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Tuesday, 31 January, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes

* Non-disintegration of the Union * Non-disintegration of National Solidarity * Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses coord meeting on Drawing and Implementation of Human Resources Development Project

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan—The objective of the meeting held today is to coordinate matters for successful implementation of human resources development project that is an essential prerequisite for development of political, economic and defence sectors. And the education is a decisive tool in the uplifting of ability and capacity of the entire national people for acquisition of the economic and social prosperity in the changing world said Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham in his opening address at the coordination meeting on Drawing and Implementation of Human Resources Development Project held at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development this afternoon.

The Vice-President added

progress than the natural resource based economy in operation at the loss and wastage. Meanwhile, it could bring about innovation and creativity. There are a large number of countries that are gaining achievements based on human resource development although they are devoid of natural resources.

There are also countries that are devoid of human resource development lag behind in technology. The developing countries are in need of human resources in addition to capitals and materials. Therefore, efforts are to be made for systematic development of human resources in the nation.

The new government has laid down the four national economic policy recently, and they are

development among regions and states

(c) Ensuring economic development in all fields that contribute to the entire national people

(d) Emergence of reliable statistics and amending of statistic system

Human resource development plays a leading role in successful implementation of economic policies and reliable developments.

The country could not make economic progress if it is stick to agriculture. And the industry and services of developed nations reveals that only when there is human resource development will the nation make progress.

Hence, strenuous efforts are to be made for human resource



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addresses coord meeting on Drawing and Implementation of Human Resources Development Project.

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that the natural resource based economy is now changing into human resource based economy or knowledge based economy, and the human resource based economy is making much more

(a) Building of an industrial nation and ensuring all round development on the basis of agricultural development

(b) Ensuring equitable

development which is a driving factor for development of other sectors such as political, social, economic and defence sectors.

The reliable development narrows development gap between

the rich and the poor, enable each and every citizen to enjoy the fruits of development and bring about equal opportunities. It defines physical development and spiritual development covering

liberty, equality, integrity and indiscriminate.

The GDP and human resource development are a major tool of comparison for global nations. (See page 5)

Hluttaw candidates to be scrutinized in accord with law

Hluttaw candidates to exactly follow directives and notifications of UEC in canvassing for votes

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Workshop on media development kicks off

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Chelsea's Ramires suffers knee injury blow



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PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 31 January, 2012

Your parents' wish and your own future

The 2011-2012 academic is going to end before long. And the final examinations are drawing nearer. Now is a revision time.

In general, the examination is the yardstick of students. It is a test to assess their

ability or how much they have learnt. Those who have learnt their lessons well usually pass the final examinations with distinctions.

Distinctions may become promises for the future. More and more students are passing their final examinations with distinctions. As knowledge is the way to wealth, parents are giving greater encouragement to their children.

Some students are very ambitious, but some try just to pass the examination every year. And some are even on the wrong road.

Actually, all students should try to pass their examination with flying colors. Hard work

for the examination can be a ticket for the future success. So, it's the duty of students to learn their lessons very hard.

All parents wish to see their children in a higher position when they grow up. They want their children to be educated and prominent. Rich or poor, parents' love for their children never changes.

In this regard, students must try to pass their examination with distinctions to express the gratitude they owe to their parents. Here the advice for them is "Know your parent's wish and your own future".

Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad linking north and south of Myanmar

Year the construction of railroad started	2007
1. Kyangin-Thayet Railroad Section	110 miles
2. Thayet-Pwintbyu Railroad Section	100 miles
3. Pwintbyu-Pakokku Railroad Section	110 miles
Length of the railroad in total	320 miles

Railroad sections already commissioned into service

Sr.	Section	Length	Opening date
1.	Kyangin-Okshitbin	38 miles	1-3-2008
2.	Okshitbin-Kanma	35 miles	22-3-2009
3.	Kanma-Thayet	35 miles	17-10-2009
4.	Thayet-Minhla	52 miles and 70 furlongs	14-3-2010
5.	Pakokku-Kyunchaung	27 miles	20-11-2009
6.	Seikpyu-Yawchaung	22 miles	12-6-2010



A special train running from Thayet to Kanma.



A special train running from Thayet to Kanma.

"My special thanks go to the government for opening Seikpyu-Yawchaung railroad section as we no more have to cross Yaw creek by boat."

U Tin Soe of Seikpyu

"There are agricultural industry, cement plants and breeding farms in Kyangin Township. The produces were once transported step by step from Kyangin to Pathein, Pathein to Yangon and Yangon to other regions. I am happy with the emergence of Kyangin-Pakokku railroad as these will be transported directly from Pathein to Yangon and reduce transportation costs considerably."

U Htay Min of Kyangin Township

"I live in Thayet of Magway Region. I am engaged in edible oil production. I have to make frequent visits to Pathein as my parents are there and I trade edible oil there. It was time-consuming, tiring and costly to travel first to Yangon, stop over there for a night and then proceed to Pathein. I am grateful to the government for constructing the railroad as it allows me to travel from Thayet to Kyangin directly and to Pathein. It saves time and cost."

U Win Than of Thayet
Translation: HKA



Photo shows a train running on Thayet-Minhla road session.

- * Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad is a significant communication route for local people on western bank of Ayeyawady River.
- * It links Pathein of Ayeyawady with Mandalay through Kyangin and towns on western bank of Ayeyawady Region in Magway Region, with Kalay of Sagaing Region, and with Sittway of Rakhine State through Minbu-An-Kyauktaw-Sittway railroad in Minbu.
- * It joins existing Pathein-Kyangin and Pakokku-Kalay railroads and allows travelers to proceed to Mandalay, Monywa, Shwebo and Myitkyina via Pakokku.
- * Socio-economic status of regions on both eastern and western banks of Ayeyawady will be equalled. It becomes a major railroad on western bank of Ayeyawady and will bring about friendship and development in trade among local people.



Pakokku-Kyunchaung railroad section opened on 20 November, 2009.



Seikpyu-Yawchaung railroad section opened on 12 June, 2010 in Seikpyu, Pakokku District in Magway Region.



Recruits for the Sudan People's Liberation Army training in a secret camp in the Nuba mountains of South Kordofan in 2011.—INTERNET

Israeli jumbo drone crashes in field

TEL AVIV, 30 Jan—One of the most sophisticated drones in the Israeli military crashed by accident in a field on Sunday, without causing casualties, an army spokeswoman said.

"An Eytan (meaning "strong" in Hebrew) crashed by accident into a field today

in Israel during a test being carried out jointly by the army and Israel Aerospace Industries. There were no injuries," the spokeswoman told AFP.

Israel's private Channel 10 television said a wing broke off, apparently because of a heavy payload, causing a loss

estimated at 10 million dollars.

The huge drone, of which the army only has a few in service, is the size of a Boeing 737, can fly 36 hours non-stop—bringing Israel's arch-foe Iran within range—and carry a payload at an altitude of 13,000 metres (40,000 feet).—*Internet*



An Israeli drone is seen over Rafah town in the southern Gaza Strip in 2011.—INTERNET

One killed, 13 injured in Iraq's violence

BAGHDAD, 30 Jan—A civilian was killed and 13 others wounded Sunday in separate bomb and gunfire attacks in eastern and central Iraq, the police said.

In Iraq's eastern province of Diyala, a civilian

was killed when a sticky bomb attached to his car detonated in the city of Maqadiyah, some 100 km northeast of Baghdad, a provincial police source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

In a separate incident, a sticky bomb attached to a police officer's car went off in eastern the provincial capital City of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, wounding him and two female students who were at the scene when the blast occurred, the source said.

Also in the province, gunmen attacked a checkpoint manned by Awakening Council group fighters near the town of Khan Bani Sa'ad, some 20 km southwest of Baquba, injuring two fighters, the source added.

Xinhua

S Korean leader to visit Turkey and Middle East

SEOUL, 30 Jan—South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak will make a week-long visit to Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates as Seoul seeks to diversify its oil sources, it was announced on Monday.

The United States wants its close ally South Korea to reduce purchases of Iranian crude in line with a US-led drive to sanction Tehran for its suspected nuclear weapons programme.

South Korea, the world's

fifth largest oil importer, currently accounts for around 10 percent of Iran's oil exports. It has yet to cut the import of Iranian oil due to fears of economic damage.

Lee's trip to the Middle East will help South Korea "secure a stable supply of energy resources", the president's office said.

He will arrive in Turkey on Saturday for a four-day visit that includes talks with President Abdullah Gul about expanding trade and other issues.

The agenda also includes the possible participation of South Korean firms in Turkey's infrastructure construction, it said.

In 2010 South Korea discussed a \$20 billion project to build nuclear reactors in Turkey but negotiations were suspended due to differences. South Korea operates 20 nuclear plants that generate some 35 percent of its electricity needs, and is eager to export its expertise as a new growth engine.—*Internet*



South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak will make a week-long visit to Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates as Seoul seeks to diversify its oil sources, it was announced on Monday.—INTERNET

UN nuclear inspection gets under way in Iran

TEHRAN, 30 Jan—Iran's foreign minister expressed optimism on Sunday that a visit by UN inspectors to Iran's nuclear facilities would produce an understanding, despite world concerns that Iran is trying to build nuclear weapons.

The three-day inspection tour by the International Atomic Energy Agency team comes during spiking

tension. The West is imposing new sanctions to try to force Iran to slow or halt its nuclear programme, and Iran is threatening to close the Strait of Hormuz, a vital oil passage, in retaliation.

Visiting Ethiopia, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi appeared to be trying to defuse the crisis.

"We are very optimistic about the mission and the

outcome" of the IAEA mission, Salehi was quoted as saying by Iran's semi-official Mehr news agency. "We've always tried to put transparency as a principle in our cooperation with IAEA," Salehi said. "During this visit, the delegation has questions and the necessary answers will be given."

The findings from the visit could greatly influence the direction and urgency of US-led efforts to rein in Iran's ability to enrich uranium—which Washington and allies fear could eventually produce weapons-grade material. Iran has declined to abandon its enrichment labs, but claims it seeks to fuel reactors only for energy and medical research.

The team is likely to visit an underground enrichment site near the holy city of Qom, 80 miles (130 kilometres) south of Tehran, which is carved into a mountain as protection from possible airstrikes.—*Internet*



Herman Nackaerts of the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, the chief agency official in charge of the Iran file, prepares for his flight to Iran at Vienna's Schwechat airport, Austria, on 28 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET



Firemen hose down a commercial carrier truck on Interstate 75 near Gainesville, Fla, after it was involved in a multi-vehicle wreck which killed at least nine people in the early hours of on 29 Jan, 2012. INTERNET

Florida highway smashes kill 10 people

ORLANDO, 30 Jan—Ten people died and at least 18 were injured in a series of accidents before dawn Sunday near Gainesville after smoke and fog reduced visibility on the main interstate highway, police said.

The Florida Highway Patrol said the smashes involving 12 cars and six or seven trucks occurred shortly before 4 am on Interstate 75 after smoke from a marsh fire combined with fog to reduce visibility on both the northbound and southbound lanes.

Eighteen people were transported to Shands Hospital emergency room, six of them to a trauma centre for people in critical condition, according to hospital

spokeswoman Alison Wilson.

By Sunday evening, nine of the people treated in the emergency room had been released.

"It's tragic. It's probably the worst one (accident) I've seen in 27 years," Florida Highway Patrol spokesman Patrick Riordan told *Reuters*.

Riordan said investigators are still trying to determine how many separate collisions occurred on the interstate, which is a main artery through Florida.

In one crash, two cars and a tractor trailer caught fire and melted asphalt on the road, Riordan said.—*Reuters*

Pneumonia bug evolves to evade vaccine

NEW YORK, 30 Jan—Bugs that cause childhood pneumonia and meningitis have evolved to evade vaccines by swapping bits of their genome with other bacteria, according to a study published on Sunday.

The findings, published in *Nature Genetics*, show how quickly these life-threatening pathogens can disguise themselves with borrowed genetic decoys, and how hard it is for medicine to keep up.

Diseases caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* are thought to kill over a million young children around the world each year.

Vaccines that protect against these so-called pneumococcal infections are designed to recognise a material on the outer surface of a bacterium's cell called polysaccharide.—*Internet*



A nurse vaccinates a child against *Pneumococcus*-caused pneumonia in Managua in 2011. Bugs that cause childhood pneumonia and meningitis have evolved to evade vaccines by swapping bits of their genome with other bacteria, according to a study published.—INTERNET

Calories count, but source doesn't matter

LONDON, 30 Jan—People trying to lose weight may swear by specific diet plans calling for strict proportions of fat, carbs and protein, but where the calories come from may not matter as much as simply cutting back on them, according to a study.

Researchers whose results were published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* found there were no differences in weight loss or the reduction of fat

between four diets with different proportions of fat, carbohydrates and protein.

"The major predictor for weight loss was 'adherence'. Those participants who adhered better, lost more weight than those who did not," said George Bray, at Pennington Biomedical Research Centre in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who worked on the study.

Earlier research had found that certain diets — in particular, those with very low carbohydrates — worked better than others, Bray told *Reuters Health* in an email, but there had been no consensus among scientists.

