

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XIX, Number 324

3rd Waning of Taboung 1373 ME

Saturday, 10 March, 2012

Our Three Main National Causes

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

Date for Labour Organization Law to take effect set

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Notification No 22/2012
2nd Waning of Taboung 1373 ME
(9, March 2012)

Date for the Labour Organization Law to take effect set

The Labour Organization Law takes effect on 9 March, 2012(2nd Waning of Taboung 1373 ME) according to the Section 1, Sub-section (b) of the Labour Organization Law.

Sd/

Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Chief Registration Officer appointed

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Notification No 23/2012
2nd Waning of Taboung 1373 ME
(9, March 2012)

Chief Registration Officer appointed

The Director-General of the Labour Department has been appointed as Chief Registration Officer under Section 9, Sub-section (a) of the Labour Organization Law.

Sd/

Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo attends opening of 49th Myanma Gems Emporium 2012

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo unveils the signboard of 49th Myanma Gems Emporium 2012 by pressing a button.

MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—The of 49th Myanma Gems Emporium 2012 was opened in front of Mani Yadana Jade Hall, here, at 8.15 am today, attended by Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present on the occasion were Patron of the Central Committee for Organizing the Myanma Gems Emporium Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik, Union

ministers, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and Lt-Gen Wai Lwin of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, deputy ministers, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, vice-chairmen of the Central Committee, secretary and members, officials of the work committees, Patron of Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association U Aung Ko Win, Chairman U Teza, vice-chairmen, secretaries, executives and guests.

Union Ministers U Thein Htaik, U Soe Maung,

U Nyan Tun Aung and Dr Pe Thet Khin, Patron of the Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association U Aung Ko Win and Chairman U Teza formally opened the emporium.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo unveiled the signboard of the emporium.

At the hall on the first floor, the Vice-President and party enjoyed the documentary video tapes on
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Universities in Myeik, Dawei for human resources development in Taninthayi Region



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Dy Foreign Affairs Minister receives UN Resident/ Humanitarian Coordinator

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Dy Education Minister receives Minister-President of the Flemish Government of Belgium

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PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 10 March, 2012

Feast and famine

Drought and flooding have compromised crop production across the globe, and over one million people are hungry. But some overstocked supermarket shelves continue to propagate the illusion of plenty, and the rate of food waste in some regions has more than doubled.

Food waste is now the second largest waste stream, which produces methane, a deadly greenhouse gas that further affects climate change. So, it's clear that food waste has serious impact on economy and environment. Another scandalous reason that food is discarded is because it doesn't meet aesthetic criteria, and even perfectly formed vegetables and other perishables often end up in supermarket dumpsters.

The best way to reduce waste is to increase the perceived value of goods in question. Moreover, changes in food purchasing preparation and storage can also do a great job in reducing waste. Despite the fact that food prices have increased substantially, hotels, restaurants and food stalls yet underrated the food waste.

As the world's food systems are in crisis, streamlined steps that deserve a serious attention are that plan your meals; make a detailed shopping list and stick to it; serve reasonable portion; and save your leftovers.

As the global population continues to explode and our ability to produce food continues to be compromised, more and more people will virtually go hungry. Thus, all consumers are to alter their own behaviours that lead to food waste.

Coord meeting on socio-economic development held

YANGON, 9 March—A coordination meeting on cooperation in socio-economic development was held at National Archives Department on Pyidaungsu Avenue Road here on 5 March.

Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw discussed participating in Myanmar's development as UN agencies and NGO from different countries and INGO took part in it.

Yangon Region Planning and Economic Minister U Than Myint and departmental personnel, UN resident representatives and official concerned, ambassadors from foreign embassies, Charge d' affaires ai and invited persons attended the meeting.—MNA

Slight earthquake jolts in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.5) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about 100) miles north of Myitkyina) about (350) miles north-northeast of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (5) hrs (23) min (50) sec MST on 9th March, 2012 announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

Nurture reading habit to improve rural library

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—To improve socio-economic sector, human resource development sector, gain knowledge on wider scale and rural library for rural people, a ceremony to gear up reading habit and donate books was held at Shwe Theinlar Library in Myaungmya Township on 3 March. The official concerned donated books the library in the township met

Indian Government promotes Myanmar agricultural sector: \$ 10 million worth farming equipments thrown in



India's Foreign Secretary Mr. Ranjan Mathai hands agricultural machinery over to Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein.—MNA

YANGON, 9 March—For the purpose of keeping Myanmar-India relationship fixed firmly, the Republic of India has supplied Myanmar with farming equipments worth \$ 10 million for promotion of Myanmar agricultural sector.

