. Paragraph 4 (a) says “Medium and small scale electric power production and distribution that have the right to be managed by the Region or State not having any link with national power grid, except large scale electric power production and distribution having the right to be managed by the Union”.

Therefore, building a small hydropower plant is within rights of a respective state government and the proposal should be put forward to the Chin State government. Besides, private and cooperative sectors are allowed to invest in building power plants and selling the electricity. Therefore, the



Minister for Electric Power No.1 U Zaw Min makes clarification.—MNA

proposal for building a heavy hydropower plant at Bontala waterfall in Matupi Township should not be brought to Amyotha Hluttaw as the proposal is not eligible to be carried out by the Union. Therefore, the proposal should be withdrawn.

After the discussion, the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw rejected the proposal.—MNA

Labour Minister and four representatives discuss proposal of U Tin Maung Win of Mingaladon Constituency

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—At today's Pyithu Hluttaw session, four representatives discussed the proposal of U Tin Maung Win from Mingaladon Constituency **“to make arrangements for drafting a bill which would pave ways for creating more jobs, creating pleasant working environment, and improvement of skills of workers at the second regular sessions of Pyithu Hluttaw.”**

First, U Thein Tun Oo of Amarapura Constituency said that he has learnt that the State is taking measures to make systematic use of the mass of workers, to assign job seekers to suitable posts as quickly as possible and constant emergence of skilled workforce.

In doing so, the State will need to improve the skills of workers in accord with the changing market demand in order to tap the workforce of the nation.

In addition, it will need to take more measures for employment contracts to ensure good relations between employers and employees and favourable work condition.

The proposal to draft bill for job creation and improving skills of workers is in compliance with provisions of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the bill is vital in economic growth of the nation. He then requested organizations concerned to draft the bill ahead of the coming Pyithu Hluttaw sessions so that it can be discussed and approved at those sessions.

U Kyi Myint from Latha Constituency said that the proposal of U Tin Maung Win has three facts, so it needs to draft three bills.

Job creation depends on economic policy. As the economy of the State is described to be market-oriented economy in Paragraph 35 of the constitution, the policy is correct for each individual citizen and will expand unlimited demands of the peoples. So, a policy to attract new investments is in need for job creation.

Public savings is the main source of new investments. Here, main sources mean that the peoples play a major role. Savings means surplus of income after consumption or saved cash from economy drive. But due to recession of financial market in last decade,

The best and the fairest approach to promote saving capital and loan capital is establishment of stock market. So a bill to establish the stock market is needed in proposal of U Tin Maung Win for job creation.

The second fact of U Tin Maung Win's proposal—favourable working conditions—covers safety measures, free treatment, bonus, and allowances. Furthermore, modern social security net system is also needed to guarantee the future of employees.

Promotion of proficiency of workers is connected

with developing technologies, refresher training courses for handling machines, and workshops. He then suggested that admin department of respective ministry, factory and workshop should take measures to constantly launch capacity building programmes for its employees.

Daw Su Su Hlaing from Dagon Myothit (South) Constituency said that 1950 Vocation and Training Act is one of the existing laws on labour affairs in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the act carries some defects in job creation and promotion of proficiency of workers in current conditions. Section 29 and 30 of 2008 constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar stated that the State has to fulfill requirements to the full for transforming from conventional farming to mechanized farming and industrial development of the nation.

In building the nation industrialized one, factories and plants can be established with domestic and foreign investment to create jobs. So, workers who will work in those factories and plants badly need to possess particular skills to suit the demand of labour market. Moreover, favorable working condition is instrumental in boosting productivity. So, employment agreement will be necessary for both employers and employees to build good relations between them.

In the time of State Peace and Development Council, National Skill Standardization Authority (NSSA) was established in 2007, central group for enforcing discipline and promoting proficiency of workers of the Union of Myanmar with 21 ministers and labour exchange offices were reopened in 2009 and employment rate has doubled.

As there will be migrant skilled workers in ASEAN nations in 2015 after implementation of ASEAN Economic Community, Myanmar workers will need to compete with others from ASEAN countries. So, promotion of proficiency of Myanmar workers should be the top priority of the government. Skilled workers will boost productivity and thus are beneficial to employers. So, the employers and employees themselves should play an active role in promoting proficiency of workers instead of relying on the government alone, only then skills of the workforce will be improved. Moreover, every citizen is responsible for assisting the State in making endeavours for human resource development according to Section 390 (c) of the constitution.

So, the proposal to draft bill for creating jobs, ensuring favourable working condition and improving skills of workers is in compliance with provisions of the 2008 constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the bill is essential for industrial development of the nation. He then asked the hluttaw to make arrangements in order that organizations concerned can draft the bill ahead of the second Pyithu Hluttaw sessions for discussion.