Reuters

Don't blame C-sections for fat children

NEW YORK, 30 Jan—Children born by Cesarean section are no more likely to become obese than if they are born vaginally, according to a Brazilian study. Past research from Brazil had found a link between excessive weight and C-sections, leading some scientists to suggest that not being exposed to bacteria from the birth canal could make children fatter, but the latest findings — published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* — suggest this

doesn't appear to be the case.

The research is of particular interest in Brazil, because in 2009 more than half of the babies there were born by C-section. In the United States, the number has been on the rise for years and is now over 30 percent.

"We thought from the beginning that probably what happened with the previous study is that they didn't adjust for all of the confounders," said Fernando Barros of the Catholic University of Pelotas, who worked on the study, referring

to factors such as the mother's height and weight.

Barros and his colleagues used data on three groups of several thousand people born in Southern Brazil in 1982, 1993 or 2004.

Researchers contacted the children at different ages until the oldest had turned 23. Those born by C-section were more likely to be heavy, with obesity rates between nine and 16 percent, compared to rates of seven to 10 percent of children born vaginally.

Reuters



This file photo shows staff checking batch numbers of Ranbaxy medicines at a shop in Mumbai. Shares of Indian pharmaceutical giant Ranbaxy slumped to a near-nine-month low on Friday due to costs of a proposed settlement with US authorities over alleged violations of safety manufacturing guidelines.—INTERNET



A huge sculpture of the euro symbol, constructed by German [designer Ottmar Hoerll], is illuminated during a test in front of the European central bank (ECB) headquarter in Frankfurt, on 20 December, 2001. INTERNET

China to make Shanghai the world's yuan centre by 2015

BEIJING, 30 Jan—China will make Shanghai the global centre of yuan trading, clearing and pricing by 2015, according to a specific state plan laying out the city's future as an international financial centre.

The detailed plan, published jointly by the country's economic planning agency and the Shanghai government, shows the scale of China's ambition in creating its own version of New York, London or Hong Kong.

The National Development and Reform Commission envisions a trading hub with annual non-forex financial market volume of 1,000 trillion yuan (\$158.3 trillion) by 2015 from less than 400

trillion in 2010. The plan said the daily mid-point price published by the central bank in the onshore yuan market would be the benchmark for both domestic and foreign

yuan trading markets, and the government-backed Shanghai Interbank Offered Rate, or Shibor, would be the benchmark for yuan credit everywhere.—*Reuters*



A US dollar note (bottom) is pictured alongside other currencies including (L-R) the Australian Dollar, Singapore Dollar, Korean Won and China's Yuan in this picture illustration taken in Washington, on 14 October, 2010.—INTERNET

EU leaders to agree on permanent bailout fund, balanced budget

BRUSSELS, 30 Jan—EU leaders will sign off on a permanent rescue fund for the euro zone at a summit on Monday and are expected to agree on a balanced budget rule in national legislation, with unresolved problems in Greece casting a shadow on the discussions. The summit—the 17th in two years as the EU battles to resolve its sovereign debt problems — is supposed to focus on creating jobs and growth, with leaders looking to shift the narrative away from politically unpopular budget austerity.

The summit is expected to announce that up to 20 billion euros (\$26.4 billion)

of unused funds from the EU's 2007-2013 budget will be redirected toward job creation, especially among the young, and will commit to freeing up bank lending to small- and medium-sized companies. But discussions over the permanent rescue fund, a new 'fiscal treaty' and Greece will dominate the talks. Negotiations between the Greek government and private bondholders over the restructuring of 200 billion euros of Greek debt made progress over the weekend, but are not expected to conclude before the summit begins at 9:00 am EST.

Until there is a deal

between Greece and its private bondholders, EU leaders cannot move forward with a second, 130 billion euro rescue programme for Athens, which they originally agreed to at a summit last October. Instead, they will sign a treaty creating the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), a 500-billion-euro permanent bailout fund that is due to become operational in July, a year earlier than first planned. And they are likely to agree the terms of a 'fiscal treaty' tightening budget rules for those that sign up.—*Reuters*

Business confidence in India declines

NEW DELHI, 30 Jan—Business confidence in India is declining due to uncertainty surrounding the global economy, rising input costs and high interest rates, said a report released by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on Sunday.

The report said quarterly business outlook showed the business confidence index for the third quarter of 2011-12 had declined 5 percent and stood at 48.6, down from 53.6 in the previous quarter, according to *Indo-Asian*

News Service.

"It is obvious that industry's outlook during the quarter has been poor. But hopefully 2012 would improve outlook as we start seeing some positive developments including moderating inflation, a more accommodative monetary stance and hopefully a growth oriented budget," the report quoted Chandrajit Banerjee, CII director general, as saying.

Small firms expected domestic and international

investments to decline or remain stagnant in the quarter ending December 2011 which might affect their expansion plans.

Firms have reported a slowdown in sales, new orders, production and pre-tax profits in Q3 of 2011-12 fiscal year compared with the previous quarter.

Indian fiscal year starts in April and ends in March.—*Xinhua*



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham...

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As human resource development has something to do with living status of the national people, it is required to strive for the high standard of the living standard. Human development index-HDI of the nation is at middle level, and it is still at the lower level when compared with ASEAN nations. And work is well underway to boost the living status of the nation two or two-and-half times in 2015.

The disadvantages in account entry, account keeping, collection of census has a great impact on reliable statistics and statistic amendment. Only when a country is endowed with correct data and tables it can make it clear its real situation and will be able to lay down future plans for socio-economic development like other countries.

The entire people need to be equipped with reasoning power and vision in practical application of democratic fundamental principles. Only when there is capacity of grassroots will it be possible to reduce decentralization. Therefore, management knowledge is a must for those in service at different levels plus a constant learning society.

For human resources development in the education sector, the government enacted private school registration law on 2-12-1011. Under the law, activities are to be undertaken as to policies of private schools and teachers, supervision, instructions as well as formation of the scrutiny board for added lessons, permission of establishment of private schools, denying and cancellation.

Meanwhile, steps are to be taken for the wider use of modern teaching aids in higher

learning in regions and states, capacity building of education staff and ensuring education of international standard to be line with the education policy.

Moreover, efforts are to be made for all citizens to complete basic education, ensuring standard basic education, pursuit of vocational education, modern communication technology, professionals, teaching and learning opportunities, better management, development of basic education with the participation of parents and development of research.

To bring Human resource development to the country, it is necessary not only to promote the education standard but also to uplift the health standard, thinking, morality etc. Therefore, the government, people, businessmen and social organizations and INGOs are to work together for the human resource development.



Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay
replies to the queries.—MNA

A national level workshop focusing the importance role of education and health sectors will be held in mid-February with the aim of drawing a plan for the human resource development in Myanmar. If opportunities are created for the people, the country would see its human resource development.

The Vice President said that the country is on the road to development and he urged those concerned to actively participate in implementing the human resource development plan.

After that, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein presented the report on agenda that should be included in drafting plan for human resource development project and formation and duties of committee and subcommittee. Afterwards, Union Minister for Border Affairs and for



Union Minister U Than Htay
responds to the questions.—MNA

Myanma Industrial Development Lt-Gen Thein Htay also submitted report on human resource development being undertaken by Ministry. Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan reported present and follow up programme and human resource development related to social, literary and culture and news media. Then, Union Ministers, the Union Attorney-General, the Union Auditor-General, the Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board and the deputy ministers submitted human resource development projects, and formation of human resource development implementation committee and subcommittee and implementation of process.

Regarding the reports, the Vice-President said that the country's economic system being mostly based on natural resource, the country's social and economy status lagged far behind other countries. So, the country needs to change its system to human resource-based economic system. In practicing this system, reviews on progress and development and undertakings of the Ministries and region/state government ministries are needed.

The ministries are to continue to practice policy if the project is successful and to review the weakness of the projects. Resource-poor countries like Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong see development thanks to human resource-based economic plan.

Our country has a large number of population and resources but there is weakness in development. So, human resource-based economic plan needs to be discussed. Human source development plans are drafted so as to make necessary amendments. Those present are urged to discuss weakness and difficulties, he added. After that, the meeting came to an end.

MNA

Japan studies flora and fauna near Fukushima plant

TOKYO, 30 Jan—Japanese scientists are studying how radiation has affected plants and animals living near the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant, according to an official.

Researchers are examining field mice, red pine trees, a certain type of shellfish and other wild flora and fauna in and around the 20 kilometre (12 mile) no-go zone surrounding the plant, an Environment Ministry official said on Monday.

"The researchers are studying the impact of high radiation levels on wild animals and plants, examining the appearance,

reproductive function and possible abnormalities in chromosomes," said the official.

They will also grow seeds from plant samples and monitor the offspring of animals in the research.

The study began in November and an initial report on the findings is expected in March, he said.

The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, some 220 kilometres north of

Tokyo, suffered blasts and fires after the 11 March quake and tsunami crippled its cooling systems, releasing radiation into the

environment.

Tens of thousands of people were evacuated from the area near the plant, many abandoning pets and livestock which have since gone feral.

Parts of the exclusion zone are expected to be reclassified to allow people to move back to their homes over the next few years, but other areas are expected to be uninhabitable for several decades.—Internet



This file photo shows a farmer pruning pear trees at a plantation in Fukushima prefecture. Japanese scientists are studying how radiation has affected plants and animals living near the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant, according to an official.—INTERNET

Climate-driven heat peaks may shrink wheat crops

LONDON, 30 Jan—More intense heat waves due to global warming could diminish wheat crop yields around the world through premature ageing, according to a study published Sunday in *Nature Climate Change*.

Current projections based on computer models underestimate the extent to which hotter weather in the future will accelerate this process, the researchers



An Indian farm labourer uses a scythe to harvest wheat in a field on the outskirts of Amritsar in 2011. More intense heat waves due to global warming could diminish wheat crop yields around the world through premature ageing, according to a study published in *Nature Climate Change*.
INTERNET

warned. Wheat is harvested in temperate zones on more than 220 million hectares (545 million acres), making it the most widely grown crop on Earth.

In some nations, the grain accounts for up to 50 percent of calorie intake and 20 percent of protein nutrition, according to the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), near Mexico City. In 2010, drought and wildfires in wheat-exporting Russia pushed world prices of the grain to two-year highs, underscoring the vulnerability of global supplies to

weather- and climate-related disruptions.

Greenhouse experiments have shown that unseasonably high temperatures—especially at the end of the growing season—can cause senescence, the scientific term for accelerated ageing. Excess heat beyond the plant's tolerance zone damages photosynthetic cells.

Fluctuations in wheat yields in India have also been attributed by farmers to temperature, most recently a heat wave in 2010 blamed for stunting plant productivity.

Internet

Pyithu Hluttaw third regular session continues...

(from page 16)

inundation in rainy season and to regulate water in other seasons.

Budget will be requested from the government to repair damaged spots, maintain the embankment and build the sluice gates. Upon completion, the task to maintain the dam will be handed over to the local farmers systematically under supervision of the region government.

U Soe Paing of Wuntho Constituency asked **whether there is plan to supply high-yield quality paddy strains to both local and international markets.** The deputy minister answered: Farms and research departments of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation are producing hybrid, high-yield and Open Pollinated Variety (OPV) paddy strains and nurturing experts.

The President himself visited hybrid paddy strain production farm in Yezin University of Agriculture and directed region and state governments to produce paddy strains for 100 acres each.

The ministry will give technical assistances for production of quality strain suited for each region or state. Establishment of quality strain model villages and participation of entrepreneurs will help improve living standards of farmers.

U Aung Thant of Patheingyi Constituency asked **successful stories of international cooperation in agricultural sector, future programmes and prospects and which actions will be taken against illegal owners of vacant, virgin and fallow lands.** The deputy minister answered: Myanmar is working closely with nine ASEAN member countries for emergence of ASEAN Economic Community by 2015.

If the community is established, the country will reap profits from the food sufficiency and safety and increased trade in addition to agricultural development. Myanmar's close ties with ASEAN+3 countries facilitate agricultural development.

Myanmar is working as a focal in agricultural working group for cooperation among Greater Mekong Subregion countries. Through participation in agricultural supportive programme (step 1) (2006-2010), Myanmar could demonstrate its agricultural information on webpage of agricultural information network led by China. It could review bio-fuel and renewable energy in rural areas for drafting GMS regional policies. Attendees and trainees could be sent to seminars and trainings on prevention against pests in plants and agricultural product intended to improve border trade and agricultural investment. The agricultural supportive programme (step-2) will take place between 2011 and 2015. Trainees and attendees will be able to send to trainings and seminars on Human Resources Development.

Myanmar is a leading country for agricultural cooperation in Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Co-operation Strategy (ACMECS).

Myanmar has signed MoUs on agricultural development with governments of China, India, Vietnam, the Philippines and Belarus. MoUs on investments and hybrid paddy strain production have been signed with Vietnamese companies. It has planned to establish Agricultural Research and Education Centre in Yezin in cooperation with India.

Myanmar is working in cooperation with UN agencies and international organizations— Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Thai International Cooperation Agency—for agricultural development, technical assistances and Human Resources Development.

Cooperation with FAO is targeted at achieving Millennium Development Goals. When MDGs are achieved, poverty will be alleviated and living standards of rural people will be improved in addition to agricultural development.

