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Thursday, 23 February, 2012

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to King of Brunei Darussalam

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb—On the occasion of the 28th Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2012. U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.—MNA

Our Three Main National Causes

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

Government implementing plans on Dawei Special Economic Zone, Thilawa Special Economic Zone and Kyaukpau Special Economic Zone in addition to establishment of many industrial zones to create long-term economic opportunities for merchants and entrepreneurs



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife being welcomed by local people at Lashio.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Thein Htay, U Ohn Myint, U Khin Yi and Dr Mya Aye, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, U Khin Zaw, U Kyaw Lwin, U Win Than, Dr Kan Zaw, U Aung Than Oo and Dr Win Myint, departmental officials and entrepreneurs, left here by air yesterday morning and arrived in Lashio of Shan State at 9.15 am.

They were welcomed by Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat, state ministers, state Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials, social organization members and local people there.

At the city hall in Lashio, the Vice-President and party met departmental officials, social organization members and local people.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that he and his party arrived in Lashio for the second time to look into progress of development tasks assigned last two months and to provide more assistance. On the previous visit, he said he fulfilled the requirements of local people after meeting with ward and village administrators. As those administrators realize the requirements of their areas, he made fulfillment after hearing their reports. On this trip, he said that he would like to meet all those persons for providing necessary assistance.

He noted that Myanmar is on the right track in

Marching towards its goal regularly. The way of the nation is democracy, he added. Democracy is a system of government that the minority is to follow the wish of the

majority and the majority is to emphasize the wish of the minority, he said.

In practising democracy, the country is constituted with sharing three kinds of power—the legislative power at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the region/state Hluttaws, the executive power at the Union government and region/state governments, and the judicial power at the Union Supreme Court and region/state High Courts. He said that check and balance system is to be exercised among these three bodies to improve the nation by flourishing justice, liberty and equality. He expressed his thought that the nation is on the right track though it has not yet to enjoy all the rights.

In 2010 general election, the people elected Hluttaw representatives, he recounted, adding that the Hluttaw representatives elected the government. Thus, he said that the people are to elect the representatives in vacant constituencies in the coming by-election.

He said that the people of Lashio are to elect Amyotha Hluttaw representative again in the vacant constituency. In doing, so he said that the people are to carefully elect the representative, who can really serve the interest of the State, Region and the people.

The Vice-President said that Myanmar is home to 70% of rural population and 30% of urban population, and most of the rural people are in poverty. Thus, he said that the government is undertaking eight-point task of rural (See page 8)



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham cordially greets those present at Lashio Town Hall.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 23 February, 2012

Going on the right track

Developing the Education Sector is a vital factor in taking concrete steps to improve the human resources of a nation. Investment in Education Sector is indeed the best guarantee and most valuable for the future of our country.

Moreover, by developing human resources through promoting the Education Sector, our vision of "building a modern, developed and democratic nation" can be achieved. It will improve the quality of life as well. Promoting human resources is an important component in the nation-building process too.

It is also encouraging that the motto "Morale, Discipline and Education" is to be stressed at all schools, colleges and universities across the nation.

These developments are viewed positively as the progress will benefit the whole society of our country, as well as the democratization process.

On the platform of unity, all citizens must contribute to and participate in nation-building tasks in harmony to achieve our goal.

We are indeed going on the right track.

Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister inspects development tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung yesterday morning donated K 7.6 million to the fund for construction of new building at Takongyi Village Basic Education High School (Branch) in Kangyidaunt Township.

He also provided cash to the fund for construction of new building at Sanmyaing Village BEPS in Patheingyi Township and cash to the fund of Shwemyintin Village BEHS.

He also donated cash to the fund of Thiri Wunna Pagoda in Shwemyintin Village.—MNA

CBM Governor receives Executive Vice President of OCBC Bank

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue U Than Nyein received Mr. Linus Goh Ti Liang, Executive Vice President of OCBC Bank and party at his office, yesterday.

They cordially discussed bilateral cooperation between Myanmar Banks and OCBC Bank.

Also present at the call were the heads of department of the Central Bank of Myanmar.—MNA

Identity cards to be taken out for matriculation exam announced

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Myanmar Board of Examinations has announced that the students who applied for the matriculation exam to be held from 12 to 22 March, 2012 are allowed to take out identity cards from their respective examination centers starting from 27 February (Monday), and for the students in Yangon City municipal area, starting from 1 March (Thursday), 2012.

The students from Basic Education High Schools and BEHSs (Branch/Affiliated) are to take out their identity cards from the respective heads of their schools, and external students are to get them from the heads of their respective examination centres.

As for the students, if necessary they can contact respective school heads and township education officers.

MNA

Delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker leaves for China



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and party being seen off at Yangon International Airport before their departure for People's Republic of China.

MNA

YANGON, 22 Feb—A Myanmar delegation led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann left Yangon for China to pay a goodwill visit at the invitation of Chairman of National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Mr Wu Bengguo this afternoon.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Aung, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua and officials.

The Speaker was accompanied by 18 members including Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw National Races Affairs and Internal Peace Making Committee U Thein Zaw, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations

Committee U Hla Myint Oo, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Judicial and Legal Affairs Committee Thura U Aung Ko, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Social Development Committee U Maung Maung Swe, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Water Transport Development Committee U Kyi Min, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win, Speaker of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw U Hsan Hsint, Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw Reform and Development Vetting Committee Dr Maung Maung Wint, Member of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Management Committee Col Hay Naing and Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Maj Thi Han Oo.

MNA

Union Minister provides Palethwe quality paddy strain to farmers



Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing conducts farmers around 100-acre modern mechanized farm in Tegayikon Region of Zabuthiri Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—In meeting with a 50-local-farmer group led by Daw Swe Swe Myint of Kyaukse District of Myanma Agriculture Department and a 30-local farmer group led by farmer U Maung Shein of Dekkhinathiri Township at 100-acre mechanized farm in Tegayikon region, Zabuthiri Township, here, this morning, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing said that the ministry is making strenuous efforts in planting the Palethwe quality paddy strain for local farmers getting profitable prices in the market applying modern technologies.

Anyway, the ministry has to plan the more quality Palethwe paddy strain for farmers to earn double profit. Only when the farmers and the ministry join hand, will the agriculture sector improve, he said.

Afterwards, the union minister spoke words of

encouragement to those farmers and then officials of the farm under the Myanma Agriculture Department responded to questions.

On arrival at 369 acres modern farm of Ahlyinlo village in Pyinmana Township, the union minister and party gave sweet encouragement to those farmers and inspected the Palethwe paddy strain farm.

They headed to 288 acres modern farm at Aungchangtha village in Pobbathiri Township in which they left necessary instructions.

They also proceeded to 500-acre farmer educative farmland of Pobbathiri Township and looked into plantations, the machines for the Palethwe paddy strain, and gave seeds of the Palethwe quality paddy strain per acre to each farmer.

MNA

Chinese VP discusses bilateral ties, regional situation with Turkish leaders



Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping (L) meets with Turkish President Abdullah Gul in Ankara, Turkey, on 21 Feb, 2012.—XINHUA

ISTANBUL, 22 Feb—The second day of Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping's visit to Turkey was packed by political meetings on topics ranging from economic cooperation to regional situation.

Xi met with Turkish Parliament Speaker Cemil Cicek and held talks with President Abdullah Gul in Ankara on earlier Tuesday.

After arriving in Istanbul on Tuesday afternoon, he met with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The Chinese vice president and Turkish leaders discussed ways and means to advance bilateral ties, particularly in economic and trade areas.

Both sides agreed to advance China-Turkey strategic and cooperative ties, which were officially forged in 2010.

Xinhua



US President Barack Obama (2nd L) and Vice President Joe Biden (1st L) attend an event about the payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance at the White House in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 21 Feb, 2012. Obama on Tuesday welcomed an agreement by Congress to extend payroll tax cut and unemployment insurance, calling for continued bipartisanship to help the economy.—XINHUA

Rebels release peacekeepers in Sudan's Darfur

KHARTOUM, 22 Feb—More than 50 international peacekeepers and other personnel who were blockaded by rebels in northwestern Darfur on Sunday have been allowed to leave, officials at the African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) confirmed on Tuesday.

The 55-person peacekeeping contingent was blocked by more than 100 armed men belonging to the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) while conducting a long-range

patrol in the village of Shegeg Tova in Darfur, a region in western Sudan, about 60 kilometres (37 miles) from its team site in Umm Baru.

Rebels initially accused the peacekeeping patrol of cooperating with Sudanese security services, but most of them were allowed to leave on Monday after negotiations.

A Yemeni police advisor and two Sudanese language assistants were being held until Tuesday, when rebels agreed to release them without any

conditions.

"Our officers and their troops demonstrated true resolve, courage and compassion in facing down a large contingent of armed JEM rebels who were holding three UNAMID personnel," said Ibrahim Gambari, head of UNAMID.

"Our troops held their ground; they called in reinforcements and they refused to leave the area without all personnel back on the patrol, including the Yemeni police advisor and two Sudanese language assistants. This afternoon everyone has returned, without injury and without any conditionality."

Internet

Senior Philippine law enforcer wounded in ambush

MANILA, 22 Feb—A senior official of the Philippines' premier crime-fighting agency was shot in an ambush in a Manila street late Tuesday but survived the attack, police and hospital officials said.

Reynaldo Esmeralda, deputy director of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), was fired upon while being driven home from work, said a police statement.

The police report said Esmeralda had been wounded and hospital officials interviewed on radio station DZMM later said the official, his brother and his driver all suffered wounds from gunshots and glass fragments.

All three were described by the doctors as "stable," and not in danger.

Men on a motorcycle fired at Esmeralda's car after the vehicle and three back-up cars

exited the NBI compound, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said in separate radio interview.

The justice secretary, whose department is in charge of the NBI, said Esmeralda told her via telephone that he did not know who might want to kill him.

De Lima said the incident might be related to the sacking of NBI chief Magtanggol Gatdula and 10 of his agents last month after an investigation linked them to the kidnapping of a Japanese woman for ransom.

She said Justice Department officials who investigated Gatdula's case had recently received death threats.

"I'm not saying that this is the reason (for the attack). I am just warning that there is already a security threat," she said.

Internet

41 child suicide bombers intercepted

KABUL, 22 Feb—Afghan police have intercepted 41 children they suspect armed groups planned to use as suicide bombers, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry said on Tuesday.

The children, ages 6 to 11, were allegedly being smuggled into the mountains of Pakistan by suspected armed groups, Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Seddiqi said.

"We strongly believe that the children were being taken to Pakistan to be trained, brainwashed and sent back as Afghan enemies," he said. "The armed groups cheat poor and ordinary Afghans and take away their children."

Police rescued the children in the Watapur District of Kunar Province and took them back to their families Friday, CNN reported.

Internet

Russia will counter US missile defence

MOSCOW, 22 Feb—Russia will continue with the overhaul of its missile defence unless the US drops its plans for a European missile shield or proposes a scheme for a joint effort, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said.

"This does not mean the beginning of confrontation, but it means that we cannot treat their (US) plans indifferently since it concerns our strategic interests," Medvedev said.

In an address to the nation in November, Medvedev had said that if Moscow's participation in the European missile defence project fails, Russia would deploy tactical missiles in the Kaliningrad exclave and halt its disarmament and arms control efforts, including participation in the new strategic arms reduction treaty with the US.

"We will do everything in the direction voiced by me earlier, with the only

exception being if our partners drop their plans or propose to us a scheme for participating in the joint development of missile defences," Medvedev said.