U Ye Tun (a) U Min Tun from Hsipaw Constituency



Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi discussing at the Hluttaw session.—MNA

said that he assumed that the proposal of U Tin Maung Win is aimed to protect rights of workers in accord with law. The existing laws on labour are out of date and therefore should be amended.

He then suggested that the bill should be practical and acceptable. Regarding compensation for worksite injury, there may be cases of injury due to drinking at work. The bill should be practical and fair for both parties. Labour laws of countries whose conditions are almost the same with Myanmar should be taken into consideration in passing the law.

In response to the discussion, Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi said that the government set up a central group in 1.7.2009 with a view to creating jobs and improving skills of workers. The meeting of that central group carried out two duties—reopening of labour exchange offices and improving skills of labors.

Altogether 77 labour exchange offices were reopened in July 2009, which led to an increase in employment rate from previous 112305 to 265694. But, at present laws supporting labour exchange works have not desirable effects for various reasons and so a law that can support more effectively labour exchange works and promotion of job opportunities.

It is important for employers and employees to be able to sign employment contract for ensuring peace at worksite and fair treatment. In accord with rules and laws practiced internationally, Ministry of Labour issued a directive in Notification No. 55 dated 31.12.1976, to sign employment contracts between employers and employees, with a view to ensuring employees enjoy full rights described in labour laws, disciplined working, good relations between employers and employees, peace at worksite and increased productivity. In response to the directive, employment contracts have been signed in 5817 factories, workshops and departments till 28 February 2011. However, there should be law supporting the notification.

(See page 11)

Labour Minister and four representatives...

(from page 10)

Improving the skills of workers is part of the strategy for national development. According to labour statistics taken yearly, there were 793300 workers in private industry and joint-ventures, 2859325 self-employed and manual labourers, totaling 3652625 in 2010. The proficiency of that workforce lagged behind in productivity and competitiveness and thus its should be improved to a certain extent as technologies is developing at great pace across the globe and Myanmar is also seeing industrial development. So, a large number of training programmes will be needed to bridge the skill gap of labourers.

Government technical Training School, Government Technical Institutes and Government Technical Colleges run

by Ministry of Science and Technology can effectively improve the skills of future workforce. Likewise, training schools of Ministry of Industry-2 and other ministries can also contribute a great deal to the future workforce. But, the State alone cannot handle the problem and employers and employees should also cooperate with the government in unison. With workers getting skills improved, their working standards will also get improved increasing per capita income. And the employers will also have the capability to boost production both in quality and quantity.

Ministry of Labour set up National Skill Standard Authority (NSSA) under permission of the government of the Union of Myanmar with the participation of ministries and private entrepreneurs in 2007 to establish strong skill recognition system in its bid to standardize skill standard of Myanmar workers with ASEAN nations. From 2008 to 2010, a total of 152 kinds of skill standard have been set in line with norms of ASEAN Skill Standard. The ministry has also found 14

standardization committees and trying to confer proficiency certificates.

Of the many options that the government can choose for human resources development and improving skills of workers, levy and grant system is found to be successful approach in developing and developed countries. The system is in practice in over 30 nations including Singapore, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea. So, the ministry should observe the system thoroughly so that its can be practiced if necessary.

The Ministry of Labour would arrange for submitting a bill (draft) for vocation and proficiency development law, if Pyithu Hluttaw allow, said the minister.

Next, the hluttaw speaker said that discussion of four representatives and Labour Minister is constructive and points out the importance of investment, technology and management in a work to be successful. The hluttaw approved and accepted the proposal.

MNA

Metro says net profit more than doubled in 2010

BERLIN, 22 March—Metro, the third biggest retail group worldwide, said Tuesday that 2010 sales and earnings had risen on most markets and gave a qualified upbeat outlook for this year as well. The group said sales had gained a modest 2.6 percent to 67.3 billion euros (\$96.2 billion) while net profit more than doubled to 850 million from 383 million in 2009.

Metro executives planned to recommend a dividend of 1.35 euros per share for the 2010 exercise, up from 1.18 euros a year earlier, a statement said.

Loss-making units like the Real supermarket chain and Kaufhof department stores



Metro, the third biggest retail group worldwide, said Tuesday that 2010 sales and earnings had risen on most markets and gave a qualified upbeat outlook for this year as well.—INTERNET

managed to turn around their operations last year and contribute to the group's profit, it added.

Overall earnings before interest and taxes (Ebit) before exceptional items gained 19 percent to 2.42 billion euros, exceeding the group's

own forecast of 2.3 billion.

Exceptional items were essentially the result of a broad restructuring programme begun in 2009, the company said.