Regarding the second question, 0.986 million acres of vacant, fallow and virgin lands out of 3.898 acres of lands permitted by management central committee and local authority have been reclaimed around the country.

When Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Bill is approved, the central committee will scrutinize whether the lands are reclaimed or not and handed over permits to those who will actually do the business.

Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu answered two questions raised by two Hluttaw representatives.

U Tin Maung of Chanmyathazi constituency asked **whether there is plan to amend 1984 private academic training law to be commensurate with the age or add tentatively practiced policies in the law.** The deputy minister answered: the ministry will enforce the law to practice in accordance with policies designated to adopt temporarily.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law (14) Private School Registration Law 2011 has been enacted. The ministry is negotiating with the Union Attorney-General's Office to draft related rules, orders and directives. Only when the opening of private schools is supervised well under the law, will the private academic training law be able to be amended.

U Win Naing of Shwegu Constituency asked **whether there is plan to employ more general workers in primary**



Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Aik Yun Mun of Metmung Constituency shoots queries.—MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Win Naing of Shwegu constituency raises questions.—MNA

schools and clerks and other staffs in middle/high schools. The deputy minister answered: One headmaster/headmistress, teachers and one general worker are employed in primary schools. Upper divisional clerks, lower divisional clerks and other ranks are employed in middle and high schools.

Because the permission from on high is needed to employ above two third the number of the staff in each department, the vacant posts remain unfilled.

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin answered five queries raised by five Hluttaw representatives.

U Aik Yun Mun of Metmung Constituency asked **whether the Ministry of Health has plans to provide sufficient workforce and medical assistances.** The Union minister answered: If assistant doctors (fresher) discharge duties, one station doctor will be assigned to Metmung station hospital. Five upper class nurses permitted by the organizational set-up have been appointed in Metmung Township People's Hospital. Two out of allowed 10 nurses have been appointed. The ministry has assigned eight fresher nurses have been assigned to the position by the letter dated 22-12-2011. Full workforce including two allowed nurses and two midwives have been employed in Swetwoe station hospital.

Central Medical Storage Department of the ministry provided one Auto Clave (Table Top) in June 2009, one Suction Machine on 6-10-2009, one Ceiling Lamp on 12-5-2010, and one Air Sep on 4-2-2011 to Metmung Township People's Hospital and one Labour Bed, one Examination Bed and one Medicine Trolley to Swetwoe station hospital in June 2011.

If the hospitals submitted completed requests for medical assistances through township health department and these are supported by the head of Shan State health department, the assistances will be provided in order of priority.

U Thein Tun Oo of Amarapura Constituency asked **whether there is plan to allow MBBS graduates in Myanmar to attend Master degree courses for preferred subjects or take admission exams before the government cannot offer them jobs.** The Union minister answered:



Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin answers queries.—MNA

There is no plan for the time being to allow the proposed matter. Diploma Course in Medical Science (Family Medicine) targeted at private general physicians is being conducted. They can sit for admission exams and complete the course.

U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Pulaw Constituency asked **whether there is plan to extend X-ray department and employ radiologists in Kyaukka, Mali and Pyinbugyi station hospitals as in Palauk sub-township station hospital and Pala station hospital in Pulaw Township in Taninthayi Region which have these facilities and staff.** The Union minister answered: If the hospitals submitted completed requests for medical assistances through township health department and these are supported by the head of Region health department, the assistances will be provided in order of priority.

As most station hospitals under the ministry have neither X-ray facility nor technicians, the training can be provided to appropriate staff of the hospital and assigned the duty.

U Kyi Maung of Myittha Constituency asked **how the renovation, extension and construction of staff quarters of Myittha People's Hospital are planned.** The Union minister answered: The renovation, extension and construction of staff quarters of the 50-bed hospital are being carried out by the ministry in order of priority, depending on the budget allowed by the government.

U Khin Maung Oo of Monywa Constituency asked whether 200-bed Monywa People's Hospital will be upgraded into 300-bed one. In response, the Union Minister said that Health Department had issued letter No. Ka Ma Ba/Ga-1010/9 dated on 10-1-2012 to be standard 200-bed Monywa People's Hospital at which 17 special subjects including 17 senior specialists, 106 officer positions including 17 specialists and 488 positions for other ranks, totalling 594 were constituted.

With respect to "vacant and virgin land management bill" of which discussion was made up to Paragraph 24 on 27 January, officials of Bill Committee, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development Committee, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Hluttaw representatives discussed amendment to remaining paragraphs and sub-paragraphs to seek approval of Hluttaw.

With respect to Paragraph 25 (a, b, c), amendments of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development Committee, and Bill Committee were approved, and with respect to Paragraph 30, amendment of Amyotha Hluttaw was approved.

Hluttaw agreed that chapter title, paragraph and sub-paragraph which have not been amended by Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw shall be part of bill as proposed by the ministry. Title and introduction to bill shall be part of the bill as amended by Amyotha Hluttaw. And Hluttaw agreed on amendment to the whole vacant and virgin land management bill.

With respect to the report of Public Accounts Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Thant Zin of Gyobingaut Constituency, U Ye Tun of Hsipaw Constituency, Daw Mi Yin Chan of Kyaukse Constituency, U Moe Zaw Hein of Katha Constituency and U Thein Lwin of Chauk Constituency (See page 7)

Pyithu Hluttaw third regular session continues...

(from page 6)

acknowledged that assessment of Public Accounts Committee is true and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should draw required laws, and approved the report. Hluttaw approved the report.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said in his address that concerning the report of Public Accounts Committee, Hluttaw Office and respective committees are to write complete and comprehensive draft message covering all discussion of Hluttaw representatives to be sent to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker. Discussing points are also to be forwarded with report of Public Accounts Committee.

As the deputy minister for Agriculture and Irrigation was also in the Hluttaw, he needs to inform officials of the discussing points.

The Pyithu Hluttaw continued that in realizing the motto "Public voice, Hluttaw voice; and Public wish, Hluttaw wish", today's discussing points proved that Hluttaw representatives are doing their utmost showing great interest of the country and the people. Hluttaw must shoulder its main duty showing loyalty to the country and the people. He urged the representatives to make all-out efforts as dutifully ones.

U Yaw Di Dwe of Putao Constituency and U Francisco of Pekhon Constituency showed their approval for the report of Public Accounts Committee covering duties, undertakings and international parliament affairs. Hluttaw approved the report.

U Nyi Nyi Myint of Ottwin Constituency, U Khin Maung Win of Lanmadaw Constituency and U Thang Han of Yinmabin Constituency approved the report of Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw, further observing that how pledges of Union level groups will be to which extent. Hluttaw approved the report.

Aungmyethazan constituency, Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Dagon Myothit (North) constituency and U Nyan Win of Hlinethaya constituency seconded the proposal of U Aung Thein Lin of South Okkalapa constituency submitted on 26 January for amendment to trade tax for being the same tax collection of raw material imports and finished product imports, and more relaxation to be paid to tax on raw material imports than on finished product imports. They said increasing the import tax and reducing the export tax would boost the production at home and encourage the import-substitute industries, supporting the development of the country.

Regarding the proposal, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun said that it was impossible to define raw materials and finished products. For example, plastic bottles were finished products of the plastic production businesses but the bottles would become the raw materials for the soft drinks production businesses.

Commercial tax was levied on value of import goods

at the time on land and tax was imposed on amount sales of the domestic goods, he said. The ministry imposed a 5% tax on imported empty tubes for toothpastes and 10% tam on export toothpastes. It was found that there was no same tax collection of raw material imports and finished product imports, the Union Minister said.

To help local industries which produced export substitute products in the face of import products at the market, the ministry had already released notification to collect 20% of the levy on products manufactured in the country. According to the notification, the ministry had imposed only 4% levy on taxable products since 1999, he added.

It seemed that the industries which manufactured products at home with the use of import raw materials could not compete with others at the market. In fact, they should try to reduce the production costs with the use of technology and to improve the quality of their products in the face of import products at the market, he added.

However, there were some import raw materials which was imposed levy higher than the levy on finished products, there were some different types of goods and the need to transform a effective tax system such as value Added Tax (VAT) and Goods and Services Tax (GST). Therefore, arrangements are being made to amend the tax collections in accordance with the commercial tax law and the ministry would carry out its duty on tax collection in accordance with the law without a burden to the ministry.

U Aung Thein Lin agreed the clarification of Union Minister U Hla Tun, and the Hluttaw decided to put the proposal on record.

Afterwards, the proposal submitted on 27 January by U Tin Hlaing of Kalay constituency **to carry out special farming of cattle of pedigree mythum, a precious commodity of Chin State, through artificial insemination for poverty alleviation and development of Chin State** was discussed.

Regarding the proposal on breeding of mythum with the use of Artificial Insemination (AI), which is a glory of Chin State, for poverty alleviation and development, submitted by U Tin Hlaing of Kalay Constituency on 27 January, U Htan Lain of Mindat Constituency, U Nyan Swe Win of Kyaukgyi Constituency and U Hsar Mu of Lahe Constituency, U Poke Khant In of Teedim Constituency and U Khin Maung Ye (a) U Khaing Maung Yi of Ahlon Constituency discussed that AI breeding method should be used to effectively carry out mythum breeding in Chin State and that the government should implement because the proposal is practical and describes facts and opportunities.

With respect to it, Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint replied that Myanma Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank has already granted a loan of K 310 million for mythum breeding in Chin State as of September 2003 and plans are under way to disburse an additional loan of K 500 million.

Mythum like cold climate like Chin State located at

3000 feet above sea level. So it is difficult to set up model mythum farms in every township where Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department across the country exist. Test-breeding of Mythum were carried out in Kachin, Shan and Kayah States and Yangon Region. Poultry and cattle farms have been handed over to respective Region/State Governments in line with the State Constitution.

Since 2010, Chin State government has designated 8040 acres of vacant and virgin lands in Haka Township as pasture land. Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department will provide assistances to those who want to do reclamation of pasture ground and set up mythum farm. Although shedding needs less inputs and expenditures, it results in low production. But mythum is semi-domestic animal and should be breed with semi-intensive system.

Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has already informed Myanmar Investment Commission to accept the local and foreign investment in mythum breeding. To achieve success in mythum breeding and other breeding sectors in Chin State, Coordination would be made when there are offers from breeding organizations regarding technology, good pedigree and other assistances.

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department has started production of quality mythum sement-tube in September 1993 successfully. In December 1996, the number of tubes production has reached 636. Local cows should be upgraded only with dairy cattle sement-tube for milk production.

A total of 179 sement-tubes are kept in Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department for genes maintenances and research.

Plans are under way to implement distribution of good pedigree and setting up research laboratories on a priority basis by establishing breeding, training and education departments, artificial insemination within financial framework.

At present, it is impossible to extend current staff strength because of the State's budget. Duties will be assigned to local residents at seven vacant posts for assistant supervisor (veterinary) in Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Chin State after systematic training have been given to them.

Chin State government is implementing mythum breeding in group as basic level. And Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries is also providing necessary assistances to them.

Respective State government is to carry out the implementation of long-and short-term specialized mythum breeding zone while the Ministry will provide necessary assistances.

The Hluttaw decided to put the proposal of U Tin Hlaing on record.

As a special programme, the Hluttaw registered the condolence for passing away of Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Bo Gyi (a) U Aung Ngwe of Constituency No.2 of Sagaing Region on 28 January.

The meeting came to an end at 4.15 pm. Date and time for the fourth day of session will be announced.

MNA

Myanmar citizens working abroad to have chance to remit their income to homeland via banks

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan – For Myanmar citizens working abroad to be able to remit money to their families in a secure and speedy way, the Central Bank of Myanmar permitted four private banks licensed to trade in foreign currencies to engage in foreign remittance business on 14 December, 2011.

Permission has been granted for Cooperatives Bank to do foreign remittance business in Singapore, for Kanbawza Bank in Thailand, for Asia Greening Development Bank in Singapore and Malaysia and for Ayeyawady Bank in Malaysia. Thanks to the granting of permission to do foreign remittance activities, there will be benefits such as enabling Myanmar workers in foreign countries to send money to their families legally and securely, knowing the accurate amount of foreign exchange sent by workers and facilitating the calculation of national income. In coordination with the foreign banks concerned, those private banks will start foreign remittance activities in February and March, 2012. — MNA

Workshop on media development kicks off

YANGON, 30 Jan—Opening of media development workshop, jointly organized by Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and Asia Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC) from Singapore, took place at Inya Lake Hotel, here this morning.

It was attended by CEC members of MWJA and

officials from Ministries and media houses, resource persons from home and abroad and guest.

At the ceremony, MWJA secretary U Ko Ko and leader of the AMIC Dr Kalinga delivered speeches.

A total of 11 resource persons— nine from abroad and two from home— will discuss papers on media related laws- responding to internet age, disseminating public information in a democratic society, journalists' perspective on media's role in a democracy and roundtable discussion on media law reforms and social responsibility of the media, till tomorrow.—MNA



Media development workshop of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and Asia Media Information and Communication Centre from Singapore in progress.—MNA

Third regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw...

(from page 16)

According to laws, procedures and rules and regulations, there is no way to set the land under the management of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry as a garden land. But, in order to improve socioeconomic life of locals, it is agreed that naturally grown cardamoms can be stored and grown as agro-forestry or community forestry in accord with laws and procedures. Tax will be collected in accord with prescribed forestry law and regulations.