The agricultural equipments include a total of 300 tractors with 40 hp each, 150 threshers with 110 hp each, 228 cultivators with 13.5 hp each, 431 ploughs, etc.

With the Indian Embassy to Myanmar, the Ministry of Industry gave a hand in fixing of the machineries.

On behalf of the Indian Government, India's Foreign Secretary Mr. Ranjan Mathai and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. V. S. Seshadri handed them over to Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein at No. 11 General Heavy Industrial Region in Mayangon Township here this afternoon.

At the ceremony, the Union Minister and India's Foreign Secretary Mr. Ranjan Mathai extended greetings, and paid a close attention to the machineries to be contributed to the regions and the states where are needy in deed.

MNA

Dy Foreign Affairs Minister receives UN Resident/ Humanitarian Coordinator

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—Mr Ashok Nigam, UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar, paid a courtesy call on Dr Myo Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 11am today.

They exchanged views on future cooperation between the United Nations and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint receives UN Resident/ Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar Mr. Ashok Nigam.—MNA

Dy Education Minister receives Minister-President of the Flemish Government of Belgium



Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu receives Minister-President of the Flemish Government of Belgium Mr. Kris Peeters.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu received Minister-President of the Flemish Government of Belgium Mr. Kris Peeters at his office at 1 pm today.

Both sides discussed on matters related to research and scholarship as education cooperation between the two countries.

It was also attended by English Department (Dean)

U Zaw Tun of Sagaing Institute of Education, Deputy Director U Thein Naing of Education Planning and Training Department and responsible persons.—MNA



This handout photo released by the Imperial Household Agency taken on 8 March, 2012, shows Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (R) chatting with Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito (L) at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.—INTERNET

Obama, Karzai discuss security pact

WASHINGTON, 9 March—US President Barack Obama and Afghan President Hamid Karzai made progress Thursday on a security agreement between the two countries, the White House said.

The two leaders held a video conference in which they discussed the security situation in Afghanistan, US-Afghan Strategic Partnership negotiations, Afghan-led reconciliation and regional matters.

"The leaders noted



Obama (right), Karzai (left)

progress toward concluding a Strategic Partnership that reinforces Afghan sovereignty while addressing the practical requirements of transition," the White House said in a statement. The pact would cover US-Afghan relations after the withdrawal of US troops.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said Karzai also updated Obama on tensions in Afghanistan. Carney said Karzai reported there has been some calming in the situation.—Internet

UK and Italian hostages killed in Nigeria

LONDON, 9 March—A Briton and an Italian held hostage in Nigeria were killed by their captors before they could be freed by a rescue mission, British Prime Minister David Cameron said on Thursday.

Cameron said he had authorized the failed operation, conducted with the Nigerian government, after being told the men's lives were in "imminent and growing danger".

Cameron said Briton Chris McManus and Italian Franco Lamolinara had been taken hostage in Northern Nigeria in May 2011.

"Preparations were made to mount an operation to attempt to rescue Chris and Franco. Together with the

Nigerian government, today I authorized it to go ahead, with UK support," Cameron said.

"It is with great regret that I have to say that both Chris and Franco have lost their lives.

"We are still awaiting confirmation of the details, but the early indications are clear that both men were murdered by their captors, before they could be rescued," he said.

In August a video of the hostages surfaced in the Nigerian Capital Abuja with the two men on their knees and blindfolded, with three men wearing turbans and holding guns and ammunition behind them. "The terrorists holding the two hostages made very clear threats to take

their lives, including in a video that was posted on the internet," Cameron said. "We also had reason to believe that their lives were under imminent and growing danger," he added.

Reuters



British hostage Christopher McManus is seen in this undated family handout photograph received in London on 8 March, 2012. INTERNET

US Senate rejects bid to speed approval of Keystone XL pipeline

WASHINGTON, 9 March—The US Senate on Thursday rejected a bid proposed by Republicans to speed approval of the construction of Keystone XL pipeline between Canada and the United States. The amendment, proposed to be part of a transportation spending measure, was blocked by a vote of 56-42, as 60 votes were needed for approval.