But Metro remained guarded with respect to the coming months.

Internet

Japan quake leads GM Korea to cut production

SEOUL, 22 March—The South Korean unit of General Motors said Monday it would reduce production this week by up to 10 percent because of a possible lack of parts from Japan following the devastating earthquake.

GM Korea — formerly GM Daewoo — said it would stop four hours a day of overtime work from Monday at its plants in the western city of Bupyeong and in the southwestern port of Gunsan.

The company said it would also suspend eight hours a day of extra work during the weekend at Gunsan. But it will



The South Korean unit of General Motors has said it would reduce production this week by up to 10 percent because of a possible lack of parts from Japan following the devastating earthquake.

INTERNET

maintain its current work schedule at its plant in the southern city of Changwon.

"Overall, up to 10 percent of production will be reduced," a GM Korea spokesman said.

"The move is temporary, and our company will decide whether to reduce production next week while watching the situation in Japan," he said.

GM owns a 70.1 percent stake in GM Korea, the manufacturing base for smaller vehicles for the Detroit-based carmaker. Its market share in South Korea was just around eight percent last year.

South Korea's top automaker Hyundai Motor and its affiliate Kia Motors said they have not been affected by the 11 March quake and tsunami in Japan.—Internet

No country for Alzheimer's patients

BEIJING, 22 March—Xu Renmin's favourite activity is to ride in an elevator, up and down, up and down. He prefers this to joining other patients in the recreation room of a Beijing nursing home. The 73-year-old Alzheimer's sufferer often isolates himself from human contact by plugging cotton balls into his ears.

"When he first came in here, he urinated and defecated everywhere," said Wang Yingli, a nurse at the home. "Who would have thought that this man used to be an aviation engineer?"

The Chinese Committee for Alzheimer's Disease



A caretaker at Beijing Intech Nursing Home, a private facility, looks after an Alzheimer's patient last week.—XINHUA

International estimated that in 2009 China had more than 6 million Alzheimer's patients. Today it's more than 10 million.

Most people in China with Alzheimer's have no insurance or professional help, according to medical and social experts.

"In China's battle against aging, the scariest part is not our enormous and rapidly increasing aged population," said Liu Hongchen, deputy secretary-general of China Aging Development Foundation. "It's how we deal with Alzheimer's and other dementia diseases."

"Once a 90-year-old granny woke up on a peaceful morning and said to me in great fear that an earthquake had happened and she needed to escape from the building," said Zhang Danuo, a full-time volunteer who has looked after 60 to 70 Alzheimer's patients in Beijing Songtang Caring Hospice since 2003. Zhang, 39, knew from experience that confrontation and correction wouldn't work. So he lied to the woman, telling her that authorities from the Earthquake Administration said there was indeed an earthquake, but it was not a major one and there was no need to panic or escape. "The old granny then loosened her strained nerves and felt safe again," Zhang said.

Xinhua



People celebrate traditional festival Nowruz in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, on 21 March, 2011. Nowruz, which usually occurs on 21 March, marks the first day of spring and the beginning of the new year in Iranian calendar.—XINHUA

HAILING THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

Tatmadaw marching forward with public support and participation

Myat Phone Lu

Only when the Tatmadaw is strong, will the nation be strong



The Tatmadaw is the strongest national force guiding the nation and the people through national politics. It is also the people's Tatmadaw born in the independence struggles that has been standing firm by the nation and the people since then.

Myanmar regained independence and has stood tall as a sovereign country again in the international community thenceforwards thanks to the brilliant performances of the Tatmadaw in the course of its history. So, Myanmar people could throw off the yoke of the colonial rule and became independent people. In addition, the Tatmadaw safeguards the lives and property of national people. It managed to save the nation and the people from threats whenever the nation was on the edge of losing sovereignty, and the nation and the people were standing on an abyss, and the nation is hovering on the verge of threats to security, stability and peace.

Historic events reveal that the Tatmadaw faced tremendous challenges to achieve the nation's independence and safeguard the independence and sovereignty. The Tatmadaw has been able to cope with times of emergency four times that can lead to collapse of the Union: multicoloured armed insurrection that surfaced in 1948-49, fierce conflicts among political parties in 1958, demands for federal system in 1962, and 1988 unrest.

Today, the Tatmadaw stands as the major national force to serve the interests of the nation and the people, guiding the country to democracy. It is implementing the State's seven-step Road Map it has laid down for democratization as aspired by the people, while restoring stability and peace and scaling up national development.