U Htay Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency No. 12 asked **whether there is a plan to ensure required water supply in Wundwin Township and construct Chaungzon dam (Alaungsihu supporting dam)**. In response, the deputy minister said that 60,000 out of 288,000 acres were set up with irrigated water in Meiktila District. The ministry is taking measures to supply irrigated water to remaining acres and make the region green through four water fetching ways.

First way is to channel water to Meiktila Lake by building supporting dams. Measures to raise water level of spillway of Meiktila Lake up to one foot, water level of spillway of Mondaing embankment up to three feet and digging channel to Meiktila Lake by building supporting dams to benefit about 6000 acres are being made.

Second way is to construct Myogyi dam and Kyaing Kham dam. Myogyi dam has completed by 73% at the end of December 2011 and Kyaing Kham by 13%. On completion of those dams, irrigated water could be supply to 30,000 acres in Meiktila Plain. It is anticipated that 24 mile long channel from Kinta diversion weir to water resource department in Wundwin Township would be constructed. As they are huge projects, they would take time. For short-term convenience for water, a suitable diversion weir (or) a water storage tank would be constructed over Samon Creek near Yozon Village one mile east of the water re-pumping station. Construction work would start in 2011-2012.

Third way is to supply water through underground water tapping system. A total of about 11,000 acres will be able to consume water by digging 800 tube-wells in Meiktila and Thazi townships. Of them, 460 tube-wells had been dug benefiting 6400 acres.

Fourth way is to supply water by maintaining small dams, lakes and channels by Irrigation Department. Maintenance work for 38 out of 50 had been carried out in Meiktila District. Depending on budget, remaining 12 dams and lakes would be maintained. On completion of maintenance of all small dams and small lakes, 29,700 acres could consume irrigated water and there would be about 76,700 acres after completion of Meiktila Plain greening tasks.

Alaungsihu Lake has been located in Wundwin, Meiktila District of Mandalay Region since Myanmar kings. Due to passage of time, the lake could store less and less amount of water. To support the lake, the Irrigation Department made field trip to construct Chaungzon dam above the lake. Now, geological study is being made.

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun replied to question about finance and revenue raised by four Hluttaw representatives.

U Sai Paung Nam of Shan State constituency No 12 asked **whether there is a plan to give one fold of the salary as a financial assistance to a government employee who are serving their duties in far-flung and whether there is a plan to do arrangement to handle the situation of using currencies of neighbouring countries as Myanmar currency.**

The Union Minister replied that former State council's notification No. 22/79 has categorized the townships and has allowed government employees in the designated townships to enjoy the financial assistance.

When salary, pension and wages of the government employees were increased in 1989, in 1993, the amount of financial assistance was also increased. The former Planning and Finance Ministry had allowed the employees in border areas to enjoy the special salary which is equivalent to their salary. The salary of the government employees was increased as from 1, April, 2000, and the employees in border areas have been allowed to enjoy 25% of the salary as a special salary along with their increased salary. When the salary and daily wages of governmental employees were increased on 1 April, 2006, the employees in border areas were allowed only their increased salary and wages.

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Htay Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency No. 12 raising question.
MNA



Today, arrangements are being made to designate the rate of financial assistance to the employees in the border areas as development tasks are being carried out in the areas.

With respect to the use of neighboring currencies like the country's currency and keeping it in hand, the reason is that the country has no foreign currency market development, no relaxation on current-practising Foreign Exchange Law (1947) and less linkage of currency and banking services between the two countries.

The use of foreign currencies and keeping it in hand is illegal. Carrying illegal money in the border areas is money laundering offence, which occurs not only in Myanmar but also bordering countries.

Respective departments are making cooperation with monetary authorities in fight against it.

On 29 September and 24 October 2011, the Central Bank of Myanmar had issued money changer licence to 17 private banks and allowed to open 57 exchange counters in order that they could carry out selling and buying of foreign currencies and Foreign Exchange Currency (FEC) with domestic currency. The Central Bank also has issued authorized dealer licence to 11 private banks on 25 November 2011 and allowed them to offer foreign banking services.

Myanma Economic Bank has signed banking services agreements with Chinese banks so as to make cash payment smoothly with the use of Yuan and banking system in China-Myanmar trans-border trade. The MEB is using bank draft by opening Ywan current account.

An Yuan current account was opened after inking RMB and international cash payment agreement between MEB (Muse branch) and China Construction Bank (Yunnan Branch) to carry out cash payment with yawn for border trade as well as for normal trade and investment.

Myanmar has signed the MoUs on border trade cash payment with banks from Bangladesh and India. After foreign Currency Management Law (new) has been promulgated, opening of currency exchange counters in border areas, foreign currency

account and selling of it can be done. By doing so, use of foreign currencies there becomes legal.

Foreign exchange integration, development of foreign currency market, promulgation of Foreign Currency Management Law (new) and extension of currency and banking services between banks from two countries will be undertaken for legal use of foreign currency and payment for trade.

Regional authorities and departments will fight against Money laundering offence.

After that, U Kyaw Tun Aung of Rakhine State Constituency No.5 raised question on **whether there is any plan to issue note featuring General Aung San's portrait**

Central banks are established across the world so as to smoothly undertake economic and social affairs and international relations and issue coins and notes. The coins and currency notes are negotiable instruments that can be used to exchange with goods and



Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw answers queries.—MNA

much. The income tax law prescribes that one who earns more than K 30,000 a year shall have to pay the income tax. As the price of motorbike is more than K 30,000, buyers have the duty to pay the tax as they earn more than the limited income.

For the convenience of tax payers, they need to pay only 15% of half of their price of motorcycles. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has enacted the law amending the income tax law. It is also taking measures for issuing and amending rules, regulations and orders suitable to that law. After that, taxes for registering and licensing motorcycles and three-wheeled vehicles will be eased and fees can be paid at a reasonable rate.

Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No.8 asked **whether there is a plan to facilitate the remittance of income of Myanmar workers in foreign countries.** The Union Minister replied that according to the data of Directorate of Labour, from 1999 to 2011, 585920 Myanmar workers were legally sent to foreign countries. But according to the data of Myanmar embassies in those foreign countries, there are about one million.

Regarding the issue of emigrant workers, international employment supervisory committee with the Union Minister for Labour as chairman has been formed together with three supporting committees. Out of them, one of the five tasks of the committee for ensuring labour benefits is to ensure smooth and speedy remittance of money of Myanmar citizens working abroad.

The Central Bank of Myanmar has issued money changer licence to 17 private banks and opened 57 money changer counters. In addition, authorized dealer licence was granted to 11 domestic private banks on 25-11-2010.

For ensuring secure and speedy remittance money of Myanmar workers in foreign countries, the Central Bank has granted permission for Cooperatives Bank to do foreign remittance business in Singapore, for Kanbawza Bank in Thailand, for Asia Greening Development Bank in Singapore and Malaysia and for Ayeyawady Bank in Malaysia beginning 14-11-2011.

Those private banks will remit money to state-owned banks through contact banks in foreign countries and then to private banks. Remittances will be made according to current rate. On completion of SWIFT communication system, those remittances can be made to private banks (head offices) via contact banks. Those four private banks are scheduled to start remittance activities in February and March this year.

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Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Kayin State Constituency No. 5 raising question.
MNA



currency.

Countries change issue of currency notes based on conditions and time.

In Myanmar, after gaining independence, notes for K1, K5, K10 and K 100 were issued.

After the CBM took over duties of The Union Bank of Myanmar, the CBM printed General Aung San's figure on the notes.

The Union Bank of Burma issued notes featuring General Aung San dressed in military uniform and a picture of a fisherman, a farmer and cow, a woman picking cotton, cultivation.

The Union of Burma Bank issued notes featuring General Aung San along with pictures of a fisherman, cultivation, dancer, Thakshin Pho Hla Gyi, Sayasan, harp.

In 1-3-1990, the CBM issued notes for K1, featuring General Aung San dressed in BDA uniform. After that, notes featuring harps, lion, water fountain, lacquer, boat racing, cane ball playing, central bank of Myanmar.

200-kyat notes, 500-kyat notes and 1000-kyat notes issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar on 11-10-2004 feature a Myanmar artistic Ketharaza Lion, an elephant drawing timber logs, casting of bronze Maha Bandoola Statue and the building of the Central Bank of Myanmar. 5000-kyat notes issued on 1-10-2009 also features a white elephant and the building of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as the white elephant is a symbol of dignity, prosperity and vast sovereign power of the State. Therefore, if there is a plan to issue more new banks notes, as mentioned earlier, things suitable to the time and circumstances will be printed on them.

Asking about **any plan to relax tax and charge at a reasonable price in registering and getting licenses for motor cycles and three-wheeled vehicles** by U Sai Tin Aung of Kachin State Constituency No. 5, the Union Minister said Section 389 of the constitution states that every citizen has the duty to pay taxes to be levied according to the law. If motor cycles and three-wheeled vehicles are imported with legal permit and license, it is necessary to pay 5% tax and 25 % trade revenue have to be paid. If those things are illegally imported, 10% to 20% of imposed tax will have to be fined in accord with the 1974 export/import product supervision (temporary) act. This is why expenses are too

Third regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw...

(from page 8)

U Nyan Lin of Shan State Constituency No. 1 asked whether there is any plan to issue GAP organic certificates with standards of international fruit and vegetable market to domestic farmers in order to ensure competitive sales of quality fruits and vegetables produced from Myanmar and to exempt the farmers from paying tax for their products. Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint said measures are being taken for farmers, merchants and companies to get right price and market by establishing fruit and vegetable brokerage in Muse 105th mile trade zone in Shan State. A ton of watermelon was worth about 200 dollars last year and it has increased to about 400 dollars this year. Moreover, according to CAFTA programme, country of origin certificate (Form-E) has been issued beginning January 2010 and farmers are enjoying open sales getting exemption from paying taxes in China.

Country of Origin Certificate (Form-D) is being issued under Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) if they are going to be exported to Thailand.

Measures taken in growing, harvesting, packaging and transporting for reducing or preventing dangers are called Good Agriculture Practices (GAP).

Many countries are adopting GAP system. Myanmar needs to draw internationally recognized GAP Guideline to issue certificates for production of vegetables and fruits. Based on ASEAN GAP Guideline, the draft is completed. If approved, GAP certificates will be issued. Myanmar fruits and vegetables growers and exporters association and FAO jointly conducted five training courses on GAP, Organic Farming and Post-Harvest Technologies each in Shan State (North), Mandalay, Yangon and Bago Regions. The training course will continue to be conducted.

To produce organic products, the inputs must be organic. Companies selling organic fertilizers need to register as organic company. Organic certificates for two fertilizer companies and seven fruits companies have been issued.

Organic certificates for vegetables and rice produced from Nay Pyi Taw Special Agricultural Zone will soon be issued. To be recognized as an organic farm, the farm will be checked for three years in a row. Conversion certificate will be issued after first year's check.

Even when the organic certificate is issued after three years of monitoring, the farm will undergo regular checks yearly. As Myanmar's soils are organic in nature and unspoiled, there are great possibilities to produce organic fruits. Before the farm is recognized as organic farm, the fruits could be exported to the other countries, based on Conversion Certificate.

As experienced growers, knowledgeable persons and scholars lead Myanmar's organic group and entrepreneurs cast their eyes to organic fruits production, Myanmar has prospects in producing organic fruits that equaled with that of the neighbouring countries in quality.

No (15) of non-tariff goods in supplementary table (1) of Tariff Law covers all fruits and tariff on export earnings for the fruits is imposed.

The government has reduced tariff to five per cent from 10 per cent—eight per cent tariff and two per cent income tax—for the good of exporters. In border trade in China, India and Thai border areas, the tariff has been reduced to five per cent from eight per cent collected if the product is sold in kyat.

The ministry will accept proposal of the association to collect no tariff on fruits produced by rural farmers and exported to China as in agricultural and marine products, except two per cent income tax.

Hluttaw representatives U Boe Yal of Kayah State Constituency No. 3, U Aung Chit Lwin of Sagaing Region Constituency No. 11 and U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No. 6 discussed proposal submitted by U Tin Maung Win of Mandalay Region Constituency No. 3, saying, **"the Union government is urged to relax rules of granting admissions by age limit to teacher training school as graduate general workers employed by the Ministry of Education will enjoy better life if they are allowed to join the schools and promoted to primary teachers."** They discussed: school general workers in rural areas assume responsibility of both the office and teaching, if necessary. The age limit for general workers and other ranks who are graduates should be reduced. As there is no sufficient workforce of teachers and they have less chance of promotion, they should be allowed to join the school by reasonable age limit.

Regarding the proposal, Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu discussed: there are 41272 basic education schools in Myanmar and 42000 general workers or other staff at the same pay scale. A total of 40000 trainees are admitted to diploma in teaching education

courses (DTEC) conducted in Education Colleges. Twenty five per cent of them are government staff. Age limit for non-staff graduate is 25 years and that for graduate staff is 32 years. The staff must be in service for two years. Graduate permanent staff who are under 35, in service for two years, fit and interested in sports will be promoted to junior assistant teachers (physical) as of 2012-2013 academic year. The eligible workforce is 1056.