Russia delivered on Tuesday new S-400 Triumf air defence systems to its Western Military District and pledged to put them on alert duty in a month.

Russia-NATO missile defence talks have stalled as Moscow seeks legally binding guarantees that the US-backed European missile defence programme will not be directed against it.

Internet



Forensic photographs obtained exclusively by ABC News show an undetonated explosive device that was designed to be a part of a failed bomb plot in Thailand. Three Iranian suspects were arrested last week for their alleged involvement in the plot which fell apart when a similar device apparently exploded in an accident at the house where the Iranians were staying.—INTERNET



Heavily-armed National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents patrol the perimeter fence of a prison in Taguig City, suburban Manila in 2011.

INTERNET

Marine discharged for Haditha killings

CAMP PENDLETON, 22 Feb—A US Marine private who admitted responsibility for the killing of 24 Iraqi civilians in 2005 has been discharged under honorable conditions.

Friday was former Staff Sgt Frank Wuterich's last day in the Marine Corps, said Lt Col Joseph Kloppel, a Camp Pendleton spokesman.

Kloppel said Wuterich's discharge was one step down from an honorable discharge, the *North County Times* of Escondido, Calif, reported on Tuesday.

Wuterich did not serve any jail time for his 23 Jan guilty plea for one count of negligent dereliction of duty for his role in the 2005 killings. His rank was reduced to

private as part of the plea deal.

He admitted he told the Marines under his command to shoot first and then ask questions as they raided two houses in Haditha. One member of the unit had just been killed by a roadside bomb, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

"When my Marines and I cleared those houses that day, I responded to what I perceived as a threat and my intention was to eliminate that threat in order to keep the rest of my Marines alive," Wuterich said. "So when I told my team to 'shoot first and ask questions later,' the intent wasn't that they would shoot civilians, it was that they would not hesitate in the face of the enemy."

Internet

210,000 people face alcohol death risk, warn doctors

LONDON, 22 Feb — Failure to reform alcohol laws could lead to 210,000 preventable deaths in England and Wales in the next 20 years, doctors have warned. They are putting pressure on the government ahead of its “alcohol strategy” for both countries, expected in the coming months. Writing in *The Lancet*, doctors said the UK was at a “potential tipping point”.

Prime Minister David Cameron has already

vowed to tackle the “scandal” of drunkenness and alcohol abuse. The projected mortality figures come from Prof Ian Gilmore, a former president of the Royal College of Physicians, Dr Nick Sheron, from the National Institute for Health Research and members of the British Society of Gastroenterology. Their figure of 210,000 is a reduction from their previous estimate of 250,000 and represents their “worst-case scenario” of no change to alcohol policy.

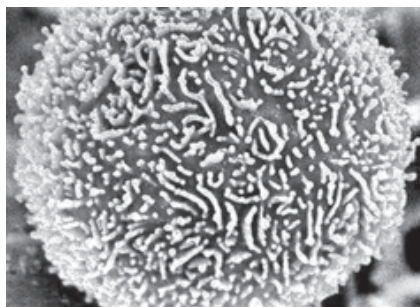


“It remains entirely within the power of the UK government to prevent the worst-case scenario of preventable deaths,” they wrote. The figures for England and Wales suggest 70,000 of the deaths could be from liver disease and the rest from accidents, violence and chronic illnesses such as high blood pressure, stroke, heart disease, breast cancer and cancer of the gastrointestinal tract. — *Internet*

Pancreatic cancer: Trial drug MRK003 shows promise

LONDON, 22 Feb — Scientists say they may have found a new weapon against pancreatic cancer after promising early trial results of an experimental drug combination. Giving the chemotherapy agent gemcitabine with an experimental drug called MRK003 sets off a chain of events that ultimately kills cancer cells, studies in mice show. Patients are now testing the treatment to see if it will work for them.

The Cancer Research



Doctors want to improve the prognosis of this aggressive cancer. — *INTERNET*

People take a spinning class at the Washington Sports Club in downtown Silver Spring, Maryland, in 2011.
INTERNET

Total rethink needed on dieting

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb — Everything you know about dieting is wrong, say US scientists who have devised a new formula for calculating calories and weight loss that

they hope will revolutionize the way people tackle obesity. Obesity rates have doubled worldwide in the past 30 years, coinciding with a growing food surplus, and the ensuing epidemic has sparked a multibillion dollar weight loss industry that has largely failed to curb the problem.

Current standards in the United States, where two thirds of people are overweight or obese, advise people that cutting calories by a certain amount will result in a slow and steady weight loss over time. But that advice fails to account for how the

body changes as it slims down, burning less energy and acquiring a slower metabolism, researchers told the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Vancouver.

The result is a plateau effect that ends up discouraging dieters and sending them back into harmful patterns of overeating. As an example, researcher Kevin Hall offered up his large vanilla latte, purchased at a popular coffee shop. When he asked, the barista told him it contained about 240 calories.

— *Internet*

UK-funded trials are being carried out in Cambridge. Father-of-two Richard Griffiths, 41, from Coventry, has been on the trial since being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in May 2011. “After six cycles of treatment, a scan showed the tumours had reduced and so I have continued with the treatment,” he said. “The trial gives you hope—I really feel I can do this with the science behind me.”

Cancer Research UK says it is prioritising research into pancreatic cancer because the survival rate still remains dismally low. About 8,000 people in the UK are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer each year, and the

disease is the fifth most common cause of cancer death in the UK. Survival rates are very low in relation to other cancers, and the length of time between diagnosis and death is typically short, usually less than six months. The most recent data for England show that about 16% of patients survive the disease beyond 12 months after diagnosis—prompting the need for new treatments.

— *Internet*



Lloyds cuts back £2m from bonuses paid to executives

LONDON, 22 Feb — Lloyds Banking Group has confirmed it is cutting £2m from bonuses paid to 13 executives, including the former chief executive Eric Daniels. Mr Daniels will lose £580,000 after his original £1.45m bonus was cut by 40%. Bonuses for another four directors will be cut by

£190,000 to £260,000, while a further eight executives will receive about £100,000 less.

They are being penalised for the bank's mis-selling of payment protection insurance (PPI). In theory, PPI covered repayments if borrowers were unable to keep them up, promising help during illness or unemployment, but in many cases, those taking out the policies would not have been eligible to claim on them.

Lloyds has been forced to set aside £3.2bn to cover compensation for those customers who were mis-sold PPI. Lloyds said in a statement that it would make an adjustment to a proportion of the bonus awards for 2010, because if it had been aware of the mis-selling and the cost of putting it right, the bonus pool and the awards from it would have been smaller. — *Internet*



Lloyds is the first UK bank to reduce bonuses following a worse-than-expected performance. — *INTERNET*



Greek Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos, left, gestures while speaking with European Central Bank President Mario Draghi, second right, during a round table meeting of eurozone finance ministers at the EU Council building in Brussels on 20 Feb, 2012. — *INTERNET*

Asia stocks down despite deal to end Greek crisis

BANGKOK, 22 Feb — Asian stock markets fell Tuesday even as European leaders finally clinched a deal for a rescue package to prevent Greece from going belly up. Benchmark oil hovered near \$105 per barrel

while the dollar fell against the euro but rose against the yen. Japan's Nikkei 225 index was down 0.3 percent at 9,460. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.5 percent to 21,323.99 and South Korea's Kospi lost 0.5 percent to 2,014.38. Benchmarks in Taipei, Singapore, mainland China and the Philippines also fell.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 added 0.8 percent to 4,291.20. New Zealand and Indonesia also rose. European leaders said they had agreed to a rescue package for Greece, which has been teetering on the brink of a major debt default. The rescue money had been

delayed because lenders wanted the country to do more cost-cutting first.

Greece urgently needs the euro130 billion (\$170 billion) package before it can move ahead with yet another deal to sharply reduce the amount of money Greece owes its private investors. Without the money, Greece will default on its debts, starting on 20 March when a bond repayment is due.

But the deal didn't make a dent on Asian markets. Many observers feel it falls far short of what Greece needs to prevent financial collapse.

— *Internet*

Oil prices hit nine-month peaks after Iran halts exports

NEW YORK, 22 Feb — Oil prices hit nine-month highs on Monday after Iran halted sales to France and Britain, and as China eased credit policy amid expectations of a bailout deal for Greece, analysts said. The Brent and New York contracts reached \$121.15 and \$105.44 a barrel in early trading on Monday—the highest levels since 5 May, 2011.

In late London deals, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in April stood at \$120.14 a barrel, up 56 cents compared with Friday's closing level. New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate light sweet crude for March, jumped \$1.84 to \$105.08. “Iran's decision to halt oil exports to France and Great Britain is commonly cited



Oil prices hit nine-month highs on Monday after Iran halted sales to France and Britain, and as China eased credit policy amid expectations of a bailout deal for Greece, analysts said. — *INTERNET*

today as the reason for the price rise,” said Commerzbank analyst Carsten Fritsch. — *Internet*





Boards of Trustees of Beijing Tooth Relic Temple and of Shwedagon Pagoda sign MoU for religion and cultural exchange between Myanmar and China at Shwedagon Pagoda.—MNA

MoU signed between Boards of Trustees of Beijing Tooth Relic Temple and of Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 22 Feb—A press conference of China Buddhism Association on its support to Myanmar's charitable contributions was held in conjunction with signing ceremony of goodwill MoU between Boards of Trustees of Beijing Tooth Relic Temple and of Shwedagon Pagoda this evening at Shwedagon Pagoda.

The Chinese side explained about

management of donations of Myanmar people to Buddha Tooth Relic in China and purpose of inking the deal.

Both sides signed the MoU and exchanged gifts.

The Chinese side donated cash to Shwedagon Pagoda through Union Minister Foreign Affairs Thura U Myint Maung.

MNA

Workshop on strengthening bilateral cooperation in rice industry between Myanmar and Thailand held

YANGON, 22 Feb—Director-General of Mr Charit Damrongkiat of Rice Department of Thai Agriculture and Cooperatives, Special Adviser to the Ministry Dr Apichart Pongsrihulchai and party and Myanmar advisers led by Chairman of Myanmar Rice Industry Association U Chit Khine and executives held a workshop on boosting

cooperation in the rice sector between the two countries at Park Royal Hotel here on 20 February morning.

The two sides cordially discussed development of public private partnership, boosting income of farmers, further cooperation in regional food security, cooperation in technology, research and

Union Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Brunei Darussalam counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb—On the occasion of the 28th Anniversary of the National Day of Brunei Darussalam which falls on 23 February 2012. U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for foreign Affairs of

the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam.—MNA

Union Mines Minister receives foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik met Mr Yan Charles, Chairman of Zhongchuan International Mining of People's Republic of China and party at 9:15 am, Mr K V Rao, Managing Director of Trust Energy Resources Pte Ltd of Singapore at 11 am, Mr Li Fanping, Chairman of Beijing YZH Coal Engineering Design Co., Ltd at 12:15 pm at the latter's office respectively today.

At the meeting, they held

discussion on precious metal, nonferrous metals used in industry and charcoal resources are found in Myanmar, rules and regulations to explore mineral mining, cooperation programme, investment, using modern technologies in exploring mineral mining, and environmental conservation.

Also present at the meeting were the directors-general and the managing directors of the Ministry of Mines.