Since its unavoidable assumption of State duties, the Tatmadaw has given the top priority to the rule of law and community peace. In the meantime, it has been implementing national plans to improve infrastructures in the political, economic and social fields to achieve national reconsolidation

and economic growth and shaping the future of the nation. As a result, the nation is now in a position to enjoy the sweet taste of significant development in the political, economic, social, education, health and transport spheres. And the people have a promising future ahead of them.

The Tatmadaw government upholds national cause in fulfilling the wishes and hopes of the people. It has been working incessantly to introduce the multiparty democracy system and the market economy to the nation, and the development today Myanmar enjoys is amazing. Investments from sources inside and outside the country are on the increase. The domestic market has been linked with ASEAN market, Asian market and international market. The nation's productivity, trade and service have met the international level. The nation has opened a new chapter of border trade. The nation has witnessed a lot of positive changes in terms of transport, ICT and health care alongside a massive number of infrastructural buildings such as roads, railroads, bridges, dams, hospitals, health centres, schools, universities and colleges. The agricultural and industrial sectors have made considerable progress, as evidenced by more and more industrial zones and economic zones. The nation has seen national entrepreneurs, middle-class people, experts, mechanized farming and class of modern workers which are necessary for the market economy.

Achievement of national reconsolidation is the greatest among the landmarks the nation has seen due to the efforts of the Tatmadaw. For over 40 years from the regaining of independence, the nation was in a state of panic owing to mushrooming multicoloured insurgent groups and national race armed groups. The AFPFL government, the Revolutionary Council government and the Myanmar Socialist Programme Party government tried in vain many times for building peace with armed groups. Learning lessons from past historic incidents, the Tatmadaw government made reforms and showed benevolent attitude to national race armed groups without seeking any political gains through peace talks. So far, 17 major national race armed groups and over 20 small groups have returned to the legal fold. With peace and stability, it has adopted many projects for progress of border areas and national races.

Now, many peace groups have been transformed into border guard forces in line with the provisions of the constitution to share national defence duties for perpetual peace. Many other groups are gearing themselves for transformation. Ere long, all of the border areas can be guaranteed eternal peace. The transformation of peace groups into border guard forces gives further impetus to the process of building a new nation through peace. If and when all national race armed groups join the Tatmadaw to guard the nation, there will be great security, stability, peace and gradual development across the nation.

It is said that today, every country stands with political might, economic might and military might. Political might is the strength of national unity and collaboration. If the people are not politically united,

the strength of the nation will ebb away. Therefore, the people have to work hard to be able to stand on their own feet with economic growth. The nation also needs a strong Tatmadaw capable of defending the country and the people against threats. Only with a strong Tatmadaw, will the nation win respect and admiration from other countries.

All the efforts the Tatmadaw government has been making with might and main are designed to boost the three types of might. In spite of varieties of attacks, accusations and criticisms, the Tatmadaw with fine traditions will remain united as the motto "Whoever divide us, we will remain united" in implementing tasks in the interests of the nation and the people.

Now, the seven-step Road Map is in its sixth and seventh steps. Hluttaws are now in session with people's representatives and have formed the three bodies to exercise the three sovereign powers: Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Union government and Union Supreme Court. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw practises legislative power; Union government, executive power; and Union Supreme Court, judicial power in accordance with the constitution to satisfy the public aspiration of building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation.

If the people of us aspire to sustainable development of the nation, we will have to strengthen the Tatmadaw to safeguard sovereignty of the nation, to mobilize public participation in national security and defence tasks, and fortify the political might, economic might and military might for perpetuation of sovereignty. Whatever government is in office, it has to strengthen the Tatmadaw and to mobilize the participation of the entire people in national defence duties in accordance with the provisions of the constitution.

The entire people place support and trust in the Tatmadaw government's nation-building movements. The people's cooperation with the Tatmadaw implies the people are in fear of recurrence of instability, unrest and violence that can harm State stability, peace, development and social and economic opportunities. The people are in support of and are working with the Tatmadaw government in the plans for sustainable development of the nation and smooth and peaceful transition to democracy.

The Tatmadaw managed to accomplish the operations for independence. It has been able to safeguard independence, sovereignty and the people and produce good results in building a new nation. As a gesture of honouring the 66th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, I write this article to declare that the people are in support of the objectives: to participate in the leading role of State's national politics hand in hand with the people, and to build a strong, competent and modern patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes.

Translation: MS

TRADE MARK CAUTION

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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for Grundfos Holding A/S
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 23 March 2011

Safflower oil may help reduce heart risk

COLUMBUS, 22 March — Adding a daily dose of safflower oil about 1 2/3 teaspoons may be a safe way to help reduce cardiovascular disease risk, US researchers say.