The 7-billion-dollar pipeline applied by TransCanada, a major North American energy company based in Canada, would run 1,700 miles (2,720 km) to connect Canada's oil sands

to refineries around Houston and the Gulf of Mexico.

This is Republicans' latest attempt to accelerate the project since Obama administration rejected the proposed pipeline in January, citing uncertainty over a route that avoids the environmentally sensitive sandhills region in Nebraska.

US State Department had tried to delay potential approval of the Keystone XL pipeline until 2013 due to intense opposition from environmentalists as well as public officials in the United States. However, the Republicans have been pressing Obama to speed up the project, saying the pipeline could significantly reduce US dependence on Middle Eastern oil while providing thousands of jobs. Last December, the US congress forced Obama to make a final decision before 21 Feb.—Xinhua

Police line O'Hara street near the front entrance to the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, tan building, on the University of Pittsburgh campus, Thursday, March 8, 2012 in Pittsburgh. Two people were killed in a shooting at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre on Thursday, and one of the dead was believed to be the shooter, the hospital said. REUTERS

Internet

Afghan police killed while they slept

KABUL, 9 March—At least nine Afghan police officers were killed in their beds after a guard allegedly allowed Taliban insurgents past a security checkpoint, officials said.

The guard, who was being sought, was a member of the Afghan Local Police, trained by US special forces, *The New York Times* reported.

Brig—Gen Ali Shah Ahmadzai said the guard allegedly coordinated the attack Wednesday in Oruzgan, in southern Afghanistan.

The newspaper said the Afghan Local Police programme, which operates separately from Afghan National Police forces, is controversial because it takes groups of armed men, some of them former Taliban sympathizers, and incorporates them into government service protecting their own communities.

Internet

An Afghan boy receives treatment at a hospital after a roadside bomb blast in the eastern Jalalabad City on 8 March, 2012. Eleven people were wounded by the roadside bomb, the third attack in the capital of the Nangarhar Province in a week, local officials said.—INTERNET



Taleban take blame for attack on British

KABUL, 9 March—A member of the Taleban in Afghanistan said the militant group was proud of an attack that left six British soldiers dead in Kandahar Province.

The British Minister of Defence confirmed that six soldiers were killed by an explosion in Kandahar. They

were initially declared missing but presumed dead.

Authorities in Helmand province told the BBC on condition of anonymity the soldiers were killed by a bomb planted recently. An unidentified Taleban member took responsibility for the attack, telling the BBC the group was "very proud of it."

The Taleban, in a statement, said the "invaders" were "incinerated" by the blast and that's why authorities initially described the soldiers as missing.

A separate statement added that six other "invading troops" were killed by a land mine planted by

militants. The bomb, the statement read, had "blown their tank to pieces." There was no independent verification of the alleged attack in Ghazni Province. Their nationalities weren't identified in the Taleban's statement.

British officials expressed condolences after the attacks were confirmed. This week's incident brought the death toll for British forces operating in Afghanistan to more than 400 since the war began in 2001.

International forces are looking to hand over security responsibility to the Afghan military by 2014.

Internet

New suspects in 1992 Italian bombing

CALTANISSETTA, 9 March—Italian police Thursday carried out warrants in central Sicily for three people suspected of involvement in a 1992 bombing that killed an anti-mafia judge.

The suspects are Salvatore Madonia, the alleged mastermind of the attack, Victor Tutino and Salvatore Vitale. Madonia and Tutino are in prison for prior convictions and Vitale is in a state hospital under house arrest, Italy's ANSA news agency reported. Prosecutors were acting on new information from informant and fellow suspect Gaspare Spatuzza, the report said.

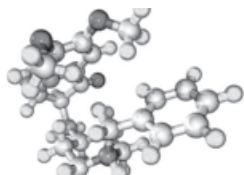
Judge Paolo Borsellino was killed 19 July, 1992, when a car bomb went off in front of a building he was entering in via D'Amelio. The informant said Madonia organized the attack, while Spatuzza and Tutino stole the car used in the bombing and provided the detonator for the explosive.

Internet



Alzheimer's patients 'should stay on drugs for longer'

LONDON, 9 March — Thousands of patients with advanced Alzheimer's disease could benefit from drugs, research suggests.