Graduate permanent staff who are under 40 and in service for five years will be promoted to primary assistant teachers if they proposed to serve in any region and will have to take correspondent primary teaching course in the year they are appointed. So, efforts will be taken for assigning general workers as primary assistant teachers.

Then, the Hluttaw agreed to take back the approval of Hluttaw Representative U Tin Maung Win.

The proposal of Dr Myint Kyi from Yangon Region Constituency No. 8 "urging the government to review Myanmar education system" was in agreement of Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 6, U Sai Thant Zin of Shan State Constituency No. 4, U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency No. 3, U Htay Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency No. 12, U Win Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency No. 2, U Tun Kyaw of Shan State Constituency No. 10, U San Pyae of Kachin State Constituency No. 7, U Than Swe of Thaninthayi Region Constituency No. 2, U Zon Hlan Htan of Chin State Constituency No. 2 and Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 4, with the remarks on being able to emerge qualified human resources by examining the education system, and considering that the education system is a root of all development of a country, especially, in political and financial matters.

Concerning with the proposal, Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu spoke that the education ministry annually holds meetings of the board of subject teachers on promoting not only the course books at international level but also teaching.

As some universities in Myanmar are among ASEAN Universities Network (AUN), the universities lay out the laws in line with theirs. The universities are scrutinized only for the policy to get freely contact to the international universities.

In doing research tasks in Ph. D Thesis and other major fields, it is allowed that the new research could be used in practical field after making a thesis.

The education ministry has sent 108 doctorates, 96 MA degree holders, 148 researchers, 806 trainees, 503 study tours, 898 attendees to meetings, totaling 2586 scholars, to foreign countries.

In basic education sector, teachers are nurturing students with a hand of their parents.

The Hluttaw approved that proposal. The Hluttaw agreed the proposal of Yangon Region Constituency No. 8 Dr Myint Kyi "urging the government to be of assistance farmers in production of paddy higher and higher, and in getting earnings more and more" to be discussed.

The Hluttaw agreed the proposal of Mon State Constituency No. 12 U Zaw Naing Oo "pushing the government for helping the villagers who live in the village near the violet regions as possible" to be discussed.

On behalf of the finance and legal affairs commission, Major Maung Maung Gyi, a member of the commission, submitted reports as **proposals on implementing the laws related to intellectual property and on becoming a party to the 1958 Convention of the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral and on enacting the law on enforcement of the Foreign Arbitral.** The Hluttaw agreed to discuss the proposals.

U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No. 6 submitted a proposal on condolence of the demise of Dr. Bo Gyi (a) U Aung Ngwe of Sagaing Region Constituency No. 2. The Hluttaw announced that the proposal and the discussion by the representatives would be put on record and would send it to the hierarchy of the late Hluttaw representative.

The representatives of Amyotha Hluttaw observed a two-minute silence in honour of the late Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Bo Gyi (a) U Aung Ngwe for his dutiful efforts for the State and people from the time he served his duty as a representative of the Amyotha Hluttaw to his last day.

Afterwards, the Hluttaw agreed to donate per diem of representatives to the family of a representative when the representative passed away.

Afterwards, the third day of the third regular meeting of the first Amyotha Hluttaw ended 5.35 pm.

During today's meeting, the message sent by the President was put on record, the questions were replied by respective union ministers, two proposals were discussed, one proposal was withdrawn, one proposal was approved and five proposals were submitted.—MNA

Mine blasts while planting, leaving two insurgents dead, engine derailed Explosives seized from insurgent's wife

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan—The engine of a local train derailed in Kachin State as a mine planted under rail tracks by KIA insurgents was blasted yesterday.

When the passenger down train No. 40 enroute from Mohnyin to Shwebo was running between Mawhan Village station in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, and Nantsiaung Station in Indaw Township, Sagaing Region, the mine went off while it was being planted between the mile post No. 614-3 and -4, taking the rails off the joints, leaving the engine derailed and blocking the Myitkyina-Mandalay rail service.

The body of Bransai, 36, son of U Day Htan, killed by the blast was found along with an identity card for Immanuel Church and K12000.

In connection with the blast, a combined squad comprising local security forces,

Myanmar Police Force and authority of Mohnyin Myoma Ward searched the bedroom of Bransai's wife Ma Sarah Jar Hpan (a) Ma Jar Hpan, daughter of Reverend James layaw residing in the church compound, and seized a pack of gunpowder measuring eight inches long, eight inches wide and six inches high, six small batteries and three circuits, about 50 feet long copper wire, an ordinary class ticket for Bransai for the No. 56 Mohnyin-Indaw Down Express Train, a dry-cell for Kenwood mobile phone, one battery pad, an identity card showing the name of Bransai and a Men's Association card for Myitkyina Diocese, one DIESEL brand back sack and one reddish-brown leather holster for carrying a belt.

The squad also found a body without head in a dress pattern in the tree which is 15 feet high and 50 feet east of the blast. They

Dy Construction Minister meets staff from Public Works of Shan State

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan—Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint met with staff from Public Works of Shan State at State superintending engineer of Shan State Public Work yesterday morning. At the meeting, he urged them to serve duties in unison, carry out financial matters in line with regulations and to give promotion to dutiful staff.

He also inspected roads and bridges in Taunggyi District in Shan State (South).

MNA

also discovered food, litters, water bottles and one hand-set and a 450 CDMA SIM card inside it, and are trying to identify the body.

The squad is investigating the case. Myanmar Railways has already repaired the damaged rail road and train services have returned to normal.—MNA

UMFCCI President meets Japanese delegation members of Mitsubishi Corporation

YANGON, 30 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung and Vice-Presidents received a four-member delegation led by Mr. Morikazu Chokki, Senior Vice President, Division Co., ISUZU Business Team of Mitsubishi Corporation, Japan at UMFCCI here on 27 January.

The meeting concentrated on matters relating to promotion of investments in Myanmar than before.—MNA

**Take Fire
Preventive
Measures**

Hluttaw candidates to be scrutinized in accord with law

1. Union Election Commission has announced with Notification No.62/2011 that Nay Pyi Taw Sub-commission and District Sub-commissions concerned will scrutinize Hluttaw candidates from respective constituencies nominated to run for by-election to be held in 1 April, 2012, in accord with Hluttaw Election Law Section 24 from 6-2-2012 to 10-2-2012.
2. When taking scrutiny measures in accord with Section 24, the following persons are allowed to come to the place, date and time as prescribed in accordance with Rule 26.
 - (a) Hluttaw candidates concerned
 - (b) Election representatives concerned
 - (c) Those authorized by Hluttaw candidates concerned with endorsement
 - (d) Those entrusted with responsibility to help Nay Pyi Taw Sub-commission, Self-Administered Region/Area Sub-commission or District Sub-commission by those sub-commissions
 - (e) Eligible voters
3. It is hereby announced that during the scrutinization of Hluttaw candidates, those who have been nominated as candidates of Hluttaws concerned in accord with Section 25(a), are allowed to submit their documents as they wish.

Union Election Commission

Public Announcement by Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications

(29th January, 2012)

1. Myanmar Post and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs is reducing initial installation fees step by step for enabling the people to contact each other by phone at low cost as it is responsible for provide efficient communication services to the State and people. It reduced the price of a mobile phone from K 1.5 million to K 0.5 million and worked in cooperation with private companies to help the people buy and use mobile phones at any place or time. The installation charge of auto telephones was reduced and could be paid in instalments as of May 2011 though it was once K 1 million.
2. Furthermore, MPT is working in cooperating with 23 private companies in accordance with existing laws for GSM/UMTS phone line extension project to make mobiles available at low price in both rural and urban areas for socio-economic development of the people. It has planned to reduce mobile phone installation fee as it is in neighbouring countries during the project period of five years.
3. MPT has to build radio stations on chosen lands for enabling to use a mobile phone, install sufficient machines, construct communication routes for local, long-distance and trunk calls for a long time, build high-tech billing systems to collect charges through prepaid, postpaid and online systems, and extend International Gateways and Internet Gateways for allowing phones to be extended and existing mobile phones and auto phones to switch on.
4. Now, local journals are reporting that a phone could be used at the initial installation fee of K 5000 starting in March and June. A journal even writes the company will erect 2800 cellphone towers. **The public is informed that telephone at the price of K 5000 is absolutely impossible in the time being as it takes a considerable time to establish a communication network thoroughly and the proposal is not in accordance with the existing laws in the light of analysis of MPT's chief engineers and experienced technicians.**

Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications
Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs

Hluttaw candidates to exactly follow directives and notifications of UEC in canvassing for votes

1. Election Sub-commissions concerned will scrutinize and approve Hluttaw candidates nominated to run for by-election to be held in 1 April, 2012, from 6-2-2012 to 10-2-2012.
2. The approved Hluttaw candidates representing political parties and independent Hluttaw candidates will soon give public talks on their policy, stances and work programmes and canvass for votes so that they can win the by-election.
3. Union Election Commission has announced the procedures and rules on the rights for Hluttaw candidates to assemble and canvass with Notification No.91.2010 dated 18-8-2010.
4. The notification states that assembling and giving talks at the party headquarters and branches shall be reported in advance to the sub-commissions concerned and there is no need to apply for the permission. However, if candidates wish to assemble and give talks at their designated places, they are to apply to the sub-commission concerned seven days ahead and they will be allowed to do so only after permission has been granted.
5. If they apply for permission to the sub-commission concerned in accord with the said notification (directive) and act in line with the permission, organizations concerned will coordinate and render necessary assistance.
6. A public notice has therefore been issued that Hluttaw candidates representing political parties and independent Hluttaw candidates are to assemble and canvass for votes by exactly following the Notification No.91/2010 issued by the Union Election Commission.

Union Election Commission

Imported gas pipes delivered to worksites

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan—Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy is engaging in the drive for maintenance of laying pipeline. As imported P E coated pipes are now on arrival by water, arrangements for transport of them to worksites are being

made.

Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay inspected stockpile of pipes in Thakayta offshore oilfield yesterday and also loading them onto vehicles and cargo train.

MNA

Festival of Mann Shwe Settaw Buddha's Sacred Footprint opened

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan—Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe and wife Daw San San Myint attended opening of Festival of Mann Shwe Settaw Buddha's Sacred Footprint in Minbu (Saku) Township on 28 January.

Region Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Paññisara, Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Arnt Zaw and Deputy Commissioner of Minbu District U Khin Maung Myint formally opened the feast

and the chief minister unveiled the arch.

Sayadaws and members of Sangha consecrated upper and lower footprints of Lord Buddha.

The chief minister and wife, and officials offered alms and provisions to the Sayadaws and members of Sangha.

The festival is annually held from fifth Waxing of Tabodwe to Myanmar New Year for 81 days. The region government and Pagoda Board of Trustees have made arrangements to host pilgrimages.—MNA

London celebrates Year of the Dragon



Performers make their way through central London as they take part in Chinese New Year celebrations. Thousands of people packed into London's Trafalgar Square to celebrate Chinese New Year, with pyrotechnics and dancers in dragon costumes entertaining the crowds.—INTERNET

LONDON, 30 Jan—Thousands of people packed into London's Trafalgar Square on Sunday to celebrate Chinese New Year, with pyrotechnics and dancers in dragon costumes entertaining the crowds.

London Mayor Boris Johnson said the big turnout "shows the way the world economy is going", as people braced the chilly weather to see performers parade through the city and sample Chinese food. Trafalgar Square is around the corner from London's Chinatown District.

The festivities to welcome in the Year of the Dragon, which officially

started on 23 January, included a dramatic firecracker display and performers from Britain and China, while acrobats dressed in elaborate dragon outfits leapt from podiums to a backdrop of heavy percussion.

"It's an amazing occasion and we've never seen a crowd quite as big as this in all the years that we've been doing it. I think it shows the way the world economy is going," Johnson said at the event. "London is a global city; you've got more Chinese students here in London contributing to the London economy than any other city in the world and I think they love it because it's a safe city."

Internet

Turkish Interior Minister cancels trip to anti-terror meeting in Baghdad

ANKARA, 30 Jan—Turkey's Interior Minister Idris Naim Sahin has cancelled his trip to Baghdad where he was set to hold an anti-terror meeting with officials from Iraq and the United States, the *Turkish Milliyet* daily reported on Sunday.

Sahin cancelled the trip despite the trilateral initiative would be key to curb the activities of the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), who often launches attacks on security forces and civilians from their bases along the Turkish-Iraqi border. Turkey makes extensive use of intelligence gathered by the United States in its surveillance on the Iraqi borders to fight the PKK.

The trilateral meeting, aimed at combating terrorism in the region, was initiated after tensions arose between the two neighbours when Iraq accused Turkey of interfering with its domestic politics.

Earlier, Turkey urged Iraq's Sunni and Kurdish blocs to make efforts toward reconciliation. Also, Turkish officials have reportedly called Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki "a thorn in Iraq's politics. What is really at stake are the ongoing Iraqi-Turkish efforts to open up three new border crossings as well as ties between Ankara and Baghdad which are in some jeopardy, *Milliyet* said.—Xinhua

London Olympic chiefs free up 120,000 hotel rooms



The skyline of the City of London. The 2012 Olympics organizers have released more than 120,000 hotel room nights back onto the open market.—INTERNET

LONDON, 30 Jan—London 2012 Olympics organizers have released more than 120,000 hotel room nights back onto the open market, they announced.