Lead author Martha Belury, a professor of human nutrition at Ohio State University, and colleagues say safflower oil contains linoleic acid, a polyunsaturated fatty acid. Research dating back to the 1960s has suggested that these dietary oils from plant sources can help prevent heart disease, Belury says.

"The women in the study didn't replace what was in their diet with safflower oil. They added it to what they were already doing. And that says to me that certain people need a little more of this type of good fat particularly when they're obese women who already have diabetes," Belury says in a statement. "I believe these findings suggest that people consciously make sure they get a serving of healthy oil in their diets each day maybe an oil and vinegar dressing on a salad, or some oil for cooking. And this recommendation can be extended to everyone."

Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV DIBENA HAPPY VOY NO (127)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DIBENA HAPPY VOY NO (127) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.3.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(3) 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 PHULSAWAT SHIPPING CO, LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (567)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (567) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 21.3.2011 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



People attend the parade celebrating the St Patrick's Day in Montreal, Canada, on 20 March, 2011. Tens of thousands of Canadian participated in a gorgeous parade in downtown Montreal on Sunday.—XINHUA

Man rescued after falling into swirling sewer

SEATTLE, 22 March — A worker swept more than 3,000 feet through untreated wastewater in an underground sewer pipe was safely rescued with minor injuries on Monday after a 15-minute nightmarish ordeal.

The sewer worker somehow became untethered inside an 80-foot-deep access shaft and was "swept away by the flow" in the pipe that ran 150 feet underground, said Terry Soden, maintenance and operations manager of Chambers Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant near Tacoma, Washington.

The water surge initially carried the worker downstream at about five miles per hour through the darkened pipe, which measured six feet in diameter. But as the pipe narrowed, the worker managed to brace himself against a grate and get his bearings, Soden told Reuters.—Reuters

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION**MYANMA RAILWAYS****INVITATION TO SEALED TENDERS**

- Sealed Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Euro;

Tender No	Description	Quantity
15(T)14/MR(E)	Raw Materials for Concrete	7-Items
2010-2011	Sleeper Production	

Closing date/time - 29.4.2011 (Friday) (12:00) hr
- Tender documents are available at our office starting from 22.3.2011 during office hours and for further details, please contact : Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 95-1-291994.

Electrocuted US man gets new face

BOSTON, 22 March — A young man horrifically injured by an electric shock while working in a cherry picker has successfully received the United States' first full face transplant, a Boston hospital said Monday.

Dallas Wiens, 25, can look forward to a new life with a donated face attached last week by a 30-strong team at Brigham and Women's Hospital, which said it was "the first full face transplant" performed in the country.

Although plastic surgeons could not restore Wiens's sight, he is otherwise on the road to recovery and already chatting, the lead doctor, Bohdan Pomahac, told a press conference.

"He's awake and talking on a cell phone," he said.



This undated handout image courtesy of Lightchaser Photography, shows surgical staff taking Dallas Wiens to post op following face transplant surgery in Boston, Massachusetts. Dallas Wiens, 25, can look forward to a new life with a donated face attached last week by a 30-strong team at Brigham and Women's Hospital, which said it was "the first full face transplant" performed in the country.—INTERNET

"Today's tremendous news marks a new milestone in Brigham and Women's legacy in transplant surgery. The pioneering achievement by the entire transplant team is a gift made possible by the most selfless act one human being can do for another: organ donation," hos-

pital president Betsy Nable said.

Wiens, from Texas, was injured in November 2008 when his head touched a high voltage electrical wire when he was working in a cherry picker, an extendable work platform used by builders. The burns literally erased his face.

Internet

Colorado wildfires threaten hundreds of homes

DENVER, 22 March — Three wildfires fueled by tinder-dry vegetation and fanned by high winds forced the evacuation of 320 homes in the foothills west of Denver on Monday, fire officials said. The largest blaze, the Indian Gulch fire, has blackened 700 acres and his threatening 750 homes, Jacki Kelley, spokeswoman for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, told Reuters. The fire is burning through rugged terrain west of Golden, Colorado. "There are no roads to the site, so the guys are fighting it from the ground," Kelley said.

No structures have burned but 100 homeowners closest to the fire were ordered to evacuate after high winds blew flames within a half-mile of the subdivision, she said. The remaining 650 homeowners in the subdivision were warned to prepare to leave their homes "on short notice," should the fire make a run in their direction.—Reuters



Jiayang mini steam engine train carrying tourists and villagers runs in Qianwei County, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 20 March, 2011.

XINHUA

SPORTS

French star Ribery seeks redemption from 2010

France playmaker
Franck Ribery

PARIS, 22 March—France playmaker Franck Ribery, back in the national team for the first time since the World Cup fiasco, apologised on Monday for his behaviour in the run up to and during a disastrous 2010 season.