Alzheimer's disease drugs raise levels of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine.—INTERNET

A study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* found that patients who stayed on the dementia drug Aricept had a slower decline in their memory. The drug tends not to be prescribed once sufferers progress beyond moderate symptoms. Medicines regulator NICE said its guidelines supported continuing treatment where there were benefits.

The patent for the medicine Aricept, which is used to treat Alzheimer's disease, expired recently. Much cheaper versions under the generic name donepezil are already available for about £12 a month. The researchers say their new evidence could lead to twice as many Alzheimer's sufferers worldwide being given medication. The trial involved 295 Alzheimer's patients in England and Scotland who had been taking Aricept.

One set were given placebo tablets while another set stayed on Aricept. A third set were given another drug, Ebixa, or memantine, which is usually prescribed only in the later stages of Alzheimer's. The fourth batch of patients received a combination of both drugs. The researchers assessed each group for a year, looking at their cognitive scores on factors like memory, and also at how well they coped with everyday tasks such as dressing and eating.—*Internet*

Fruit and veg 'give healthy glow'

LONDON, 9 March — Even a few weeks of eating fruit and vegetables could improve your skin colour, it is claimed.

University of St Andrews researchers monitored diet in 35 people, finding more colouration in those eating more greens. Other research suggests these changes may make you more attractive. Other scientists said the study, in the *PLoS One* journal, might not fully reflect the link between

consumption and appearance.

It has been known for some time that certain yellow and red pigments called carotenoids found in many types of fruit and vegetables, can have an effect on skin tone. However it is not clear exactly how much influence a normal healthy diet can have on this effect. The St Andrews scientists recruited 35

students, mostly white, who were quizzed on their fruit and vegetable intake over a six week period. The volunteers were told not to use sunbeds, fake tan or make-up. An instrument was used to analyse their skin tone before, during and after the test period.

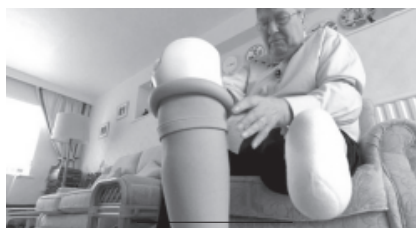
The results suggested that changes in fruit and vegetable consumption

Diabetes amputation rates show huge regional variation

LONDON, 9 March — Amputation rates for diabetes patients are 10 times higher in some parts of England than in others, according to a study. Researchers say the figures highlight the importance of ensuring the right specialist care.

The findings coincide with an NHS report putting the annual cost of diabetes-related amputations at £120m. Amputation rates in some areas are too high, says the Department of Health.

The study, published in the journal *Diabetologia*, compared lower-leg amputation rates for local health trusts (PCTs) across England over three years. The paper concluded that, compared with the general population, people with diabetes were over 20 times more likely to have an amputation. It reports a huge variation in the rates of both major (above the ankle) and



Barrie Smith's leg was amputated after he stepped on a rose thorn.—INTERNET

minor amputations for patients with diabetes — including Types 1 and 2. For major amputations these range from just over two each year for every 10,000 patients to 22.

In England every year there are about 6,000 diabetes-related amputations. One of the main authors, Prof William Jeffcoate, a consultant diabetologist at Nottingham City Hospital, is wary of pinning blame on the areas with the highest amputation rates, though he says the variations are "shocking".

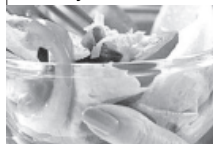
He thinks the problem lies in the way services are organized. "Foot disease is very complicated and a single professional hasn't necessarily got the skills to

manage every aspect of it.

"And that's why I believe that only if you can gather a multi-disciplinary team and make sure that people have rapid access to assessment by such a team, it's only in that way that we think you can provide the best service."

Many hospitals in England still do not have these teams — which also include podiatrists, surgeons and specialist nurses.—*Internet*

Can vegetables make you look more healthy?—INTERNET



might be related to changes in skin tone, with more fruit and vegetables contributing to a deepening of natural red and yellow skin colouration.

Internet



Business



A woman stands in front of an AIG logo in Tokyo in this 3 March, 2009 file photo. — INTERNET

Treasury to sell \$6 billion in AIG stock

WASHINGTON, 9 March — The Treasury Department said on Wednesday it will sell \$6 billion worth of American International Group stock and struck another deal for the insurer to pay down \$8.5 billion more in obligations, taking a major step forward in an election year to unwind the unpopular crisis-era bailout.