They confirmed that some 20 percent of the room nights they had reserved in London would be returned to hotels to offer up to other customers.

The spaces had been reserved to provide accommodation for media,

global sport federations, the International Olympic Committee, Games workers and sponsors. The rooms at more than 200 hotels, range from five-star to budget accommodation.

Hundreds of thousands of visitors are expected to flock to London for the 27 July to 12 August Games, whether ticket holders or not.

As part of the bid to stage the 2012 Olympics, agreements had been struck

with hotels to provide more than 40,000 rooms, representing more than 600,000 room nights during the period.

But part of the deal was that the organizers promised to return any unwanted rooms to the hotels so they could sell them in time for the Games.

"The hotel industry in London got behind the bid to stage the Games in the most extraordinary way and that support helped us across the line," London Olympics chief executive Paul Deighton said. "We always promised that we would not hold on to hotel rooms we didn't need but return them to the individual hotels at the beginning of 2012."

"We are now doing this and I hope that this enables the hotels to continue with their planning for this summer as we all work together to stage a spectacular Games."

Internet

Japan's population to shrink two thirds by 2110

TOKYO, 30 Jan—Japan's population is expected to shrink to a third of its current size over the next century, with the average woman living to over 90 within 50 years, according to a government report.

The population is forecast to decline from the current 127.7 million to 86.7 million by 2060 and to tumble again to 42.9 million by 2110 "if conditions remain unchanged", the health and welfare ministry said in the report. The projections by the ministry's National Institute of Population and Social Security Research forecast that Japanese women would on average have just 1.35 babies, well below the replacement rate, within 50 years.

The report said that last year's earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan, which left more than 19,000 people dead or missing, hit average life expectancy but that the figure was expected to continue its upward trend.

Japan's life expectancy — one of the highest in the world — is expected to rise from 86.39 years in 2010 to 90.93 years in 2060 for women and from 79.64 years to 84.19 years for men.

Japan's population has been declining as many young people have put off starting families, seeing it as a burden on their lifestyles and careers. A slow economy has also discouraged young people from having babies.—Internet



This file photo shows elderly people working out with wooden dumbbells at the grounds of a temple in Tokyo.

Japan's population is expected to shrink to a third of its current size over the next century, with the average woman living to over 90 within 50 years, according to a government report.

INTERNET

Up to 10 months to remove capsized cruise ship

GIGLIO (Italy), 30 Jan—The cruise ship that capsized off Italy's coast will take up to 10 months to remove, officials said Sunday, as rough seas off the Tuscan coast forced the suspension of recovery operations. Officials called off both the start of operations to remove of 500,000 gallons of fuel and the search for people still missing after determining the Costa Concordia had moved four centimeters (an inch and a half) over six hours, coupled with waves of more than one meter (three feet).

A 17th body, identified as Peruvian crew member Erika Soria Molina, was found Saturday. Sixteen crew and passengers remain listed as missing, with one body recovered from the ship not yet identified.

Officials have virtually ruled out finding anyone alive more than two weeks after the Costa Concordia hit a reef, but were reluctant to give a final death toll for the 13 Jan disaster. The crash happened when the captain deviated from his planned route, creating a huge gash

that capsized the ship. More than 4,200 people were on board. "Our first goal was to find people alive," Franco Gabrielli, the national civil protection official in charge of the operation, told a daily briefing. "Now we have a single, big goal, and that is that this does not translate into an environmental disaster."

University of Florence professor Riccardo Fanti said the ship's movements could either be caused by the ship settling on its own weight, slipping deeper into the seabed, or both. He also could not rule out the ship's sliding along the seabed. Gabrielli noted that the body of a man recovered from the ship remains unidentified, despite efforts to obtain DNA samples from all of the missing, meaning that officials cannot preclude that the deceased is someone unknown to authorities. Costa has said that it runs strict procedures that would preclude the presence of any unregistered passengers.

Internet



View of the bow of the grounded cruise ship Costa Concordia off the Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy, on 27 Jan, 2012.

INTERNET

Indonesia's big chains to build at least 60 hotels this year

JAKARTA, 30 Jan—More than 60 hotels, ranging from budget class to charm and luxury boutiques, will be built across Indonesia in 2012, as hotel chains gear up to benefit from the surge in the number of business and leisure travelers, the *Jakarta Post* daily reported Monday.

Major local hotel chain Santika Group, owned by media kingpin Kompas

Gramedia, for instance, will open more than 20 hotels this year. "The budget hotel business is booming now because for the past few years people have been traveling a lot, especially for business purposes."

The convenience of the bed and breakfast concept is perfect for them," Santika Group corporate public relations manager Vivi

Herlambang told the daily.

Another strong player in the country, Aston International, is going to open 23 hotels ranging from the two-star hotels to five-star resorts nationwide, corporate marketing communications manager Febri Anindita said.

"Some 15 of 23 hotels that we are going to open are suitable for budget travelers,"

Anindita told the daily. New player Tauzia Hotel Management, which was established in 2001, is going to open 12 new hotels under the brand Harris and POP!

The number of foreign tourists visiting Indonesia has continued to increase over the past several years due to a surge of visitors from China and other Asian countries.

Xinhua

Bangladesh, India ink power plant deal

DHAKA, 30 Jan—Bangladesh's Power Development Board (PDB) on Sunday signed a deal with India's National Thermal Power Company for the construction of a power plant with production capacity of 1,320 megawatts.

ASM Alamgir Kabir, chairman of Bangladesh's state-run PDB, and Arup Roy Chowdhury, chairman of India's state-owned NTPC, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides in Dhaka.

The PDB chairman said both countries will have equal partnership in the power production plant, which is to

be constructed by 2015 in Bangladesh's Bagerhat District, some 178 south of Capital Dhaka.

The partnership deal comes as part of the Bangladeshi government's efforts to boost power generation to 15,000 megawatts by 2016 to improve the country's nagging electricity situation.

According to a statement issued by Asian Development Bank last year, inadequate natural gas supplies and lack of diverse power sources have left the South Asian country with a large gap between electricity supply and demand, estimated at over 1,200 megawatts a day for 2011.

Bangladesh currently faces acute gas shortages, with production at around 2,000 mmcf from 23 gas fields per day against demand of more than 2,600 mmcf a day.

Xinhua



Thailand's Don Mueang Airport to resume operation in early March

BANGKOK, 30 Jan—Thailand's second biggest airport, Don Mueang, will reopen for commercial flights on 6 March, Airports of Thailand (AOT) President Anirut Thanomkulbut said on Monday, English website *Bangkok Post* reported.

The airport was closed late last October when flood water encroached into its building and runways and services of some budget airlines moved to Suvarnabhumi International Airport.

Nok Air, a low-cost airline, has confirmed the resumption of its full operations at Don Mueang airport while Orient Thai, another low-cost airline, has yet to make a decision whether to return, Anirut added.

However, only the eastern runway will be opened for services, said the AOT president. In April, Suvarnabhumi airport will repair the eastern runway, covering an area of 1,620 square metres, with a budget of about 150 million baht (4.8 million US dollars); the routine major repair after five years in use.—Xinhua

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Civil Service Board
Vacancy Announcement
Announcement No. 2 / 2012
1st Waxing of Tabodwe 1373 ME
(24 January 2012)

1. The Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information has issued an announcement of vacancies for the following position-

Position	Vacancy	Educational Qualification
Editor (Male)	2	M . A / M.Sc
(Female)	2	

2. The applicants -
 (a) must be citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
 (b) must not be over 35 years of age (40 years if service personnel) on 13 February 2012.
 (c) must be in good health , must be physically fit and possess well intact limbs.

3. Applications must be sent to Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board, Nay Pyi Taw in person, or by expedited Mail Service, or by registered letter not later than 13 February 2012.

4. With regards to filling in the application form, documents to be attached, mode of payment of Ks.500/ for examination fee, subjects to be studied for written examinations and personal interview, candidates applying for the vacant positions will have to follow the instructions manifested in the Guide Booklet published under Letter No. 1/ Selection (Main)/ 2012, dated 2 January 2012.

5. **For service personnel**, his or her original application altogether with the recommendation of the ministry concerned and a passport photo of the applicant must be sent to Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board in Nay Pyi Taw through the Head of Department by 13 February 2012. An extra copy of the application together with photo must also be attached.

6. Written examinations will be held in **Nay Pyi Taw**. Candidates will be examined in Myanmar and General Knowledge examination papers on 10 March 2012 (Saturday) and English examination Paper on 11 March 2012 (Sunday).

7. Identity cards for candidates sitting for the examination will be issued at Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board in Nay Pyi Taw commencing 8 March 2012.

8. The Ministry of Information has prescribed specific rules and regulations for successful candidates in discharge of their duties. In this context candidates wishing to obtain further information may contact in person or by phone to Office No.(7) of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw (Tel: 067 - 412205, 067 - 412203).

9. For more information, applicants may contact Office No . (17) of the Union Civil Service Board in person or by phone (067 - 409052, 067 - 409430).

10. This announcement and the guide booklet for applicants may be browsed on Websites: ucsb.imis.com.mm and www.ucsb.gov.mm.

INVITATION TO TENDER TENDER NO(6) (ES) A.M.D (2011-2012)

1. Sealed Tender are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, for the supply of the following stores (in Myanmar Kyats.)
- | LOT: No | Description | Quantity |
|---------|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1. | JD-2300 Tractor Spare Parts | 32 Items |
| 2. | JD-2800 Tractor Spare Parts | 30 Items |
| 3. | MF-275 Tractor Spare Parts | 37 Items |
2. Tender Closing date: 6-2-2012, 12:00 hrs
3. Tender documents are available at Equipment & Stores Branch of Agricultural Mechanization Department (Head Office), AMD office No. 50, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours from (30-1-2012). Only Tenders Purchased from AMD will be accepted.
4. For more details, Contact; 067-431243

Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department

RBS bank boss turns down disputed bonus

EDINBURGH, 30 Jan—The chief executive of state-rescued Royal Bank of Scotland has turned down his hotly-disputed bonus of shares worth close to £1 million, RBS said Monday, amid a row over executive pay.

Stephen Hester was due to receive a £963,000 (\$1.5 million, 1.15 million euro) bonus this year on top of his £1.2 million salary, the bank had said Thursday.

That announcement—amid government calls for pay restraint during the continuing economic gloom—sparked outrage from trade unions and the Labour Party.

But the bank said Hester would not be taking the shares after all. "I can confirm that

he has decided not to accept the bonus," an RBS spokesman told AFP. The fact that the sum was less than half the £2 million Hester was given a year earlier had failed to dent the criticism. Taxpayers own 82 percent of RBS since it was bailed out at the height of the global financial crisis in 2008. Since then, it has slashed tens of thousands of jobs. Hester's move was welcomed by finance minister George Osborne.

"This is a sensible and welcome decision that enables Stephen Hester to focus on the very important job he has got to do, namely to get back billions of pounds of taxpayers' money that was put into RBS," the chancellor said.

Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (429)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (429) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CHANG CHUAN VOY NO (166)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CHANG CHUAN VOY NO (166) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-6 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ORIENTAL DESIRE VOY NO (017)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORIENTAL DESIRE VOY NO (017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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: SONG WON ENTERPRISE PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914



People degust bread during the Fine Food Days Linz in Linz, capital of Osterreich, Austria, on 28 Jan, 2012. XINHUA

Asia stocks fall as US economic growth falls short

BANGKOK, 30 Jan—Asian stock markets fell Monday, with slower-than-expected growth in the US and uncertainty about a tentative deal to resolve Greece's debt crisis weighing on investor sentiment.

Benchmark oil slipped to near \$99 per barrel while the dollar rose against the euro but fell against the yen.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index shed 0.6 percent to 8,789.04. South Korea's Kospi was 1.3 percent lower at 1,939.90 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 0.5 percent to 20,401.32. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 0.4 percent at 4,272.70. Benchmarks in Singapore, Indonesia, India and the Philippines also fell. Shares in mainland China were mixed after being closed for a week for Chinese New Year holidays. Taipei and New Zealand rose.

European leaders were to meet later Monday in Brussels to discuss austerity and belt-tightening measures as well as a tentative deal reached Saturday between Greece and its private investors that could avert a disastrous Greek default on its debt.—Internet



People perform Chinese dragon dance during the Chinese Spring Festival celebration in Hague, the Netherlands, on 28 Jan, 2012. XINHUA

Woman: Rules left her stuck in elevator

Company officials disputed a woman's claim she was stuck in a British supermarket elevator while waiting for a trained technician to arrive and press a button. Janice Woodward, 55, of Dorset says she and her 2-year-old granddaughter were trapped in the elevator for well over an hour because store employees said they

were not authorized to push the button that would have freed them.

"I was in there for an hour and 15 minutes and I had visions of being in there forever," Woodward told *The Sunday Star*. "When the technician got there he just touched the control button and the lift moved."

Woodward said she rang

for help but the workers at the Asda store in Weymouth said they were prohibited by safety regulations from pushing the button that would have released the stalled elevator car. An Asda spokeswoman said the technician actually arrived within 20 minutes and needed another 30 minutes to work on the machinery before the button could be pushed.