MNA



Those present pose for documentary photo at Workshop on strengthening bilateral cooperation in rice industry between Myanmar and Thailand.—MNA

research findings as well as in storage of paddy, transport and rice mill technology. Afterwards, they proceeded to paddy

depot in Warden Street in Seikkan Township and special agricultural zones in Dagon Myothit Township.—MNA

Coasts in peril plan ahead for rising seas

NEW YORK, 22 Feb—Scientists warn that by the end of this century, the sea level along North America's west coast will rise by about a metre due to global warming and melting arctic glaciers. That presents a scenario that few people in the world's coastal and island communities want to think about—the end of their water's edge way of

life, their homes flooded, their farming fields drenched and rendered useless. But one coastal port in British Columbia has begun to plan for this grim future with the help of scientists who created computer images that show exactly what their town will look like when it is inundated with water. "In our work we try to visualize four different worlds," said David Flanders,

a landscape architect and research scientist at the University of British Columbia. Those include building larger sea walls and dykes to hold the water back, crafting barrier islands to absorb some of the tides and reinforce the shores, moving entire towns inland, or building everything higher by raising homes on stilts and elevating roads.—Internet



A tugboat moves a boat across the Manhattan harbour in 2009 in New York City. Scientists warn that by the end of this century, the sea level along North America's west coast will rise by about a metre due to global warming and melting arctic glaciers. INTERNET

Ancient plants back to life after 30,000 frozen years



The success of the operation hinged on the habits of the Arctic ground squirrel.—INTERNET

MOSCOW, 22 Feb—Scientists in Russia have grown plants from fruit stored away in permafrost by squirrels over 30,000 years ago. The fruit was found in the banks of the Kolyma River in Siberia, a top site for people looking for mammoth bones. The Institute of Cell Biophysics team raised plants of *Silene stenophylla*—of the campion family—from the fruit. Writing in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), they note

this is the oldest plant material by far to have been brought to life.

Prior to this, the record lay with date palm seeds stored for 2,000 years at Masada in Israel. The leader of the research team, Professor David Gilchinsky, died a few days before his paper was published. In it, he and his colleagues describe finding about 70 squirrel hibernation burrows in the riverbank.

Internet

Animal diseases increasingly plague the oceans

SANTA BARBARA, 22 Feb—When dead sea mammals started washing ashore on Canada's west coast in greater numbers, marine biologist



A harp seal pup lies on an ice floe in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence in Charlottetown, Canada, on March 2008.—INTERNET

Andrew Trites was distressed to find that domestic animal diseases were killing them. Around the world, seals, otters and other species are increasingly infected by parasites and other diseases long common in goats, cows, cats and dogs, marine mammal experts told a major science conference. The diseases also increasingly threaten people who use the oceans for recreation, work or a source of seafood, scientists told reporters at the annual

meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, held this year in this western Canadian city. The symposium "Swimming in Sick Seas" was one of many sessions at the meeting that drew a bleak picture of the state of the world's oceans, which are increasingly acidic, warming in some areas and being inundated with melting ice or other climate change effects.

Internet

Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission meets civil society

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann extends greetings at meeting between Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission and civil society.

MNA



YANGON, 22 Feb—Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission met civil society at Yangon Region Government Office here this morning, with an address by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann.

Also present on the occasion were Pyithu Hluttaw LFSCAC Chairman Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa and commission members, chairpersons and members of the Pyithu Hluttaw committees, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win and members, Yangon Region government members, the chairperson of Yangon Region Election Sub-commission and members, personnel of economic institutions in Yangon Region and scholars, and local journalists and foreign correspondents.

Speaking on the occasion, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker expressed his special thanks to the organizers and said: our country is introducing multiparty democracy and market economy. Most of the global nations are adapting multiparty democracy and market economy in harmony with their own conditions. Our country also needs to pave our way towards development and stability, adopting the suitable systems.

Here, we need to enact practical laws. Four committees such as Bill Committee and Public Accounts

Committee were formed after the Hluttaws have come into force. As it was found that these four committees alone cannot handle the works and another 19 committees were founded as the constitution allows forming necessary committees.

Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission was then founded to take care of those cases that the committees cannot handle on their own.

Related scholars and experts have been recruited to the commission to handle politics and defence, economic, social and cultural affairs, science and technology, mass media, ICT and legal affairs. But the commission still needs financial experts and it is my pleasure if any personality wishes to join the commission.

Taking the lessons from the past, we need to take whatever measures bravely for the present and the future in serving interests of the nation and the people. We have to avoid actions causing corruption and leading to corruption. And, we need to be loyal to the people.

A few days ago, I have proposed pay increase for the civil staff to be able to lead a deserving life. And I have also heard different responses; some people welcome and agree to my proposal whereas some criticize that it would adversely increase commodity prices with concern over government's financial status.

The development of a nation calls for high morale of its citizens and also their trust on their government. I have proposed pay rise in my capacity as the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and so I would like to invite suggestions on salary increase for civil servants and beneficial to the citizens at this meeting between Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission and scholars and experts from different circles and also cooperation between parliament, people and the MPs.

Next, Pyithu Hluttaw LASCAC Chairman Deputy Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa explained facts about the commission.

Next, businessmen and personnel of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Fishery Federation, banking associations, Public Accountants Association and Myanmar Audit Council made frank suggestions about salary increase and consequential increase in commodity price and inflation, necessary preparations and the role of legislative sector in serving interests of the nation and its people.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann assessed the suggestions and made concluding remarks. He then replied to queries of local journalists and foreign correspondents.—MNA

Mandalay Region Hluttaw continues for sixth day



Photo shows sixth day third regular session of first Mandalay Region Hluttaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Third regular session of first Mandalay Region Hluttaw continued for sixth day at Mandalay Region Hluttaw building this morning. It was attended by Mandalay Region Chief

Minister U Ye Myint, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Win Maung and 73 Hluttaw representatives.

At today's session, 16 questions were answered, bills were approved, dates were set for approval of bills, clarification of reports, discussion of Hluttaw representatives, and submission of bills. Today's session came to an end at 12.40 pm.—MNA

Donate Blood

Union H&T Minister receives guests



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan receives President of Zhongchuan International Holding Co Mr Ximing Sun and party of People's Republic of China.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Sports U Tint Hsan received President of Zhongchuan International Holding Co Mr Ximing Sun and party at 11 am, Director of Myanmar Hotels International Ltd Mr Kenneth Gaw, Director of Strand Hotel International Ltd (Hong Kong) Mr Goodwin Gaw, Managing Director of MHT Mr Christophe Vielle and Director Mr Sukhdeep Singh, President of First

Myanmar Investment Co Ltd U Thein Wai, President of Myanmar V-Pile Co Ltd Dr Sone Han and CEO of Capital 8 Pte Ltd Mr Jonathan Kyaw Thauang at noon separately at the ministry.

The meetings focused on investment and human resources development in hotels and tourism sectors.

The meetings were also attended by Deputy Minister U Htay Aung, the managing director and officials.—MNA

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan receives Yunnan TV delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan received Yunnan TV delegation of Yunnan Province led by Mr Yang Yuming at the Ministry of Information here this afternoon.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin and officials of departments and enterprises under the Ministries of Information and Culture.

The Union minister said TV series will help strengthen friendship between peoples of two countries and cooperation in media and broadcasting sectors will be continued. He discussed in detail matters to be coordinated between the two sides for shooting TV series.

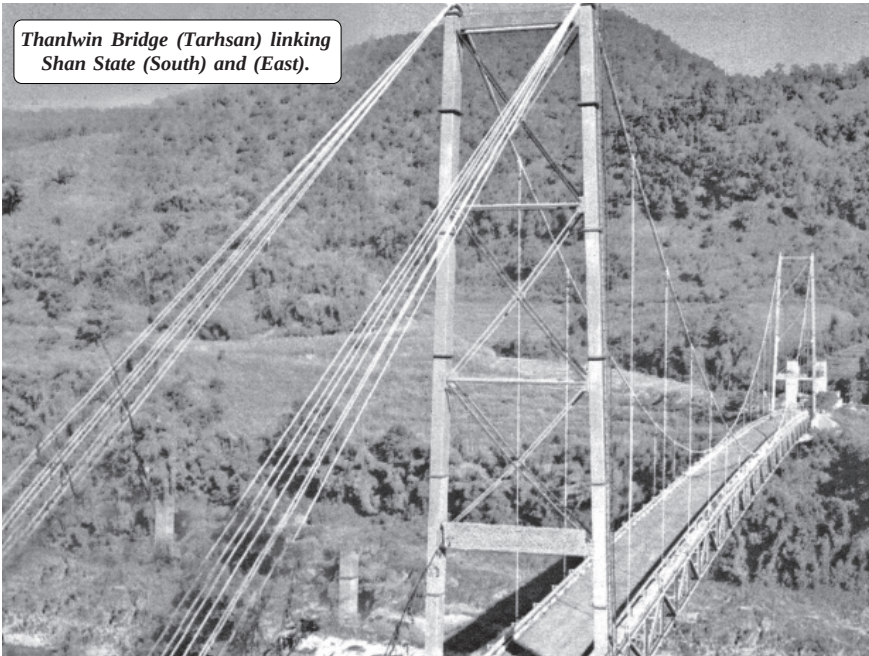
MNA



Union Minister for Information and for Culture U Kyaw Hsan receives Yunnan TV delegation of Yunnan Province led by Mr Yang Yuming.—MNA

Thanlwin Bridges (Tarhsan and Tarpa) contributing much to smooth transportation of local people in Shan State

Thanlwin Bridge (Tarhsan) linking Shan State (South) and (East).



Thanlwin Bridge (Tarhsan)

- * The bridge is 900 feet long and 16.5 feet wide.
- * Located on Mongpan-Mongton motor road, the bailey suspension bridge links Shan State (South) and Shan State (East).
- * It can withstand 36 tons of loads.
- * The eastern areas of Thanlwin River lagged far behind in development of the western areas of Thanlwin River as Thanlwin River serves as barrier which brought poor transport.
- * The advent of the bridge has created easy access to Mongton and Monghsat in the east of Thanlwin River via Taunggyi by motorway.
- * With the rough current of the river, there was frequent interruption of transport and this caused higher commodity prices in Mongton and Monghsat, and as a result, local people had to live a miserable life. At present, those difficulties have been overcome.

Translation: TLA

Archive: Maung Nyein Aye

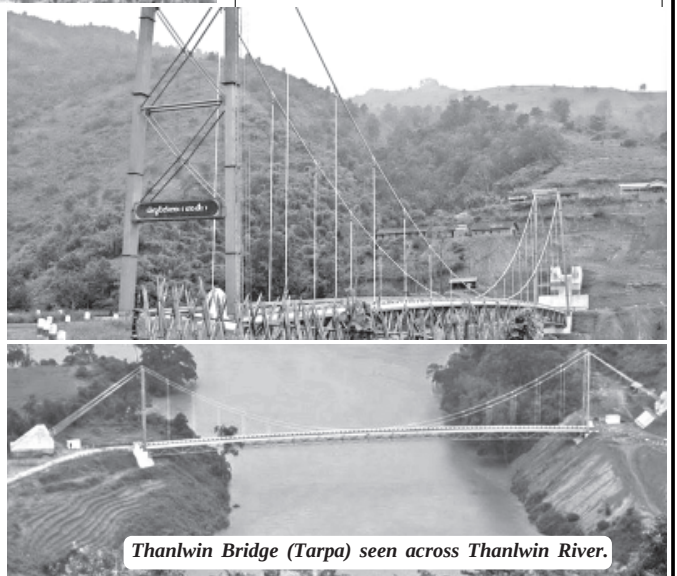
Photo shows Thanlwin Bridge (Tarpa), a reliable transport facility for people.