Before his first press conference since the World Cup, Ribery read a statement in which he ex-

plained how he “got it wrong in his behaviour as a footballer (during) a horrible 2010 from all points of view.”

“I took the wrong roads, I lost myself,” said Ribery.

The 28-year-old had a season to forget in 2009/2010 as he struggled with injury, is under investigation for his involvement in an alleged under-age call-girl scandal and was banned for the Champions League final defeat to Inter Milan after being sent-off in the first leg of the semi-final against Lyon.—Internet

Smukulis takes first stage of cycling Tour of Catalonia

MADRID, 22 March—Latvia's Gatis Smukulis of HTC-Highroad won the first stage of the Tour of Catalonia, a 166.9-kilometre (103.5-mile) ride that started and ended in Lloret de Mar on Monday.

The 23-year-old completed the stage, which included two first category climbs, in four hours, eight minutes and 48 seconds, 28 seconds ahead of Italy's sprint ace Alessandro Petacchi of Lampre.

Three-time Tour de France champion Alberto Contador finished 10th on the stage in the peloton after his Saxo Bank team helped reduce the large gap the stage winner had built

up. Contador, who will this week learn whether the International Cycling Union intends to appeal the decision by his national federation to exonerate him over a positive doping test, paid tribute to his team.

Internet



Latvia's Gatis Smukulis of HTC-Highroad celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the first stage of the Tour of Catalonia cycling race, in Lloret de Mar.—INTERNET

Injured Naismith to miss Brazil friendly

Rangers midfielder
Steven Naismith

GLASGOW, 22 March—Rangers midfielder Steven Naismith has withdrawn from the Scotland squad for Sunday's friendly with Brazil with hamstring and groin injuries, assistant manager Peter Houston has confirmed. Naismith was injured in Sunday's

Scottish League Cup final win over Celtic at Hampden and did not join the rest of the Scotland players who flew out from Glasgow for a week's training camp in Spain.

Goalkeeper Cameron Bell has been drafted in as a replacement for Iain Turner who called off with injury over the weekend.

Scotland assistant Houston said: “Steven has a hamstring and groin injury from yesterday and Iain Turner is also out.

Internet

Messi, Mourinho quids in

PARIS, 22 March—Lionel Messi and Jose Mourinho are the highest paid player and manager in football, according to France Football magazine.

Barcelona's two time world footballer of the year Messi's income from his salary and publicity deals in 2011 amounted to 31 million euros, while Real Madrid boss Mourinho topped the manager's rich list with an income of 13.5mn euros.

Messi's income, while making him the top paid footballer in the world, still falls a long way short of Tiger Woods, who with a revenue of 53mn euros is the highest paid sportsman of them all.



Real Madrid's Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho (L), and Barcelona's two time world footballer of the year Lionel Messi, seen in 2010, are the highest paid manager and player according to France Football magazine.—INTERNET

Messi's nearest rival in the footballer's income stakes is Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo with 27.5mn euros, with Manchester United's Wayne Rooney in third with 20.7mn euros.—Internet

Gullit out of luck again



Ruud Gullit is still searching for his first Russian League win after his Chechen side Terek Grozny were beaten 2-0 by Rubin Kazan.—INTERNET

Moscow, 22 March—Ruud Gullit is still searching for his first Russian League win after his Chechen side Terek Grozny were beaten 2-0 by Rubin Kazan.

Ankle injury rules Enyeama out of Ethiopia clash

LAGOS, 22 March—Nigeria suffered a huge blow on Monday when star goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama was ruled out of this weekend's 2012 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Ethiopia because of an ankle injury. The 28-year-old Nigerian player of the year had wanted to play but his Israeli club Hapoel Tel Aviv preferred he did not.

“Enyeama told head coach, Samson Siasia, that he has an ankle injury which he has been treating with pain killers, but his Israeli club Hapoel Tel Aviv have now ordered him to rest,” said Ademola Olajire, spokesman for the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF).—Internet

German replaces Serb at South African club

JOHANNESBURG, 22 March—German Ernst Middendorp has replaced Serb Zoran Filipovic as coach of struggling South African Premiership outfit Lamontville Golden Arrows, the club said on Monday. The Durban team axed the 58-year-old former Montenegro national coach after a nine-match winless run in the richest football championship on the continent which left them five points above the drop zone.

Middendorp, who is six years younger than the man he succeeds, was axed 10 days ago by Maritzburg United, an-

other side trying to avoid finishing second last above Mpumalanga Black Aces and going into promotion play-offs.

The German previously coached leading South African team Kaizer Chiefs, Ghanaian giants Asante Kotoko and Hearts of Oak and has also worked in China, Cyprus, Iran and his homeland.