Fascinating underwater world

Waterless school bathroom springs leaks

Officials say they have started repairs on the waterless urinals at a Florida high school after they began springing leaks of liquids that were not water.

Students and staff at Spanish River High in Boca Raton have been dealing with rivers of urine flowing across restroom floors from holes in corroded pipes.

"It was seeping through the hallway into the classroom next door," student Caleb Rader, 15, told the *South Florida Sun Sentinel*. "Pretty disgusting."

Palm Beach County school officials said the problem was caused by corrosive gases created by urine that have eaten away the copper plumbing over the years. The lack of water in the waterless systems means the urine isn't flushed away, allowing the fumes to build up in the system.

The result has been leaks inside the walls at Spanish River High and trickles appearing in the most inconvenient places.

Palm Beach County is negotiating with the vendor on the cost of the repairs at a total of four schools, which will run about \$500,000.

News Album



Can you be lazier?

Elderly couple have oldest toaster in UK

An elderly couple say their 58-year-old toaster, which they still use, is the oldest in Britain.

Joan and Fred Horley got their chrome-plated Morphy Richards toaster as a wedding gift in 1953, *the Mirror* reported.

The toaster, which cost \$31 then, is believed to be the oldest working model in Britain.

"It's still as good as new," Fred Horley, 80, told *the Mirror*.

Eatery bids goodbye to 2-foot hot dog

Connecticut restaurant Doogie's said its famous 2-foot hot dog will soon be a thing of the past after its manufacturer closes down.

R Elliot Aronheim, co-owner of the Newington restaurant, said he received a call last week from Michael Greiner, president of the Grote & Weigel plant in Bloomfield, saying the plant would be closing down

after 122 years, leaving the restaurant without a supplier for the 2-foot wieners, *The Hartford Courant* reported Friday.

"It's a major issue for us. We've been with Grote & Weigel forever, since we started doing this," Aronheim said.

Aronheim said he has contacted other meatpackers to replace the items on the menus for Doogie's and his Clam Digger franchises in Waterbury, Bristol and Manchester, but he has not yet found a supplier of 24-inch frankfurters, which were once featured on the Travel Channel's "Man vs Food."

Heard and seen backstage and on red carpet at SAG

LOS ANGELES, 30 Jan—It was admiration at first sight when Viola Davis and Cicely Tyson met up on the red carpet at Sunday's Screen Actors Guild Awards, with Tyson approaching Davis from behind as she was being interviewed.

"I said, 'That's my Viola.' I could tell her from the back," Tyson said after "The Help" co-stars embraced and posed for photos together. Tyson said she was pleasantly surprised by the reaction she got to her small role in "The Help." "I did not expect this reaction my character would have that put it, for me, on a whole other level," the 78-year-old former Oscar nominee said. *Internet*



Octavia Spencer, left, and Viola Davis pose backstage with the award for outstanding performance by a cast in a motion picture for "The Help," at the 18th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards on 29 Jan, 2012 in Los Angeles.—INTERNET

Mary Tyler Moore honoured for lifetime achievement

LOS ANGELES, 30 Jan—Mary Tyler Moore made it after all.

The 75-year-old actress, who as Mary Richards "turned the world on with her smile" in her groundbreaking 1970s sitcom "The



Actress Mary Tyler Moore poses backstage after accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award from presenter Dick Van Dyke at the 18th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles, California on 29 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Mary Tyler Moore Show," received the lifetime achievement award at Sunday night's 18th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards.

"MTM. There's probably not a person in the civilized world who doesn't know what that means," said Dick Van Dyke, her former co-star in the equally appealing 1960s sitcom "The Dick Van Dyke show," as he introduced her.

He noted Moore's achievements as an Oscar-nominated actress, a dancer and a Hollywood executive whose MTM Enterprises has produced several other hit TV shows. As she accepted her award, Moore revealed how the civilized world almost never did hear of MTM, who was told in the opening theme song of her show each week, "You're gonna make it after all."

When she entered show business at age 18 in 1955, Moore said, there were already six others Mary Moores in the Screen Actors Guild.—*Internet*

"Beasts," "The House I Live In" win top awards at Sundance

PARK CITY, 30 Jan— "Beasts of the Southern Wild" and "The House I Live In" won the top awards at the Sundance Film Festival on Saturday, making them likely favorites for independent movie audiences in 2012. Directed by Benh Zeitlin and set in impoverished Louisiana, "Beasts of the Southern Wild" picked up the jury prize for best drama as well as best cinematography with its poetic tale of the bond between a father and a daughter. The documentary winner, "The House I Live In," was one of many documentaries at Sundance 2012 that looked at a struggling America at Sundance 2012. It is an examination of America's long war on drugs and critiques of US drug policies, its court system, prisons and their impact on minorities. "The war on drugs is a terrible scar on America," said director Eugene Jarecki.

Special juries of industry professionals vote on winners, and those are considered the top prizes but audiences also vote for their favorites. "The Surrogate," which stars



A general view of Main Street during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah on 23 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Helen Hunt and John Hawkes and is about a man's quest to lose his virginity while mostly confined to an iron lung, won the Audience Award for best drama. The film, based on the life of poet and journalist Mark O'Brien, fetched one of the highest selling prices at the festival—a reported \$6 million—and with its mix of comedy and drama could turn out to be one of the bigger US indie hits in cinemas to come out of the festival.—*Reuters*



Cast members Daniel Craig (L) and Rooney Mara arrive for the premiere of the film "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" in New York on 14 Dec, 2011.—INTERNET

Sony cancels India release of 'Girl with the Dragon Tattoo'

LOS ANGELES, 30 Jan—"The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo" will not be hitting theaters in India.

The film was to be released on 10 February, but India's Central Board of Film Certification insisted that several scenes be edited. Director David Fincher refused to cut two love-making scenes and a rape and torture scene from his R-rated adaptation of Stieg Larsson's best-selling book.

Sony acknowledged that it would not be opening the film in India and released a statement, which read in part, "While we are committed to maintaining and protecting the vision of the director, we will, as always, respect the guidelines set by the Board."—*Internet*

Hazanavicius and 'The Artist' scoop top DGA award

PARIS, 30 Jan—French filmmaker Michel Hazanavicius won the top honour Saturday from the Directors Guild of America for "The Artist," an award that has traditionally been a strong indicator of Oscar glory.

Hazanavicius captured the DGA's outstanding achievement in feature film award, beating out competition from Woody Allen and Martin Scorsese for "Midnight in Paris" and "Hugo" respectively, and David Fincher and Alexander Payne for "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" and "The Descendants."

"The Artist" had already



Director Michel Hazanavicius with his DGA award on 28 Jan in Hollywood, California. INTERNET

won the top prize from the Producers Guild of America (PGA) earlier this month—another key pre-Oscar bellwether—and picked up three Golden Globes including best picture on 15 January.—*Internet*

Chelsea's Ramires suffers knee injury blow



Ramires of Chelsea is stretchered off the pitch after sustaining an injury during their FA Cup soccer match against Queens Park Rangers at Loftus Road in London, on 28 Jan, 2012.

INTERNET

LONDON, 30 Jan—Chelsea midfielder Ramires will be out for up to four weeks with a knee injury, the Premier League club said on Sunday.

The Brazilian was injured during his side's FA Cup victory at Queens Park Rangers on Saturday and scans revealed ligament

damage.

"Scans confirm Ramires suffered a medial ligament injury to his right knee in Saturday's game against Queens Park Rangers," the club said on its website (www.chelseafc.com). "He is expected to be out for three to four weeks."—Reuters

LONDON, 30 Jan—Arsene Wenger hopes Arsenal's epic fightback against Aston Villa in the FA Cup fourth round will act as a spark for his team's bid to qualify for the Champions League. Wenger's men were heading for a shock exit at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday after Villa surged into a 2-0 lead by half-time thanks to goals from Richard Dunne and Darren Bent.

But the often frail Gunners finally showed some backbone as three goals in seven second half minutes — two Robin van Persie penalties sandwiching a fortunate Theo Walcott effort — clinched a

Wenger hopes FA Cup fightback will spark Arsenal



Aston Villa's Richard Dunne (R) scores during their English FA Cup match against Arsenal at The Emirates Stadium in London. Arsenal staged a stunning comeback to reach the fifth round as the Gunners recovered from two goals down to snatch a dramatic 3-2 win.—INTERNET

dramatic 3-2 win which booked a fifth round trip to Sunderland or Middlesbrough. Wenger admits morale among his squad has been at a low ebb

after three successive defeats, so this was exactly the kind of spirited effort he was looking for. And the French coach is hopeful this result will make

his players believe they are good enough to overhaul fourth placed Chelsea — who are currently four points clear of Arsenal — and finish in the Premier League's top four.

"I hope it will convince the team we have the qualities needed and we can transfer that to the Premier League," Wenger said.

"When you don't win your belief goes. We lost our last three games in the Premier League so of course your belief is not there, regardless of your history. "I was very impressed with the spirit.

Coming from a bad period of results and being 2-0 down you can feel sorry for yourself, but the players were very positive at half-time.

"They didn't give up. I was very proud. They showed they weren't ready to lie down."—Internet

Malaga take honours in Andalusian derby

MADRID, 30 Jan—Ten-man Malaga beat Sevilla 2-1 on Sunday night in a fiery Andalusian derby to leap above their local rivals into seventh position in La Liga, one point behind a potential place in next season's Europa League.

The Brazilian centre-half Welington and Uruguayan midfielder Seba Fernandez got first-half goals for Malaga either side of an Antonio Luna strike for Sevilla.

Malaga lost Francisco Arlarcon 'Isco' with 12 minutes remaining for a second yellow card after a bad foul on Alvaro Negredo but held out for the win that brought to an end a run of three consecutive league defeats.

Sevilla are now six league games without a win and drop into the bottom half of the league for the first time this season.

Earlier, Valencia substitute Arizt Aduriz came off the bench to score twice and help his

side earn a hard-fought 2-2 draw at Racing Santander.

Santander went ahead in the second minute when Adrian Gonzalez turned home a delightful pass from Pedro Munitis from close range and the home team controlled the first half.

Valencia came into the game more in the second period and Aduriz netted on 66 and 79 minutes with a left-footed shot and a header that gave his side the lead.

However, in a match marred by injuries and cards, Bernardo Espinosa grabbed a leveller for Santander with a header on 88 minutes to set up a grandstand finish.

With seven minutes of injury time, the game descended into chaos as players from both teams clashed and Munitis for Santander and Valencia's Ricardo Costa both received their marching orders.

Internet

I Coast, Angola in top-of-table Africa Cup showdown

MALABO, 30 Jan—The seven goals scored by Ivory Coast and Angola in a previous Africa Cup of Nations encounter is not likely to be repeated when they meet Monday at the Nuevo Estadio de Malabo.

Although blessed with some of the best strikers on the continent in captain Didier Drogba, Chelsea teammate Salomon Kalou and

Gervinho of Arsenal, coach Francois Zahoui says success is far more important than putting on a show.

"My mission is to bring the trophy back to Abidjan," he told reporters in the Equatorial Guinea capital. "I do not care if winning means scoring from a corner in the final minute."

Angola were accused of "anti-football" by opponents



Ivory Coast's national team player Ya Konan Didier (R) vies with Sony Ela n Gueoya's Dosso Mamadois during a training match between I Coast and local team Sony Ela n Gueoya in Malabo, on 27 Jan, during the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations.

INTERNET

Burkina Faso after beating them with route-one tactics and persistent time-wasting, angering coach Paulo Duarte.

"The type of football we played against Burkina Faso was for a purpose. My players carried out instructions perfectly," countered Angola coach Jose 'Lito' Vidigal.

Entering the final series of Group B fixtures here and in mainland city Bata, Ivory Coast have six points from two outings, Angola four, Sudan one and Burkina Faso are out of the running following a couple of losses.

Ivory Coast are assured of competing in the knockout stages, but whether they advance as group winners or runners-up depends on the outcome against Angola with a draw sufficient to seal top place.

That would keep them at the plush accommodation they have here with a private beach and golf club, and give them a quarter-final fixture on the Malabo pitch where they have played all their pool matches.—Internet

Mali midfielder Diakite joins QPR on loan

NANCY, 30 Jan—Mali midfielder Samba Diakite has joined Queens Park Rangers from Nancy on loan until the end of the season, the Ligue 1 club said on Sunday.

Diakite, 23, had been allowed by Mali coach Alain Giresse to fly from Gabon, where he is playing in the African Nations Cup, to London to sign his contract.

"It will become a permanent transfer if the London club stay in the Premier League," Nancy said in a statement. QPR, who are two points above the Premier

League relegation zone, will have to wait to see when Diakite can join them as it will depend on how far Mali get in the African Nations Cup which runs until 12 February.

Mali are third in their four-team group with three points from two games, level on points with second-placed Guinea with one Group D game to play. The top two teams in a group go through to the quarter-finals.

Reuters



Mali's Samba Diakite challenges Ghana's Dede Ayew (R) during their African Nations Cup Group D soccer match in Franceville Stadium on 28 Jan, 2012.—INTERNET

Woods stumbles in Abu Dhabi golf



Tiger Woods tees off during the third round of the Abu Dhabi Championship at the Abu Dhabi Golf Club, on 28 Jan.—INTERNET

ABU DHABI, 30 Jan—Unheralded Robert Rock was proving to be the fly in the ointment for Tiger Woods in the final round of the Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship on Sunday.