Thanlwin Bridge (Tarpa)

- * The bridge lies on the north of Shan State is 600 feet long with 16 feet and 4 inches wide motorway.
- * Its upper structure is of steel truss suspension structure and its lower structure is reinforced concrete piers. The clearance is 400 feet in width and 30 feet in height. It can withstand 60 tons of loads.
- * It is situated on Kutkai-Tamoenye-Monesi-Tarpa-Tarshwehtan road which is 17 miles far from Kutkai.
- * Thanks to the bridge constructed in Shan State (North), national brethren are devoted to each other. Moreover, domestic products can be transported in local areas plus border areas through the bridge.



Neat and tidy Thanlwin Bridge (Tarpa).



Thanlwin Bridge (Tarpa) seen across Thanlwin River.



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meeting with local people and departmental officials in Lashio.—MNA

Government implementing plans on Dawei Special Economic Zone,...

(from page 1)

development and poverty alleviation for providing assistance for the rural people. On his trip, he will manage undertaking of these tasks. Work committees for these tasks have been constituted at state, district and township levels, he added.

In general, these eight-point tasks are:-

- (1) availability of paddy strain, fertilizer, water and agricultural loans for development of agricultural production
- (2) availability of animal pedigree, feedstuff, treatment and technology for development of livestock breeding and meat and fish production
- (3) cottage industry which is small-scale production
- (4) micro-credit institution
- (5) cooperative society
- (6) schools, dispensaries and libraries for enhancement of rural social economy
- (7) electricity supply in rural area
- (8) conservation of environment

He invited any person like those engaging in eight-point task, farmers, workers and vendors to acquire any help and he granted them to provide necessary technology, materials and monetary assistance.

These tasks are being carried out not only for the rural people but for basic strata of the urban areas, he said. Such tasks are to disburse loans to the shopkeepers at least interest rate to be able to uplift their living standards, he noted.

He stressed the need for shopkeepers to group four or five persons together to take the loans through collective responsibility system. In fact, he said that

it is a well-done activity for the persons and organizations that disburse loans for ensuring welfare of about 70% of the people.

He said that Myanmar, an agro-based nation, is naturally extracting and exporting the natural resources for the State economy. For example, he said that Myanmar exports logs of teak without making value-added process. Likewise, he has learnt that uncut jade stones are being exported. He noted that only when the natural resources are exported as value-added products, will the nation achieve development.

He stressed that if a country is based on agriculture for its economy, it will not develop. As the rich neighbouring countries operating 85-90% of industrial and service sectors are depending on about 10-15% of agricultural sector, Myanmar must strive for establishment of hi-tech industry to be able to industrialize the nation without fail, he said.

That is why he said that the government is implementing the plans on Dawei Special Economic Zone, Thilawa Special Economic Zone and

Kyaukpadaung Special Economic Zone in addition to establishment of many industrial zones as part of its efforts to create long-term economic opportunities for merchants and entrepreneurs.

Likewise, feasibility survey is being conducted for investment of public companies, private companies, joint venture companies and foreigner-owned companies to establish a suitable industrial zone or a special economic zone in Muse District, he said. Moreover, he noted that establishment of the industrial zones is aimed at promoting the tourism industry based on ecology, regional history and national races' culture, and creating job opportunities not only for all walks of life from the region but also for Myanmar migrant workers from other countries.

He invited the suggestions from entrepreneurs and merchants to come out the opportunities and to emphasize undertaking of future tasks in the long-run interest. As such, he said that Myanmar would have capabilities to be on a par with ASEAN countries in realizing the ASEAN Integration in 2015.

As Myanmar which is home to various national

racies is the Union nation, all national races possess respective literatures and cultures, he said. In line with the provision of the constitution, saying that every citizen shall enjoy the rights to pursue respective literature by upholding Our Three Main National Causes without harming languages, religions, literatures and cultures of other national races, he granted that the State will assist flourishing of national race literatures. At present, he said that national race Hluttaw representatives are seeking ways to teach their respective literatures as proposals were submitted to the Hluttaws.

In fact, he said that the Government service personnel are strengths of the government. He pointed out that the machinery of the government cannot be operated without State service personnel as well as the massive personnel cannot march towards the goal without leadership of the government, and the both sides are relying on each other.

He stressed the need for personnel to be loyal to the State in discharging their duties, and the government will emphasize development of social life of the staff, he noted.

While the government is striving for undertaking

the process of clean government, he urged the service personnel to avoid malpractices of bribery. Moreover, he said that in line with the changed situations, the people wishing to submit their requirements on their behalf or for the majority to the government directly or through Hluttaw representatives of respective constituencies. The submissions on the right way will be assisted within the framework of law, he said.

State Hluttaw representative U Sai Kyu, ward and village administrators, entrepreneurs and merchants and local people submitted reports on opening of an Education College in Lashio, supply of electricity and drinking water, allotment of the land plot for Chambers of Commerce and Industry and regional requirements.

Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat and Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 U Aung Than Oo replied to the submissions on their respective sectors.

After reviewing the reports, the Vice-President

made concluding remarks, saying that the Union ministers, the state chief minister and deputy ministers have fulfilled the requirements regarding the submissions of ward and village administrators, townselders and organizations as much as they could. Among these submissions, priority will be given to the issues for the majority, he said. Reporting the regional requirements is designed to contribute towards undertaking of regional development tasks, he added. He urged the local people to join hands with the government in successfully implementing the projects.

With regard to supply of electricity, he stressed the need to form the local power supply committees for contributing to the government in coverage of electricity supply tasks across the nation.

Likewise, he said that if the local people cooperate with the government in conservation of environment and maintenance of buildings and land plots, supply of water and upgrading of schools can be carried out as quickly as possible. In consequence, he said that the projects of the State will be accomplished in a short (See page 9)



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meeting with traders from Lashio, Kyaukme and Muse districts.—MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents robe and offertories to the abbot of Maha Bawdayon Monastery in Lashio No. 4 Ward.—MNA

Government implementing plans on Dawei Special Economic Zone,...

(from page 8)

period. Thus, he urged the people to pour out their utmost efforts in nation-building tasks.

After the meeting, the

Vice-President cordially greeted those present.

At Maha Bawdayon Monastery in Ward 4 of Lashio, the Vice-President and party paid homage to the

Abbots and donated robes and alms to the Sayadaw and presented cash to the fund

through the monastery board of trustees.

At Khayoe Pariyatti Monastery in Ward 9, they also paid homage to Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sumana and members of the Sangha and made donations.

In the afternoon, the Vice-President met merchants and entrepreneurs from Lashio, Kyaukse and Muse districts in Shweli Yeiktha in Lashio.

First, merchants made self introductions from Lashio, Muse, Kyaukse and Nawngkhio.

Chairman U David of Lashio Merchants and Industrial Entrepreneurs Association, Chairman U Tin Maung Oo of Kyaukse District Merchants and Industrial Entrepreneurs Association, Chairman U Chit Tin of Nawngkhio Township Merchants and Industrial Entrepreneurs Association and Vice-

Chairman-2 U Htay Oo of Namkham Border Trade Merchants Association reported on their requirements and development of domestic trade.

Chairman of Cooperative Bank U Khin Maung Aye, Chairman of Asia World Co U Tun Myint Naing, Chairman of Shwe ThanLwin Co U Kyaw Win and Chairman of New Star Light Co U Kyaw Kyaw Win submitted reports on development of Shan State and establishment of Muse Special Economic Zone to create job opportunity for the local people.

Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries and for Cooperatives U Ohn Myint reported on export of advanced tea from Kyaukse and Nawngkhio townships and assistance of the ministry for milch cow and fish breeding tasks.

U Min Min of Muse

Township presented suggestions on development of Muse.

After reviewing the reports, the Vice-President said that he would like to present actual difficulties to the entrepreneurs in the meeting. He said he will solve the present difficulties at first.

He urged those present to make efforts for achieving success in long-run to as to export the value-added products.

As factories and workshops are operated at full capacity in production works for generating more job opportunities in the nation, it is necessary to consider establishment of industrial zones, he noted. In conclusion, he urged those present to expedite their efforts step by step for establishment of industries and special economic zones to be able to uplift socio-economic life of the local people.—MNA

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, meets WAO and MCWA in Lashio District, donates rice, oil, cash to orphanages



Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, donates cash to Lashio District WAO and MCWA.

MNA

NAV PYI TAW, 22 Feb—Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, met members of Women Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association at MCWA Office in Lashio, Shan State yesterday.

Speaking to the members of Shan, Kokang, Yunnan, Monesi national races women social organizations, Women Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Daw Nan Shwe Hmon called for continued cooperation in promotion of culture and philanthropic works in the interests of own region, stressing the importance of unity, devotion, goodwill and discipline as the key to success. She also urged them to join hands in guarding women against human-trafficking and sexual abuse, all-round development of women, rehabilitation and preserving Myanmar culture as Shan State (South) was a close border region.

Next, the Lashio District WAO chairperson reported on works of the association and so did a member of the district MCWA.

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon then visited 12 orphanages in Lashio Township and donated 65 bags of rice, 12 bottles of oil and K 6 million to them. Wellwishers accompanying her also presented K 5,053,000 to the orphanages.—MNA

Displaced families in Kachin State provided with necessities

NAV PYI TAW, 21 Feb—There are 69 relief camps in Kachin State where 4775 households of 18543 displaced persons—8190 males and 10405 females—are being given care under the supervision of the Kachin State government.

Under the guidance of the Head of State, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win and Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe, Mansi Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Tun Tun, Amyotha Hluttaw Representatives U Khat Htein Nan of Kachin State Constituency No. 1 and U San Tun of Constituency No. 11, Secretary U Sit Myaing of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, Vice-Chairman U Yoe Mu of Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association and departmental officials visited relief camps to encourage and provide assistance to displaced people in Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Bhamo and Mansi in their tour from 14 to 18 February.

The party led by Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw

Win went to 52 relief camps where 12232 people from 3078 households are staying and provided 34 sets of Sky Net DTH, 34 sets of 32-inch LCD TV, 16 1000-watt Honda handheld generators, 1000 T-shirts.

Ministry of Border Affairs provided K 40 million, SWRR Ministry K 4,345,998, Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association K 67,245,000 and IGE company K five million, totaling 116,590,998, to families.

WFP cooperating with Border Affairs Ministry in relief measures provided 229.29 tons of rice, 15.456 tons of edible oil, 2.548 tons of salt, 30.573 tons of bean and 0.87 tons of nourishing powder for one month. It had provided 556.894 tons of rice, 35.3176 tons of edible oil, 5.822 tons of salt, 69.874 tons of bean and 3.387 tons of nourishing powder from 20 August of 2011 to 17 February of 2012.

Until 12 February of 2012, the grand total calculated by Kachin State government came to K 2204.47 million worth of stuff and K 271.57 million, K 2476.04 million in total.

The Kachin State government set out education plans for 4019 school-age children.

The displaced families want to return to their own land wishing for regional stability and eternal peace.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Zaw Win encouraged that the President has had wish to provide displaced people with necessary assistance and to carry out resettlement and rehabilitation works when the region restores peace. As the State government holding Union level and state level peace talks is taking measures to ensure ceasefire and endless peace, the locals will be able to pluck peace flowers in next to no time.

The victims need to pull themselves together without being downhearted. The State government sympathizes with displaced people and heartedly thanks the Kachin State government for taking great care of them. The national people need to show their enthusiasm in taking approach to ensuring of regional stability and perpetual peace.

MNA



Representatives attending 13th day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA

Thirteen day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw...

(from page 16)

implemented currently should be rejected and suspended and allowed to work in low volume. It was found that money could be saved if the union government handed over plans and projects that should not be implemented by the union government to the private sectors under FDI, PPP and suspended the plans and projects that should be suspended and the salary increases could be done to a certain percent in the upcoming 2012-2013 fiscal year if the money were injected to the salary payment for the service personnel, he said.