Internet

German Ernst
Middendorp

Zubar's loss a blow for Wolves' survival hopes

LONDON, 22 March—English Premier League strugglers Wolves suffered what their manager Mick McCarthy termed a blow on Monday when former

France Under-21 defender Ronald Zubar was ruled out for the rest of the season after undergoing a back operation.

The 25-year-old right-back - who has been at the club since joining from French giants Marseille in 2009 for 3million euros - has had surgery after suffering from a sore back in recent weeks.

“Ronald's been an important player for us and it's a blow, but we can't do anything about it,” said McCarthy. McCarthy has had better news over the weekend regarding other injured players as Stephen Hunt, Adlene Guedioura and Michael Kightly all returned to training.

Internet



English Premier League strugglers Wolves suffered what their manager Mick McCarthy termed a blow on Monday when former France Under-21 defender Ronald Zubar, seen here in 2010, was ruled out for the rest of the season after undergoing a back operation.—INTERNET

Capitals' Alex Ovechkin out 7-10 days with injury

ARLINGTON, 22 March—The Washington Capitals want Alex Ovechkin as healthy as possible for the playoffs, so he's getting some downtime.

Coach Bruce Boudreau said Monday that Ovechkin will be sidelined for seven to 10 days with an undisclosed injury.

“He's been bothered by this nagging ailment for a couple of months,” Boudreau said. “We just thought we'd take care of it now. His body needs a

little bit of rest. We thought this was a good time to rest his body for a week to two weeks so he's fresh come April.”

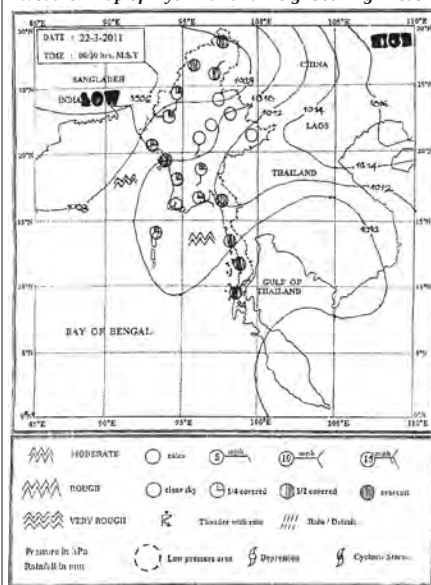
Boudreau wouldn't go into detail about an injury, other than to say that Ovechkin is mainly “sore.” The coach said the break would also give his star player a chance to deal with the general aches and pains that come from Ovechkin's physical style of play.

Internet

Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin (8), of Russia, goes airborne while trying to shoot against the Detroit Red Wings in the third period of an NHL hockey game in Detroit, on 16 March, 2011. Detroit won 3-2.—INTERNET



Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 22nd March, 2011

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T.

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State and weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Yangon Regions, Shan, Rakhine and Mon States, generally fair in the remaining Regions and States and isolated heavy fall in Taninthayi Region. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperature in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway Regions and Kachin State, (5°C) above March average temperature in Upper Sagaing Region, (3°C) to (4°C) below March average temperatures in Bago and Yangon Regions and about March average temperature in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperatures were Magway (41°C), Kalewa, Kalay, Monywa, Myingyan, Chauk and Minbu (40°C) each. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Kawthong (3.70 inches) and Putao (0.51) inch.

Nav Pvi Taw

Maximum temperature on 21-3-2011 was 100°F. Minimum temperature on 22-3-2011 was 67°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 22-3-2011 was (53%). Rainfall on 22-3-2011 was (Nil).

Yangon (Kaba-Aye)

Maximum temperature on 21-3-2011 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 22-3-2011 was 68°F. Relative humidity at (09:30)

hours MST on 22-3-2011 was (76%). Total sunshine hours on 21-3-2011 was (10.3) hours (Approx).

Rainfall on 22-3-2011 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon each. Total rainfall since 1-1-2011 was (5.79) inches at Mingaladon, (6.89) inches at Kaba-Aye and (7.09) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 21-3-2011.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 23rd March 2011:
Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Mon and Kayin States and weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon, Ayeeyawady, Bago Regions, Shan State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 23-3-2011: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for
23-3-2011: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-3-2011: Generally fair weather.

Gattuso looks to Kaka's return

ROME, 22 March—AC Milan midfielder Gennaro Gattuso has admitted that he looked forward to Kaka's return to the San Siro.

The Brazilian, plagued by injuries after moving to Real Madrid, has long been linked with a return to the Rossoneri after failing to settle at the Bernabeu.

Manchester City striker Mario Balotelli is also rumoured to be courted by Milan, but when asked who he would prefer to see at the club next season, Gattuso selected his former teammate.