Aiming to win his first full

tournament in over two years, Woods, the fallen giant of the game, started the day in a share of the lead with the world number 117 following a 66 on Saturday - his best score since the Masters second round last April. He got off to the best of

starts by holing a 50-foot putt for birdie at the par five second and picked up another stroke at the next to move ahead at 13 under par. But Englishman Rock, playing for the first time with Woods, stuck to him with birdies of his own at the second and third.

And when Woods stumbled with back-to-back bogeys at the next two holes, Rock suddenly found himself two strokes clear of the field.

He then birdied the sixth to go three clear against all the odds as Woods settled for a par. Playing in the grouping directly ahead, US Open champion Rory McIlroy stayed in touch at 11 under with birdies at the second and fifth, before he bogeyed the par-three seventh.

That put him level after the first few holes of the final round with Frenchman Jean-Baptiste Gonnnet and Scotland's former British Open champion Paul Lawrie.

It was at Augusta National that Woods sustained the leg injury that sidelined him for most of last year before he finally returned to the winners' circle at the Chevron World Challenge in California in early December.

Internet



Jeremy Abbott holds gold medal after winning the men's competition at the 2012 Prudential US Figure Skating Championships on 29 Jan.

INTERNET

period of time has raised hopes that the United States could end a long international medal drought in pairs skating.

Internet

Abbott seizes third US men's figure skating title

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan—Jeremy Abbott won his third US men's figure skating title with a fine free skate that blended elegance with technical sparks. Abbott, who had led by more than seven points after the short programme, underscored his status as the country's best with a free skate that included the only clean quadruple jump of the competition.

He earned 183.35 points for his free skate to finish with a total score of 273.58. Adam Rippon was a distant second

with a total of 240.87 points and Ross Miner was third on 230.32. "I skate to give a performance like that and so I felt really good," Abbott said. "I was really nervous when I started, I was shaking a little bit. But from the second I set for the quad I was like, 'I'm going to do this.' " "I just really took it into my hands and made sure that I did what I needed to do." Caydee Denney and John Coughlin won the pairs title, their first since joining forces in May although each had won the national crown with a different partner in the past.

The success of their partnership in such a short

International Sports

'My personal life is my own'

NEW DELHI, 30 Jan—Actor Geeta Basra, who is more famous for her rumoured relationship with Indian cricketer Harbhajan Singh than her acting skills, is presently excited about her item song, Ghaziabad Ki Rani Hoon Main. The 27-year-old will be grooving to the item number for the upcoming film, Zilla Ghaziabad that also stars actors Vivek Oberoi, Sanjay Dutt, Arshad Warsi and Minissha Lamba. Basra, who has acted in films such as Dil Diya Hai (2006) and The Train (2007), shares with us tidbits about her life—both from the professional and personal front.—*Internet*

Priyanka Chopra on a musical high!

NEW DELHI, 30 Jan—She is over the moon with the success of her latest flick Agneepath, and now actor Priyanka Chopra is keeping her fingers crossed so that her debut album follows suit.

"I am working on my

album but there is a lot of time that I need to balance between my movies and music. I hope by summer this year, I am able to come

out with a single. I will work on international lines, I'll drop a single and then if it picks up, another single until the album comes out," the 29-year-old says.

"There is so much talent in the country and I hope I can pave the way for artists so the world opens up for them," she adds.

Ask her about her reported collaborations with artists Lady Gaga and Jay Sean and she says, "There will be collaborations, but it's too early to speak about them right now."

A former Miss World, Priyanka also spoke about Indian beauties participating in international pageants.

"Indian women are so beautiful, not just in the way they look, but in the way they are. We have a lot within ourselves in terms of personalities and so much potential. I hope a lot more girls will come forward and take part in Miss India," says Priyanka.—*Internet*



album but there is a lot of time that I need to balance between my movies and music. I hope by summer this year, I am able to come

DISTRICT NEWS**Fingerlings released into dam**

KANBALU, 30 Jan—A ceremony to release fingerlings into Theinyin Dam was held for the first time in Kanbalu Township of Shwedo District yesterday.

Sagaing Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Sein Win and departmental officials released 100,000 fingerlings to the dam.—*Township IPRD*

Cash donated for increase of pass rate

SHWEGYIN, 30 Jan—With the aim of increasing the pass rate in matriculation examination for 2011-2012 academic year, departmental personnel and wellwishers donated cash assistance to the education funds in Shwegyin Township yesterday. Altogether 22 wellwishers donated K 2,306,250 for 403 students from Basic Education High School and seven BEHS branches through the representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, the township administrator and the township education officer.—*Township IPRD*

Focus Myanmar TV Programme**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

(31-1-12 09:30 am ~ 1-2-12 09:30 am) MST

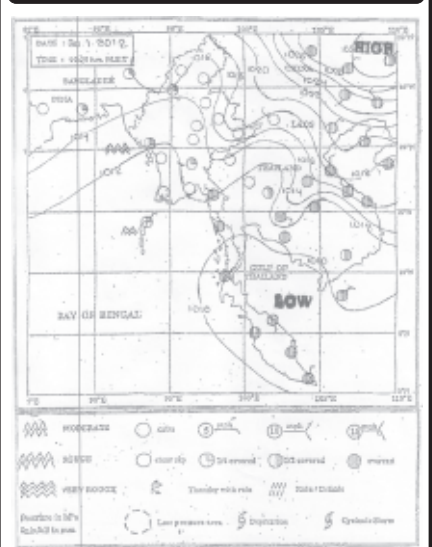
Overseas Transmission

- * News
- * 222nd Anniversary of Ramayana Drama
- * News
- * Secret Places for Yummy Food "Shwe Musel"
- * News
- * What Have You Done For the Natural Environment?
- * News
- * VCD Centre
- * The 4th Grand Art Stream Family Art Exhibition (Donation Ceremony)
- * News
- * Youth and Music (Part-2)
- * News
- * A Traditional Dish of Myanmar Lads
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * Grassland Survey in Hukaung Tiger Reserve
- * News
- * My Native Town Meiktila
- * Myanmar Movies "The Director"

MYANMAR TV

(31-1-2012) (Tuesday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:40 am
- 2. Nice & Sweet Song
- 7:50 am
- 3. Health Programme
- 8:10 am
- 4. Dance Of National Races
- 8:40 am
- 5. International News
- 8:45 am
- 6. Metta Bhavana by Mingun Sayadaw
- 4:00 pm
- 7. Martial Song
- 4:25 pm
- 8. Instrumental Music
- 5:00 pm
- 9. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:20 pm
- 10. Teleplay (Health)
- 5:30 pm
- 11. Sweet Melody
- 6:20 pm
- 12. Sing A Song
- 6:50 pm
- 13. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 14. News
- 15. Bakery World
- 16. TV Drama Series
- 17. India Drama Series

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**Weather for 30th January, 2012**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past (24) hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Region and weather has been partly cloudy in Yangon Region, Rakhine and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Chin and Rakhine States, (3°C) above January average temperatures in Taninthayi Region and about January average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Pinalung and Haka (2°C) each.

Nay Pyi Taw weather: Maximum temperature on 29-1-2012 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 30-1-2012 was 54°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 30-1-2012 was 64%. Total rainfall hours on 30-1-2012 was (Nil).

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and Partly cloudy elsewhere in Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 31st January 2012: Rain are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States, weather will be partly cloudy in upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Strong Easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (30) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 31-1-2012: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-1-2012: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-1-2012: Generally fair weather.

Djokovic has that unbeatable feeling

MELBOURNE, 30 Jan—Novak Djokovic has that unbeatable feeling. And well he should. The Serb outlasted Rafael Nadal to defend his Australian Open title in the longest ever Grand Slam final and become the fifth man to win three straight majors in the Open Era.

Djokovic now has the French Open — the one major to elude him — in his sights. He won't even rule out the ultimate: the Grand Slam.

"One player (Rod Laver) has done it, so it is possible," he said after the traditional post-victory photo shoot in a downtown Melbourne park on Monday. "Obviously the times are different and tennis nowadays is much more competitive and much more physical. And that makes that challenge more difficult to achieve. But everything is possible."

With the London Olympics to follow Wimbledon this year, Djokovic could even make it a Golden Slam by winning the gold medal at London 2012 to go with the four majors.

"The facts are that I'm at the peak of my career," Djokovic said. "I feel physically and mentally at the peak, I feel strong, I feel motivated, I feel eager to win more trophies."

Having slept for only a few hours, Djokovic dispensed with the band and the raucous dressing room celebrations that marked his victory last year, choosing to strum the air guitar and belt out a few lyrics from "Highway To Hell."

Djokovic recalled the brief celebrations after the match at Rod Laver Arena and made a half-hearted attempt to sing the refrain from the AC/DC rock anthem. His legs were too tired, and his throat a bit hoarse. "Oh man, I'm tired."



And so he should be. Djokovic completed a 5-hour, 53-minute 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 7-5 victory over Nadal at 1:37 a.m. — ending an epic match with a forehand winner that finally finished off the Spaniard.

Internet

Australian Open men's singles champion Serbia's Novak Djokovic poses with his trophy at a park in central Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 30, 2012. Djokovic defeated Spain's Rafael Nadal in five hours and 53 minutes to win a third Australian Open title earlier in the day.

INTERNET

Pyithu Hluttaw third regular session continues for third day Twelve questions answered, one bill approved, three reports approved and two proposals discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan—Third regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw continued for third day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today. The session was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 375 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives. Twelve questions were raised and answered; one bill, discussed and approved; three reports submitted on 26 January, discussed and approved; two proposals, discussed.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than answered five queries raised by four Hluttaw representatives.

Thura U Aye Myint of Wetlet Constituency asked **whether there is plan to upgrade diesel-powered river water pumping station project near Tatywa village in Wetlet Township in Shwebo District of Sagaing Region to electric-powered one.** The deputy minister answered: requirement of electric power to upgrade the project is 15 MVA. Plans are underway to build (230/66/11) KV, (100) MVA power station in compound of Ohndaw power station and to generate electricity to Tatywa, Ayadaw (2), Ayadaw (3), Hsindat and Pyautywa projects in Sagaing Region.

Ohndaw power station was bought from Water Resources Utilization Department in 2010-2011. Although budget of US\$ 5.1 million was requested for the project, the government allowed only US\$ 2.13 million as there were other priorities. In 2012-2013 fiscal year, the budget of US\$ 2.97 million and installation cost of K 400 million will be requested. If the government allows the budget, it will be completed cent per cent by 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Upon completion of the power station, the budget for installing 25-mile 66-KV power grid to the river water



Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives at third regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw.—MNA

pumping station will be requested.

U Soe Soe of Htigyaing Constituency asked **whether there is plan to repair Meiza Embankment in Htigyaing.** The deputy minister answered: Meiza Embankment is a 42500-ft-long and six-ft-high earthen embankment with the upper width of eight feet and bottom width of 30 feet. The embankment was built to prevent inundation of Meiza River to 28000 acres of farmland in the township.

To irrigate farmlands for winter crops, some parts of the embankment have sometimes to be breached. That is why the river water inundates the farmlands in rainy season. The Irrigation Department repaired the breach of the embankment once in 2007-2008 fiscal year.

According to field survey, there are 15 breaches. Seven sluice gates need to be built to prevent from (See page 6)

Third regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw continues for third day Message sent by the President put on record, two proposals discussed, one proposal withdraw, one proposal approved and five proposals submitted

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan—Third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continued for third day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 208 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives.

Amyotha Hluttaw announced that it recorded the message to the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker sent by the Presi-

dent at the first day of third regular session.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw replied to the questions about agriculture and irrigation sector raised by two Hluttaw representatives.

U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Kayin State Constituency No. 5 asked **whether cardamom plantation in Papun and Thandaung of Kayin State would be transformed into**

garden land, and there is forestry tax exemption on cardamom seeds. In response, the deputy minister said that according to annually released statistics of Settlement and Land Records Department, cardamom was categorized into other common spices in growing and production list of all crops.

There were 40243 acres of cardamom in 2011-2012 in Myanmar, including 20366 acres naturally grown in forest areas and 19877 acres as mix-crop.

According to land differentiation list of Settlement and Land Records Department, garden land means a land on which vegetable and flowery plants grow by way of continuous or mixed form without needing substitutes for many years despite plucking many times.

The cardamom plantation in Kayin State is kind of garden land. Cardamom plantation grown in vacant land is listed as garden land.

Data collection on growing acre list on cardamoms naturally grown or grown as plantation in reserve forest areas is being made in cooperation with Forest Department. According to name and definition of Paragraph (2) (e) of Chapter (1) of Forestry Law-1992, cardamom seed is included in 29 kinds of small forest product, and 25% of local price is collected as a tax.

According to Section 254 of the 2008 Constitution, taxes collected from small forest products are to be paid to region or state budget. From 2007-2008 to 2011-2012, earnings from cardamom seed production made up 24.77% to 59.15% of forest product in Kayin State, earning K 94 million to K 316 million of annual tax on it.

(See page 8)



Amyotha Hluttaw Representatives attending third regular session.—MNA