Those plans were industrial development project and Nay Pyi Taw development project and more plans and projects could be found when assessment were made, he added. Besides, unnecessary expenses should be reduced, he said. To increase revenue, he also urged the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to encourage the tax law and tax system to increase the income from tax, to help the people earning income, wages and salaries so that they can pay tax to the State and to introduce laws related to taxation as soon as possible, he suggested.

If the people's representatives carried out assessment to the public finances and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw carried out assessment the projects in which Public finances should not be spent unnecessarily, salary increases for the service personnel could be made to a certain extent.

The good service personnel shaped the good government, and only the good government would benefit the State and people, and when the service personnel enjoyed the recognition of the legislative body and executive body, they would become good service personnel with moralities who could support for the national building.

And it would help the country to overcome the challenges in the future and help the work for creating the Clean Government, Good Governance as soon as possible, promising the good future of the country, he said.

In conclusion, he urged Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to carry out assessment to the national plans and projects and the Union Budget Bill presented by the Union Government in the interests of the people and the State for bringing the pride to the State, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

At the proposal discussion session, regarding the proposal on **"adopting National Transport Network Policy that can cover the whole country, drafting of new projects after carrying out detailed examinations—whether or not new projects are beneficial, whether or not it can actually benefit people and whether or not it can meet the expectations, and urging the Union Government to publicize the allocation of money to respective projects for transparency"** submitted by U Sai Thiha Kyaw of Mongyal Constituency on 13 February and discussed by 10 representatives, U Ye Htut Tin of Phahsaung Constituency discussed that if people have come to know that the projects being implemented with the contribution of public taxes benefit them, and then people's trust would be won and more taxes could be collected.

With respect to that proposal, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung said: Construction of Transport Network in Myanmar is a must. The Ministry's policy is that construction is to be based on Efficient Transport Network system and demand and supply concept. Civil aviation has been equipped with airplanes and airfields. But, these are like

construction materials are piled up. The network would emerge only after these are systematically formed, which bring reasonable benefits to the Ministry and airlines.

Reasonably-priced services can be offered to the consumers. Water transport is the same. At the current condition, Transport Network can not be constructed.

Construction of Transport Network is not only a must but also needs to be already-existed one. It is essential for the State's transport sector. The President has already assigned the duties to construct it in order that people can have easy access to one place to another in short period of times and at low cost. U Sai Thiha Kyaw's proposal is essential for every country. And it is on the ministry's high agenda and is appropriate.

Likewise, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min said: establishing transport sector needs feasibility study for benefits. In addition, it needs to take into consideration other factors—technology, economical scale, region's economic, health, education, regional development and environmental impacts. Based on the report, projects and places that pass through are to be designated after conducting survey in all aspects.

In strategic matters, the country's current political, economic, social and defence conditions are to be taken into account. In addition, decisions about transport lines that would link other countries and important transport lines that are crucial for the country's home and abroad political affairs, are to be made from the strategic angle.

With a view to enabling transport line become an economic platform, establishment of model agricultural zone, model farm zone and model economic zone, conducting vocational courses, inviting trade, investment and companies and businesses from home and abroad, setting up of bank and insurance companies, providing assistances for enhancing comparative capacities and basic mechanisms, are being carried out.

The proposal does not need discussing because it is accord with the process. It is natural that the allocation of money to respective projects is publicized through media for transparency.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint said: Myanmar is going to have extensive relations with the global world in harmony with current political system.

Standards of Union roads crossing the country which link other countries are to be like those of neighboring countries.

Priority is given to main union roads linking regions and states for swift flow of commodities.

Ministry of Construction is implementing road networks in accord with basic principles in constructing roads and bridges, which are the basic infrastructures for harmonious development of the country.

Road network system of a country is to be drafted based on many factors. It needs to consider indexes such as economical scale, international relations etc. Sometime, even though it does not bring benefits to the country, amity of national races, regional development and not lagging far behind are to be taken into consideration. I approved the proposal. The proposal was approved with yes vote.

Regarding **Village-tract Administration Bill**, Hluttaw representatives discussed remarks of the President and the Hluttaw sought approval paragraph-wise.

Regarding **Paragraph (7) (c) of Chapter (4) of the bill**, comment of the President is, "Regarding the amendment to the bill submitted by the ministry replacing the phrase **'by straw poll'** with **'by secret ballot'**, election of the

representative of ten-house groups by straw poll is election by plenary meeting and will choose qualified representative. This basic level election pattern will lessen stuffs to do, prevent from unnecessary administration incidents and reduce costs. It will also avoid further complications caused by ballot. It should be kept as in the original."

Remark of the Joint Bill Committee is to keep as approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, "Respective breadwinners of ten households in the ten-house group shall elect one person who satisfies set requirements from dwellers of the group **by secret ballot** and submit the name and curriculum vitae of the representative elect."

U Man Kan Nyunt of Kayin State Constituency (2) seconded the remark of the President. U Aung Thein of Ywangan Constituency and U Tun Aung Kyaw of Ponnagyun Constituency discussed in favour of the comment of the Joint Bill Committee.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko proposed the vote on the paragraph.

As there are more votes against the proposal, "the part of the bill should be as in remark of the President", the bill was approved as first approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Regarding **Paragraph (29) of Chapter (13) of the bill**, the remark of the President is, "Since the bill prescribes, 'Expenses of ward or village-tract administrator's offices shall be paid from commission earned on taxes on farmlands as an income in ratio', wards and villages with no farmland will face difficulties."

The amendment of the Joint Bill Committee based on the President's remark is, "To enable ward or village-tract administrator's offices bear expenses, reasonable fund for respective township shall be allotted in yearly budget."

U Aung Thein of Ywangan Constituency and U Tun Aung Kyaw of Ponnagyun Constituency seconded the amendment of the Joint Bill Committee. Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko gave his consent for the amendment.

As there are more votes for the proposal, "the amendment of the Joint Bill Committee should be part of the bill", it was approved.

Regarding **Paragraph (30) of Chapter (13) of the bill**, the comment of the President is, "Since the bill prescribes, 'If income does not meet office expenses, fund shall be requested from township administrator', the township administrator could allow the fund only when he/she has permission to allow it from the fund of the State."

The amendment of the Joint Bill Committee based on the President's remark is, "The fund allotted under paragraph (29) shall be acquired from township administrator by ward or village-tract administrator and used systematically."

U Aung Thein of Ywangan Constituency and U Tun Aung Kyaw of Ponnagyun Constituency seconded the amendment of the Joint Bill Committee. Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko gave his consent for the amendment.

As there are more votes for the proposal, "the amendment of the Joint Bill Committee should be part of the bill", it was approved.

Regarding **Paragraph (31) of Chapter (13) of the bill**, although the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved it as, "Ward or village-tract administrator shall report expenses to township administrator", the Joint Bill Committee canceled the paragraph to be in accordance with the amended paragraphs (29) and (30) of the Chapter (13). As the proposal obtained more yeses, the Hluttaw cancelled the paragraph.

The Joint Bill Committee considered that the undertakings in 2011-2012 fiscal year National Plan Bill are completed ones or under way; it will be more appropriate that the Hluttaw should record it, rather than approve it, and let the works continue. The Hluttaw put the bill on record.

Member of the Joint Bill Committee Dr Myat Nyana Soe made clarification on procedures and features to be included in discussion and approving the Budget Bill of the Union under Pyidaungsu Hluttaw rules.

Secretary of the Joint Bill Committee U Saw Hla Tun made clarification on findings and remarks of the committee on **2012 Additional Budget Allotment Bill of the Union** and Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun submitted the proposal to discussed these at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The proposal was approved unanimously.

U Soe Tha of Twantay Constituency, U Zaw Myint Pe of Mandalay Region Constituency (5), U Ohn Tin of Rakhine State Constituency (10), U Kyi Tha of Gwa Constituency and Dr Aye Maung of Rakhine State Constituency (1) discussed policies and fundamental aspects of the bill.

Today's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session concluded at 3.55 pm and the session continued for 14th day at 10 am on 23 February.—MNA

Sports Ministry organizes mini-marathon, track & field

YANGON, 22 Feb—To turn out new generation athletes, Ministry of Sports organized the Inter-District Men's and Women's Mini-marathon and track and field contest in Myaungmya Township.

On 14 February, officials awarded the winners in the contests.

A total of 184 men and 78 women took part in the mini-marathon. Winners secured K 700,000 for the first, K 300,000 for the second, K 200,000 for the third, K 100,000 for the fourth, K 50,000 each for the fifth and the sixth.

A total of 154 men and 103 women participated in men's and women's 100-m, 200-m, 400-m, 800-m, shot-put, discus and javelin events.—*Myanma Alin*

LOCAL SPORTS



Football Tourney concludes in Singaing

SINGAING, 22 Feb—The first Singaing Township Inter-Ward/Village Football Tournament was held at township sports ground in Singaing Township from 31 January to 12 February.

A total of 14 football teams—six teams from six wards and eight teams from village-tracts—participated in the tournament.

After the final match, Region Hluttaw Representative U Nyi Nyi presented cash awards and trophy to first prize winning Thithkhaik Village team.

Next, Region Hluttaw Representative U Sein Thuang gave cash award and prize to Yannaing Ward team that stood second in the football tournament.

Myanma Alin

DISTRICT NEWS

New concrete road inaugurated



PATHEIN, 22 Feb—In honour of the 65th Anniversary Union Day, Minyekyawswa Road, repaved with concrete facility, was inaugurated in Pathein of Ayeyawady Region on 10 February, attended by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung and officials.

Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Tin Soe, Region Minister for Development Affairs U Kyaw Win Naing and wellwisher Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Kyin Han formally opened the road. They also opened Aungtheikdi, Aungmaga and Bantwogon (section-1) concrete roads.—*Myanma Alin*

Vocational courses conclude

YANGON, 22 Feb—The vocational training course No. 1/ 2012 concluded at the training school at 135 on Dhammazedi Road in Bahan Township on 17 February.

The head of Yangon Region Social Welfare Department and the principle of the training school presented certificates to 252 trainees.

The course No/2012 will be opened for tailoring the dresses, snacks, Myanmar foods, Chinese foods, floral arrangements (basic/advanced) on 20 February and knitting courses on 25 February. The courses will last two months each.—*vtis*



TB patient care service lectured

YAMETHIN, 22 Feb—The community based multiplier course for TB patients was opened in Yamethin on 14 February.

Head of District Health Department Dr Nilar Tun explained health care for TB patients and Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Yi Yi Thuang, the purpose of the training course and its disciplines.

Altogether 30 trainees from wards and villages attended the two days course.

Myanma Alin

Health care services discussed

MAWLAMYINEGYUN, 22 Feb—A seminar to review public health care services for 2011 was held in conjunction with the 2012 public health plan at the hall of health care school in Mawlamyinegyun Township on 15 February.

Township departmental officials explained public health care services.

The seminar was attended by health assistants, female health staff, midwives, health supervisor-1 and -2. The seminar lasted from 15 to 18 February.—*Township IPRD*

Development of fish resources discussed

SHWEGYIN, 22 Feb—To be able to contribute to rural development and poverty alleviation, the talk on conservation of fish resource was held at Ingani Village Basic Education Primary School in Shwegyin Township on 5 February.