"Kaka, he made history with Milan and if he is loved so much it means he did well. We are waiting for him," he told *La Gazzetta dello Sport*.

Defender Alessandro Nesta has hinted that he could retire at the end of the season, but Gattuso is of the opinion that he will play on for a while yet, adding: "He is playing on the injury story. He will stop in two or three years like myself."

Xinhua



Real Madrid midfielder Kaka (R) from Brazil leaves the Apra AZ Monica Clinic after an operation on his left knee in Antwerp 6 August, 2010. Kaka has been operated by Belgian doctor Marc Martens, specialized in sport injury, and could be ruled out for three to four months, the clinic which carried out the surgery said on Thursday.

XINHUA

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
Programme Schedule
(23-3-2011) (Wednesday)

<u>Transmissions</u>	<u>Times</u>
Local	- (09:00am~11:00am)MST
Oversea Transmission	- (23-3-11 09:30 am ~ 24-3-11 09:30 am) MST

Local Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * Marching towards A Democratic New Nation
 ‘‘Rural and border Area Sector’’
- * News
- * Products of Myanmar
 ‘‘Craft of Blacksmithing’’
- * News
- * Gift of Longevity to the Old (Episode-III)
- * News
- * On the LEDO Road

Overseas Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * Marching towards A Democratic New Nation
“Rural and border Area Sector”
- * News
- * Products of Myanmar
“Craft of Blacksmithing”
- * News
- * Gift of Longevity to the Old (Episode-III)
- * News
- * On the LEDO Road
- * News
- * I Love Myanmar
- * News
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * Surprising Myanmar “Jade and Gem”
- * News
- * Myanmar Movie
“The Spouse And The Lover”



**Wednesday,
23 March**
View on today

7:00 am
1. Paritta By
Venerable Mingun
Sayadaw
-Uppatasanti Paritta

7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy
Exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning News

7:40 am
4. Dhamma Puja
Song

7:50 am
5. Nice & Sweet
Song

8:00 am
6. Health Programme

8:10 am
7. Cultural Dances

8:20 am
8. Songs in honour of
66th Anniversary
Armed Forces Day

8:40 am
9. International News

8:45 am
10. Musical Programme

4:00 pm
1. Martial Song

4:10 pm
2. Musical Programme

4:20 pm
3. Dance Of National
Races

4:30 pm
4. Songs in honour of
66th Anniversary
Armmed Forces Day

4:40 pm
5. University Of
Distance Education
(TV Lectures)
-First Year
(Phiosophy)

4:55 pm
6. Songs For
Upholding National
Spirit

4:05 pm
7. Classical Songs

5:15 pm
8. Teleplay (Health)

5:30 pm
9. "ASEAN"
Programme

5:45 pm
10. Songs in honour of
66th Anniversary
Armed Forces Day

6:00 pm
11. Evening News

6:20 pm
12. AFC Challenge
Cup 2012 Group (A)
(Live) (Myanmar
Vs Bangladesh)

8:00 pm
13. News
14. International News
15. Weather Report
16. Documentary
17. Korea NG Award
18. TV Drama Series
19. Teleplay

- ★ 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 13th day Queries raised and replied, proposals submitted and discussed, approval sought at Amyotha Hluttaw session



First regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw for 13th day in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—The 13th day first regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw was held at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today.

It was attended by Speaker of Amyotha

Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

First, the Speaker took position and announced the validity and start of the 13th-day session as 220 or 98.65 percent of 223 Amyotha

Hluttaw representatives were present.

Of the questions raised by Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, members of union level organization Leader of the Government Spoke Authoritative Team

Minister for Information U Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Commerce U Tin Naing Thein and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Maung Maung Thein responded to the questions regarding “armed groups that are against the government” made by U Za Khun Ting Ring of Kachin State Constituency No.4; “transport of paddy to

Shan State (North)” made by U Tun Kyaw of Shan State Constituency No.10; “permit to import household-used under 2000CC cars” made by Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No.4 and “heavy tax imposed on fishermen” made by Dr Banya Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency No.7.

After that, U Paul

Htan Htai of Chin State Constituency No.3 discussed the proposal “to build heavy hydropower station in Bontala waterfall” submitted by U Paul Lyan Lwin of Chin State Constituency No.9. Member of union level organization Minister for Electric Power No.1 U Zaw Min discussed the proposal.

(See page 9)

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL 66TH ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

In spite of varieties of attacks, accusations and criticisms, the Tatmadaw with fine traditions will remain united as the motto “Whoever divide us, we will remain united” in implementing tasks in the interests of the nation and the people.

MYAT PHONE LU

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