Departmental officials explained digging of fish ponds on a manageable scale, conservation of trees around the fish ponds and supply of fingerlings.—*Township IPRD*

Outstanding teachers, students awarded



HINTHADA, 22 Feb—The prize presentation of No. 11 Basic Education Primary School in Hinthada was held at the school on 29 January.

The township administrator and the township education officer presented prizes to outstanding teachers and students.—*Myanma Alin*

Inter-village bridge opened

LABUTTA, 22 Feb—The bridge linking Aunghlaing-Thitpok villages was put back into service in Aunghlaing Village of Pyinsalu Sub-Township in Labutta District on 9 February.

Officials opened the bridge.

The administrator of the Sub-Township and departmental officials presented certificates of honour to the in-charge of Action Aid Myanmar and local wellwishers.

The 6 feet wide and 120 feet long bridge was built at a cost of K 1 million by Action Aid Myanmar and K 4.5 million by local people.—*Township IPRD*

Htamane making contest held

KENG TUNG, 22 Feb—Kengtung General Administration Department organized the Myanmar Htamane making contest at Myoma sports ground in Kengtung on 6 February afternoon.

Local authorities cut the ribbon to open the contest.

Anti-snake venom donated



LABUTTA, 22 Feb—A ceremony to donate anti-snake venom took place at Ywadi Nadi Hall in Labutta on 5 February.

Speaker of Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw Thayay Sithu U Hsan Hsint made a speech. The Speaker and wellwishers donated 70 ampoules of anti-snake venom to Medical Superintendent Dr Sein Hlaing of Labutta District Hospital (200-bed). Nine wellwishers donated K 495,000 to the fund of emergency health care to Deputy Commissioner U Aye Maung Kyi and officials.—*District IPRD*

Repaved road commissioned

TOUNGGOO, 22 Feb—A ceremony to commission Hanthawady Asphalt Road was held in Tounggoo on 5 February morning.

Local authorities formally opened the road.

Senior Engineer U Pyay Kyaw of Township Development Affairs Committee explained facts about the road. The 12 feet wide and 900 feet long facility was built at a cost of over K 8.6 million.—*Township IPRD*

Wakema gets new asphalt strand road



WAKEMA, 22 Feb—The strand road (Ywale ward), repaved with asphalt, was inaugurated in Wakema on 12 February.

Local authorities cut the ribbon to open the road. The 1000 feet long and 18 feet wide asphalt road, built by Wakema Township Development Affairs Committee, cost K 11.1 million.

Myanma Alin

Altogether 14 contending teams participated in the contest.

After that, district and township level departmental officials presented the first prize to education team, the second prize to No. 5 Ward team, the third prize to General Administration Department team and competitive prizes to other teams.

District IPRD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV SANG THAI IRIS VOY NO (03)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SANG THAI IRIS VOY NO (03) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 SANG THAI SHIPPING
CO LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV ASIAN NACA VOY NO (10)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASIAN NACA VOY NO (10) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.2.2012 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: M/S EASTERN CAR LINER
S'PORE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914



The innovative "Re:START" shopping mall, which opened last October and built from shipping containers, is pictured in downtown Christchurch, nearly one year after a 6.3-magnitude quake hit New Zealand's second largest city, killing 185 people.—INTERNET

Missing Canadian skiers found

NELSON, 22 Feb—Two back-country skiers who'd been missing overnight in British Columbia were found in good condition on Tuesday, authorities said.

Wendy Hetherington, the manager of Kimberly Search and Rescue, told CTV News the man and woman were found near the Kootenay Pass. The two had set out Monday on a day trip to a cabin at the summit of the pass, but authorities became concerned when their car was still at the trailhead as darkness approached.

The (Vancouver) Province reported search-and-rescue teams found the skiers about 9 am about 2 miles from where they had left their vehicle. The pair used shovels and some gear to build what Staff-Sgt Dan Seibel of the Kootenay Boundary Regional Detachment called a snow pit shelter, the newspaper said. "They became disorientated in the area they were skiing in and got turned around," Seibel said.

Snow and fog or low-lying clouds had contributed to the situation, he said.—Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV PHILIP VOY NO (005)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHILIP VOY NO (005) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.2.2012 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



Chinese State Councilor Liu Yandong (front) addresses the launching ceremony of the quantum communication-based transmission network of financial information in Beijing, China, on 21 Feb, 2012. The transmission network was built by Xinhua News Agency and University of Science and Technology of China.

XINHUA

Four cups of coffee daily may help cut diabetes risk

LONDON, 22 Feb—Moderate consumption of coffee—four to five cups of coffee a day—may lower the chances of developing type 2 diabetes compared with those drinking it occasionally or not at all, say researchers.

A major European investigation into the effects of diet and lifestyle on health, found a cut in risk of around 30 per cent from regular consumption of coffee—whether it was caffeinated or decaffeinated.

The findings also reveal that coffee drinking does not appear to increase the risk of heart disease or cancer, the *Daily Mail* reported.

In total 42,659 people took part in the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC) Germany study, and were followed up for almost nine years on average.

During that time, there were 1,432 cases of type 2 diabetes diagnosed, 394 heart attacks, 310 strokes cases and 1,801 cancer cases.

Drinking more than four cups of coffee a day—caffeinated and decaffeinated—compared with less than one

cup was not linked to a higher risk of developing a chronic disease. A lower risk of 20-30 per cent of developing type 2 diabetes was linked to moderate consumption of both kinds of coffee.

Although caffeine is known to act as a stimulant, it has been unclear how much a driver needs to keep alert during long journeys.

The latest study, carried out by scientists at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, suggests a single cup of caffeinated coffee is all it takes to boost alertness midway through a four-hour motorway drive.

Caffeine acts as a stimulant and is known to combat tiredness during monotonous tasks such as motorway driving.

"This study adds to the growing scientific data that suggests moderate coffee consumption, four to five cups of coffee per day, is safe and does not increase the risk of a range of chronic disease," said Dr Euan Paul, executive director of the British Coffee Association.

"It is particularly encouraging to see that coffee

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (433)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (433) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.2.2012 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

Heavy fog disrupts trains, flights in China

BEIJING, 22 Feb—Two Beijing-Shanghai high-speed trains, G119 and G121, have been canceled and some have been delayed due to dense fog sweeping east Tianjin City and central Hebei Province Wednesday morning, according to the Beijing Railway Administration's blog on Sina Weibo.

Air traffic is also affected. Thick fog has blanketed Shanghai Pudong International Airport since 9 am on Tuesday, and it was not completely dispersed until 7 am on Wednesday.

More than 150 flights

have been delayed or diverted to alternative airports due to the poor visibility and eight of them, carrying about 1,500 passengers, landed at Qingdao airport in east Shandong Province.

In the southernmost island of Hainan, Haikou Meilan International Airport has been closed due to the fog, according to operators.

The shipping service connecting the island to the mainland across the Qiongzhou Strait has been suspended since 1:20 am on Wednesday by local maritime authorities. The National Meteorological Centre warned at 8 am on Wednesday of heavy fog in central and eastern China, with visibility reduced to less than 200 metres in some areas.—Xinhua

An Afghan family walk along a road during a heavy snowfall in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, on 19 Feb, 2012.—XINHUA

**Two killed in small plane crash in US**

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb—Two people were confirmed dead after a small plane crashed in Texas State in the US, authorities said.

The wreckage of the plane, which disappeared on a flight to Oklahoma, was found Tuesday on a ranch about 10 km from the city of Albany. Lynn Lunsford with

the US Federal Aviation Administration said two deaths have been confirmed, *Xinhua* reported citing ABC.

A pilot and a passenger were on the single-engine plane flying from Abilene city in Texas to Oklahoma on Monday night when it went off radar near Albany.

Internet

35 percent of British adults sleep with bear

Thirty-five percent of adults in Britain admitted they sleep with a teddy bear to help de-stress and sleep at night, a survey said. The hotel chain Travelodge surveyed 6,000 Britons to learn more about Britain's fascination with the teddy bear after its staff tried to reunite more than 75,000 forgotten bears left behind in its 452 hotels in England — and found many were not owned by children.

Twenty-five percent of male respondents reported they take their teddy bear with them when going away on business. Many said the bear reminds them of home and a cuddle helps them to nod off.

Fifty-one percent of British adults said they still have a teddy bear from their childhood and the average teddy in Britain was 27 years old, the survey said.

One-in-10 single men surveyed in England admitted they hide their teddy bear when their girlfriend stayed over, while 14 percent of married men reported they hide their teddy bear when any family and friends came to visit.

News Album



Florist Don DeFoe carries an over sized bear that will go with a flower arrangement that is being made for Valentines Day, in St Louis on 13 Feb, 2012. DeFoe says 3000 orders are ready to go out the door for the holiday on 14 Feb, 2012.

Mass toy store gets liquor license

A Danvers, Mass, toy store was mistakenly issued a liquor license, meant for the previous occupant of the location, officials said.

"It was very shocking to us," said Jennifer LaMontagne, co-owner of the toy store Green Elephant. Last week the governor of Massachusetts approved a request liquor license at 13 Elm Street, where the toy store is located in Danvers, WHDH-TV, Boston, reported on Thursday.

LaMontagne said she had no idea anyone had ever applied for a liquor license for the location of the shop. "We heard about it yesterday, that was the first time we had heard about it," said LaMontagne.

Kiwi women choose wrinkles over surgery

A poll of women in New Zealand found that nine out of 10 women would not get cosmetic surgery to combat the signs of old age.

The online study of 1,000 women found only one in five said they felt "sad" about wrinkles and only a third

would consider cosmetic surgery, *New Zealand Herald* reported on Monday. The study, commissioned by skin cream manufacturer Olay and produced by Perceptive Research, found that 25 percent of women said they would be offended if someone

asked if they had cosmetic surgery. Yet, while most New Zealand women said they would prefer to age naturally, the survey found that 38 percent said they would consider cosmetic surgery if money was not an issue.

Emma Watson wants to be her own stylist



Emma Watson

WASHINGTON, 22 Feb—Emma Watson has revealed that she wants to develop her own style sense and wear what she likes.

The 'Potter' star has always welcomed assistance from stylists but now admits that she wants to make her own wardrobe choices.

"I was fully game for, 'Throw me in this, throw me in that' but I'd like to develop my own sense of style and dress for myself," Contactmusic quoted her as telling the *Independent* newspaper.

"The Press destroyed me over this Rodarte dress I wore once—it was bright blue with chains on it. I loved it. And I wore a leather Christopher Kane dress with embroidered

flowers all over it. It wasn't that crazy, but at the time..."

The 21-year-old beauty believes that her interest in fashion has helped her forge an identity for herself away from the 'Harry Potter' franchise.

"Fashion gave me a chance to feel like I was something outside of 'Potter'. I'm a multi-dimensional person and that's the freedom of fashion; that you're able to reinvent yourself through how you dress and how you cut your hair or whatever," she added. *Internet*



Jimmy Stafford, Patrick Monahan and Scott Underwood of the band Train hold their award for Best Pop Performance By A Duo Or Group With Vocals for 'Hey, Soul Sister' at the 53rd Grammy Awards at Staples Centre in Los Angeles on 13 Feb, 2011.—INTERNET

Judi Dench says she's not going blind

NEW YORK, 22 Feb—Judi Dench, who was reported to be 'going blind' due to an eye condition, has rubbished all such rumours. Dench, 77, responded after reports of her failing eyesight swarmed the Internet over the weekend.

"In response to the numerous articles in the media concerning my eye condition - macular degeneration - I do not wish for this to be overblown," the *New York Daily News* quoted the actress as saying in a statement.

This condition is something that thousands and thousands of people all over the world are having to contend with.



Judi Dench

Dench had said in an interview that macular degeneration caused her central vision to become blurry, though her peripheral sight is unaffected.—*Internet*

Rihanna, Chris Brown collaborate again

LOS ANGELES, 22 Feb—Rihanna and Chris Brown say via Twitter three years after their headline-making altercation in Los Angeles they have recorded remixes of each other's songs.

The singers performed separately on Sunday's Grammy Awards show.

Brown has skipped the Grammys ceremonies for the

last few years. He was arrested for assaulting his then-girlfriend Rihanna during a heated argument the day of the 2009 prize presentation in Los Angeles. Both he and Rihanna were scheduled to perform at the show, but they backed out at the last minute.

Brown later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to probation and community



Barbadian singer Rihanna performs at O2 Arena in London on 5 Oct, 2011.

INTERNET

service, and was ordered to attend anger-management classes.

Internet

Adele, Sheeran win big at Brit Awards

LONDON, 22 Feb—Adele and Ed Sheeran were crowned Best British Female and Male Artist at the Brit Awards ceremony in London on Tuesday. "It's been an amazing year. Thank you," the BBC quoted Adele as saying. She also took home the Best Album trophy for her "21" set. She recently won six Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. The singer's second Brit Awards acceptance speech was cut short so Blur could give the final performance of the evening, prompting Adele to briefly flip her middle finger in



British singer Adele attends the "Brit Awards" at O2 Arena in London on 21 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET

protest. She apologized quickly after the ceremony.

"I flung the middle finger. That was for the suits at the Brit Awards, not my fans. I'm sorry if I offended anyone, but the suits offended me," the BBC reported she said. The show's producers issued their own mea culpa to Adele as well, apologizing for cutting her off. British rapper MIA drew criticism this month when she made the same obscene gesture during the Super Bowl Halftime Show she was performing with Madonna in Indianapolis.—*Internet*

Pop band Train plans hometown concerts

SAN FRANCISCO, 22 Feb—Grammy Award-winning pop rock band Train said Tuesday it is planning a string of six hometown club shows in San Francisco.

The tour is in anticipation of the "Hey, Soul Sister" singers' upcoming album "California 37," due out 17 April.

The first of the San Francisco dates will be 10 April at Cafe Du Nord. The mini-tour is to finish up 15

April at the Fillmore.

A portion of the ticket sales proceeds will go to the San Francisco charity Family House, which provides temporary housing to families of seriously ill children, the group said in a news release.

The band's lead singer, Pat Monahan, is to perform the national anthem at NASCAR's Daytona 500 race Sunday.

Internet

'Marilyn' to expand into 600 theaters

NEW YORK, 22 Feb—"My Week with Marilyn" is to expand into 600 American theaters in the days leading up to the Academy Awards ceremony, The Weinstein Co said.

The movie's stars earned Oscar nominations. Michelle Williams is up for best actress for her portrayal of Hollywood icon Marilyn Monroe and Kenneth Branagh is up for best supporting actor for his performance as the British actor Laurence Olivier.

The film studio announced the film will expand Friday ahead of Sunday's Oscar ceremony. It is currently in 120 theaters.

"This will give audiences a chance to see for the first time or revisit the film in theaters in advance of the awards," the studio said in a news release.

Internet



Cast member Michelle Williams attends a screening of "My Week With Marilyn" during AFI Fest 2011 held at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles on 6 Nov, 2011.

INTERNET

West Brom's Dawson signs long-term deal

Baggies defender commits to Hawthorns club until summer of 2015

LONDON, 22 Feb — West Brom defender Craig Dawson has signed a new long-term contract at the Midlands club. The 21-year-old has put pen to paper on an improved three-and-a-half-year deal — with another year's option in the club's favour — which will keep him at the Hawthorns until the end of the 2014/15 season. Dawson joined the

Baggies in August 2010 from Rochdale, before re-joining the League One club on loan for the whole of last season.

This term he has forced his way into the reckoning at the Hawthorns, making six appearances in the Barclays Premier League and another four in the cup competitions. West Brom manager Roy Hodgson has been delighted with England Under-21

defender Dawson's progress since he hooked up with the first-team squad. "Speaking not only personally, but on behalf of everyone at the club, we are all very happy Craig has committed his long-term future to West Brom," Hodgson told the club's official website.

"Since he joined up with the team at the start of the season he has been very impressive, both in training and games. "We believe he has got a very bright future as a Premier League player and it's nice that Premier League future is going to be with West Bromwich Albion."

Dawson joined Rochdale from non-league outfit Radcliffe Borough and helped Dale win promotion out of League Two in the 2009-10 season, making 94 appearances for the club in total and scoring 22 goals.

Internet



Craig Dawson has forced himself into first-team reckoning at West Brom this season. — INTERNET

Chelsea fall to defeat in Naples

Napoli 3-1 Chelsea

NAPLES, 22 Feb — Chelsea face a tough task to qualify for the Champions League quarter-finals after Napoli fought back strongly to take the initiative in their last 16 first leg tie in Italy.

Andre Villas-Boas's side raised hopes of a famous win as Juan Mata calmly sidefooted in the loose ball after it cannoned off Paolo Cannavaro on 27 minutes.

But Ezequiel Lavezzi cut inside and neatly curled home from the edge of the box to level, before Edinson Cavani neatly timed his run to bundle in Gokhan Inler's

cross to put Napoli 2-1 up at the break.

Lavezzi took advantage of some slack defending to fire in Napoli's third on 65

minutes and leave the London side with plenty to think about ahead of the return on 14th March.

Internet



Juan Mata had put Chelsea into a first-half lead in Naples. — INTERNET

Porto aren't beaten yet, says Toure

LONDON, 22 Feb — Yaya Toure has warned his Manchester City team-mates that they still have work to do to reach the Europa League's last 16 stage. The Premier League leaders start Wednesday's last 32 second

leg tie with holders Porto firm favourites to progress after securing a 2-1 advantage in Portugal. But Toure does not expect Porto to relinquish their Europa League crown without a fight at the Etihad Stadium.

City's Ivory Coast

international said that Roberto Mancini's men will have to play as well as they did in the first leg if they are progress. "We'll have to play well again because the second game will be the same, very hard, although we'll have the advantage of playing in front of our fans," said the former Barcelona midfielder. "It's not finished yet. Porto have fantastic players and it will be

FC Porto's Brazilian defender Alex Sandro (2nd R) takes part in a training session at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, north-west England, on the eve of their UEFA Europa league football match against Manchester City.

INTERNET



Fulham & Arsenal U14s book Barcelona date



Fulham recorded a 4-2 victory over Chelsea in the Premier League Under-14 tournament. — INTERNET

LONDON, 22 Feb — Two Premier League Academy teams have booked their places at a chance-of-a-lifetime event in Barcelona after winning their respective competitions at the 2012 Barclays Premier League Under-14 National Tournament. Arsenal and Fulham came through the fiercely competitive tournament involving all 20 Premier League clubs at the London Soccerdome in Greenwich. And the two London U14 sides now have the prospect of taking part in a four-team event at Barcelona's Ciutat Esportiva Joan Gamper training complex on 17th and 18th March.

The Premier League tournament was

split into two-day events with 10 sides in each competition. Arsenal defeated Tottenham Hotspur on penalties after Sunday's final ended 0-0, the Gunners having come through a group featuring Everton, Newcastle United, Stoke City and Swansea City.

On Friday, Fulham topped their group ahead of Manchester City, Blackburn Rovers, West Bromwich Albion and Sunderland before recording a 4-2 victory over Chelsea in the final. "I am very pleased," said Fulham Academy Development Manager Geoff Noonan, who revealed that his players were not told about the Barcelona prize until just before the start of the final.

"We will learn a great deal from the trip to Barcelona, whatever happens results-wise." "Playing against teams that keep the ball for long spells will be another learning experience. There will be a tactical and technical challenge as well as the challenge of the travel and the boys dealing with a different culture and country."

"I'm not sure I could see it in their eyes at the end, I think they were so tired from the game. It will sink in during the next few days that they will get that trip and the excitement will come from that." — Internet

Wernbloom saves the day for CSKA in injury time

MOSCOW, 22 Feb — An injury-time goal on his debut by Swedish midfielder Pontus Wernbloom grabbed CSKA Moscow a 1-1 draw with Spanish giants Real Madrid here on Tuesday in their Champions League Last 16 first leg match. A goal from Real's Portuguese superstar Cristiano Ronaldo in the 28th minute put the nine-time European champions ahead and they looked set for their seventh successive win in this season's competition until Wernbloom blasted the ball home.

"We conceded a goal to a schoolboy's defensive mistake in the first-half and it cost us a goal," CSKA coach Leonid Slutsky said. "But late

in the second half we put more attacking players onto the pitch and levelled the scores. "In general we played good in defence, while in attack we created several chances. Luckily, we managed to convert one of them. Real of course remain the favourites but now I start to believe that everything is possible."

Real coach Jose Mourinho meanwhile expressed his satisfaction with the result despite the fact that his men missed out on victory. "Anyway it is a good result for us in the away match," Mourinho said. "But in the return match we will have no other choice but to win." "CSKA are difficult opponents and tonight it was a difficult match. But they created few chances tonight, while we missed a pile of opportunities to increase our lead after the break. a tough battle there also." — Internet



Cristiano Ronaldo (R) of Real Madrid fights for the ball against Pontus Wernbloom (L) of CSKA Moscow during their round of 16, first leg match UEFA Champions League in Moscow. The match ended in a 1-1 draw. — INTERNET

Top-seeded players advance in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 22 Feb — Led by top-seed David Ferrer of Spain, seeded players had an easy day on Tuesday as almost all moved through to the second round of the clay-court Copa Claro. Ferrer had no trouble beating Argentine Andres Molteni 6-1, 6-0. "I'm happy to get out of the first round, and I think he (Molteni) was a little nervous," Ferrer said. Molteni had plenty of support from local fans, who were hoping for some revenge for Spain's victory over Argentina last year in the Davis Cup final at Seville, Spain. "I like fans supporting the local players," Ferrer said. "It's the normal thing to do, and personally I like it."

No 2 Nicolas Almagro of Spain advanced against Potito Starace of Italy 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(4), and No 3 Gilles Simon of France defeated Rui Machado of Portugal 6-3, 7-5. No 5 Juan Monaco of Argentina moved on when Filippo Volandri of Italy retired in the second set with an injury. Monaco was leading 6-1, 3-1. Seventh-seeded Fernando Verdasco of Spain also reached the next round, beating Eric Prodon of France 6-4, 6-1. The biggest upset came when eighth-seeded Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina lost to Albert Ramos of Spain 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Internet

International Sports

OBITUARY

U Khin Hlaing, Aged (93) Years
B.A (English) Hons, Yangon University

Myanmar Navy - 1946 - 1948
Manager, Myanmar Oil Company - 1948 - 1964
American Embassy (Yangon) - 1971 - 1977

Second son of [U Myit], Dy Commissioner (Retd) Myaungmya District - [Daw Mya Yin], brother of [U Maung Maung Aye] TC-1, [Prof. Dr. U Shwe Tin] DGME, MOH, [Daw San Kyi] and Daw Khin Yee, beloved husband of Daw Khin Swe Yee, devoted father of Daw Ohnmar Khin - U Maung Maung, Daw Yee Yee Myint - U Han Tun, U Thet Tun - Dr. Lwin Marla Tun, Daw Yin Yin May - U Khin Maung Zaw, Grandfather of Thet Htar Khin - Andrew Gayagay, Nwe Ni Tun - Maung Thein Naing, Austin Zaw - Lindy, Henry Pinto - Kelli, Melinda Tun - Mike, Carl Pinto - Jo, Keith Tun - Eva and Great-Grandfather of four passed away peacefully in Pendle Hill, NSW 2145, Australia on Friday, 10 February and cremated at Castlebrook Memorial Park, Rouse Hill on Tuesday, 14 February 2012.

Ta La Pyei Soon Kyway Commemorative offering will take place in Yennora Monastery, Yennora NSW on Sunday, 18 March 2012.

Friends and relatives far and near of both sides are requested to share the Kutho - merits.

In tribute to our dearest Ba Gyi - a very warm, humane, generous, kind, fun loving person and thinking of happier, bygone days in Chauk, PyinOoLwin and Mandalay.

Nephews - Maung Win Tin (Bernie), UNICEF (Retd)
Maung Nyan Lin (Sandow), YKKO

Four more bodies found on
Italian cruise liner

Tourists look out at the cruise liner Costa Concordia off the west coast of Italy at Giglio island in 22 Feb, 2012, file photo.—INTERNET

ROME, 22 Feb—Salvage workers have found four more bodies in the submerged Costa Concordia cruise liner, bringing the confirmed number of dead to 21 on the ship that ran aground and capsized off the Italian coast last month, authorities said on Wednesday.

Bad weather has prevented divers from recovering the four bodies from the ship's submerged deck, and 11 people remain missing, authorities said.

"It would seem that there are four bodies, recovery operations are underway," the agency said in a statement.

The Costa Concordia, a huge floating resort carrying more than 4,200 passengers and crew, foundered off the Tuscan coast on January 13 after a rock tore a gash in its side, letting water flood into the engine rooms and causing the vessel to capsize.

Italy's Civil Protection authorities said difficult weather conditions were hampering workers attempting to recover the bodies and it was unclear how long the work would take.

The ship's captain Francesco Schettino has been blamed for the accident, which occurred when he took the ship close to the shore of the island of Giglio to perform a display manoeuvre known as a "salute".

MNA/Reuters

Leaving Arsenal was right
decision - Nasri

LONDON, 22 Feb—Samir Nasri is confident he is starting to prove that Manchester City did not make a mistake when they signed him for £24 million from Arsenal last summer. The Frenchman, 24, has taken time to settle at Eastlands and has made just 15 Premier League starts since his move. City manager Roberto Mancini has claimed that Nasri needed to improve the defensive side of his game in order to thrive for the Blues. But Nasri has started to establish himself in recent weeks as City close in on the climax to the Premier League and the Europa League.

The winger maintains he was never concerned about his price tag but accepts it has taken time for him to get used to life at City. He claims he has taken Mancini's advice on board and feels he is starting to show the club what he is capable of. "It's always tough when you change, when you go to another team and have to be involved 100 percent and I wasn't," he said. "Now I start to be settled and you will see a better Samir every week.—Internet

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR
INTERNATIONAL

(23-2-12 09:30 am ~
24-2-12 09:30 am) MST

Overseas Transmission

- * News
- * The Mystique of Shwe-dagon Pagoda
- * News
- * Stream of Songs
- * News
- * A Real Dream of Accidental Gift
- * News
- * Fad and Fashion of Myanma Cotton Ware
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * News
- * On the LEDO Road (Part-2)
- * News
- * "Youth & Education" Technology Boost Nation's Prestige (University of Computer Studies, Yangon)
- * News
- * Offering Oil-lamps (Rakhine Traditional Dance)
- * Myanmar Movies "Great Goodwill"

MYANMAR TV
(23-2-2012) (Thursday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 7:25 am
- 2. To Be Healthy Exercise
- 7:50 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:00 am
- 4. Health Programme
- 8:15 am
- 5. Dance Of National Races
- 8:45 am
- 6. Musical Programme
- 4:05 pm
- 7. Cute Little Dancers
- 4:30 pm
- 8. 2012 University Entrance Examination (Chemistry)
- 5:05 pm
- 9. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
- 5:20 pm
- 10. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performings Arts Competitions
- 5:30 pm
- 11. Singing In Different Versions
- 5:45 pm
- 12. Science and Environment
- 8:00 pm
- 13. News
- 14. International News
- 15. Documentary
- 16. TV Drama Series

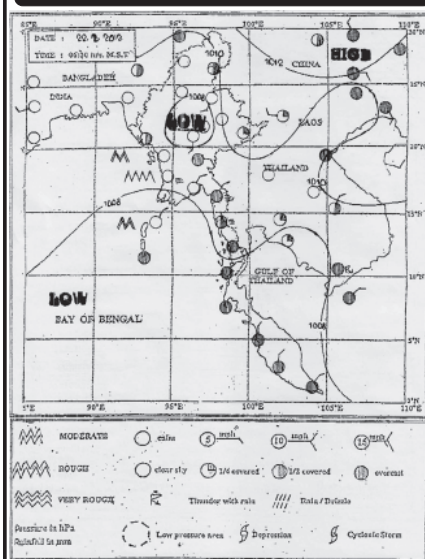
Skill contest of children held

YANGON, 22 Feb—Organized by Yangon West District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, the skill contest of pre-primary children was held in conjunction with presentation of aid at General Administration Department in Bahan Township on 11 February.

Altogether 80 children from four pre-primary schools of MCWA in the district took part in the contest. Later, refreshment was fed to the children.—Township IPRD



Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Weather forecast for
23rd February, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F)		For Tomorrow	
		Maximum	Minimum	Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	30/06	15/59	Partly cloudy	
2	Kayah	31/08	12/54	Generally fair weather	
3	Kayah	36/97	17/63	Partly cloudy	
4	Chin	21/70	10/50	Generally fair weather	
5	Upper Sgawing	30/86	14/57	Partly cloudy	
6	Lower Sgawing	35/95	16/61	Generally fair weather	
7	Tanintharyi	35/95	21/70	Possibility of isolated light rain or thundershowers	40(%)
8	Bago	35/95	18/64	Generally fair weather	
9	Magway	37/99	18/64	Generally fair weather	
10	Mandalay	35/95	19/66	Generally fair weather	
11	Mon	35/95	20/68	Partly cloudy	
12	Yangon	36/97	18/64	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	30/86	18/64	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	28/82	12/54	Generally fair weather	
15	Northern Shan	30/86	10/50	Generally fair weather	
16	Eastern Shan	31/88	14/57	Generally fair weather	
17	Ayeyawady	35/95	18/64	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	36/97	19/66	Generally fair weather	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	36/97	18/64	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	35/95	19/66	Generally fair weather	

During the past (24) hours, weather have been partly cloudy in Upper Sgawing and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperatures were (°F) to (°C) below February average temperatures in Upper Sgawing, Mandalay and Magway Regions. Kayah States, (°F) below February average temperatures in Chin and Rakhine States and about February average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Patheingyi (4°C), and Nyaung-U (4°C).

Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today

Bay Reference

State of the Sea

Outlook for subsequent two days

Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in Upper Myanmar areas.

Wakema facilitated with new
rural jetty

WAKEMA, 22 Feb—Mya Ayeya jetty in Wegyi Model Village was commissioned in Wakema Township on 12 February.

Local authorities formally opened the jetty. The reinforced concrete facility is 22 feet long and 16 feet wide. It cost over K 8 million donated by wellwisher (U Thein Hlaing)-Daw Mya Khin of Yangon.

Myanma Alin

Thirteen day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting continues

One proposal and one bill discussed, one bill put on record, one bill clarified, one bill submitted



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint reads out the message sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Feb—The 13th day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting continued at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall of the Hluttaw Building here at 10 am today, attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung

Myint and 542 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives.

At the meeting, one proposal and one bill were discussed; one bill put on record; one bill clarified and; one bill submitted.

First, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Speaker submitted the message sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

In his message, he said that the third regular session of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was very important session for Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and historic meeting for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as well. It was the third regular session that would approve the national plans of the State and would promulgate the budget laws, he added.

The representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw led by the Speaker were responsible to make decisions in accordance with laws, considering that they had a duty to set an example during the transition period for the future generation, he said.

His proposal and presentation to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 7 February, 2012, were unanimously supported by representatives, and however, on behalf of the President, Union ministers presented their clarification to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 16 February, 2012, saying that salary increases for governmental employees would not be easy due to current circumstances though it should be done and salaries for those government employees who were assigned to far-flung areas would be increased, he added.

Their presentations meant that

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was obliged to agree, permit and promulgate laws in accordance with the plans and projects presented by the executive body and measures would be taken in accordance with the law enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, he said in his message.

The legislation is the main duty of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and committees and commissions concerned were to monitor whether responsible personnel and bodies carried out tasks in accordance with the law or not, he added.

Therefore, legislative bodies were obliged to monitor and carry out assessments of the plans and projects in the interests of the people and the State as part of efforts for helping spending the public finances in systematic and correct ways, and the work should be considered as an important one and should be done thoroughly at a time when the Hluttaw was being convened, he said.

The Union Government was obliged to spend the money collected due to the assessment in salary and wage increases for the service personnel for their livelihood, he said.

In his message, he also clarified wages earned by labour in Nay Pyi Taw.

(a) A hard labour who starts

work earns K2000 per day, reaching K60,000 per month.

(b) A hard labour who has experiences from one to two years earns K3000 per day, reaching K90,000 per month.

(c) A hard labour who has experiences from two to three years earns K40,000 per day, reaching K120,000 per month.

(d) A hard labour who has experiences from three to four or five years earns K5000 per day, reaching K150,000 per month.

Therefore, minimum salary and wages of the service personnel should be around K100,000 per month when the State had sufficient budget, he suggested, and a personnel who got around K100,000 per month as a salary should earn K80,000/K90,000 per month after giving tax and salary for service personnel should be increased as possible if the Union government was tight with its budget.

He also suggested that to set a minimum salary or wage for a service personnel, out of plans and projects presented by the executive body of the State, some plans and projects that should not be

(See page 10)

Gerrard desperate for Cup glory

LONDON, 22 Feb—Steven Gerrard is desperate to end Liverpool's six-year wait for silverware by leading the side to Carling Cup victory this weekend.

The Reds take on Cardiff at Wembley on Sunday hoping to pick up the first trophy of the season on offer. Gerrard admits six seasons without any silverware is not good enough for a club like Liverpool, but he believes success on Sunday could be the catalyst for a return to better times at Anfield. "Six years without a trophy for this football club isn't good enough," Gerrard told the *Liverpool Echo*. "It's been too long and everyone knows that. It's time we delivered a trophy." "Everyone knows the club has been through some tough times but we're moving forward now."



"We're all desperate to bring success back. It's what we're working so hard to achieve. I'm hoping this is just the beginning for us. It would be stupid to win the Carling Cup and then rest on our laurels. This is an important Cup for us but there are other big prizes we want to strive for."

Internet

Cannabis drivers 'twice as likely to cause car crash'

HALIFAX, 22 Feb — Drivers who use cannabis up to three hours before driving are twice as likely to cause a collision as those not under the influence of drugs or alcohol, says a Canadian study. This is because cannabis impairs brain and motor functions needed for safe driving, the researchers suggest.

The study in *bmj.com* reviewed nine studies of 50,000 people worldwide who had been in serious or fatal crashes. Experts support the close monitoring of serious accidents involving drugs. The study analysis was carried out by researchers at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada.

They looked at observational studies of collisions between one or more moving vehicles on a public road which involved the consumption of cannabis.—Internet

Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan receives Yunnan TV delegation



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Thanlwin Bridges (Tarhsan and Tarpa) contributing much to smooth transportation of local people in Shan State