AIG said the agreement with the government would allow it to pay down what it owed in a special purpose vehicle, AIA Aurora, and free up the company's collateral against that, including interests in aircraft lessor International Lease Finance Corp and Asian insurer AIA Group Ltd. The special purpose vehicle was set up in December 2009 in exchange for a reduction in

the debt that AIG owed the New York Federal Reserve at the time. The Treasury's original interest in the vehicle was \$16 billion. The stake sale is expected reduce the government's ownership in AIG to about 70 percent from 77 percent, a source with knowledge of the situation said. Once the company repays Treasury for the special vehicle interest, the value of the government's stake would total about \$41.8 billion.—*Internet*

Qatar backs Airbus, Boeing over production flaws

BERLIN, 9 March — The head of Qatar Airways, usually one of the aircraft industry's fiercest critics, expressed confidence that Airbus and Boeing would resolve a series of high-profile glitches but warned against further production delays.

The endorsements from a top industry figure best known for lambasting manufacturers over delays will come as a relief to both planemakers as they count the cost of recent mishaps.

Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker said it was normal for new aircraft such as the Airbus A380 superjumbo and the Boeing 787 Dreamliner to have teething problems and stressed safety was not an issue.

He also seemed satisfied with Boeing's production plans for its new 787 Dreamliner, although many analysts have described the company's plans to boost production to 10 aircraft a month by end-2013 from 2.5 now as optimistic. "The 787 will be a very good airplane. I am confident," Al Baker told *Reuters* at a trade show on Wednesday.

"I cannot discuss the details, but I can tell you that they have a very achievable ramp-up strategy," he said after being briefed on the plans for record wide-body aircraft production. Boeing is grappling with a problem of delamination or the separation of bonded layers in part of the composite structure of its lightweight Dreamliner, while Airbus is wrestling with a series of cracks on components inside the wings of its A380 superjumbo.

"I think they will solve the problems with the A380. It is not a big issue... it is an aircraft that is in its infancy," said Al Baker. Analysts say Airbus parent EADS may take a charge of some 100 million euros for the cost of repairing the cracks and Airbus CEO Tom Enders has told staff the A380's reputation is at stake and that no costs will be spared to resolve this.—*Internet*



Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al-Baker addresses staff after the arrival of a Qatar Airways Airbus A320 at the Entebbe International Airport, 46 km (29 miles) southwest of Uganda's Capital Kampala.—INTERNET



Carlos Slim has diverse business interests. INTERNET

Carlos Slim tops Forbes annual rich list

LONDON, 9 March — Mexican tycoon Carlos Slim has once again come top of *Forbes* magazine's annual list of the world's richest billionaires.

The magazine estimates that Mr Slim, whose business interests range from telecommunications to construction, is worth \$69bn (£44bn). He is followed by Microsoft founder Bill Gates on \$61bn, and US investor Warren Buffett on \$44bn. Mr Slim, 72, has now topped the list for three years in succession.

In fourth and fifth place on the list are two Europeans, Bernard Arnault, the chairman and chief executive of French luxury goods group LVMH, and Amancio Ortega, the founder of Spanish fashion business Zara. Mr Arnault is estimated to be worth \$41bn, and Mr Ortega \$37.5bn. They are followed by Larry Ellison, the founder and chief executive of US software group Oracle. He is estimated to be worth \$36bn.

Li Ka-Shing in ninth position on \$25.5bn is the highest-placed Asian. The Hong Kong-based owner of Hutchison Whampoa and Cheung Kong Holdings is the world's biggest operator of container terminals.

Internet

CBM Governor receives JICA, Thai delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein received Deputy Director-General Mr Yoshio Wada and party at his office here this morning.

They discussed matters on providing ICT assistance by Japan for financial and human resource development in Myanmar.

In the evening, the governor received a delegation led by President of Tiyalai

Holding Co Ltd General Chetta Thanajaro, and discussed investment of Thai businessmen in Myanmar banking services.—MNA

CBM Governor U Than Nyein receives President General Chetta Thanajaro of Tiyalai Holding Co Ltd and party.—MNA



Universities in Myeik, Dawei for human resources development in Taninthayi Region



Myeik University was established in Myeik, Taninthayi Region for local national race youths in the region to be able to pursue higher education.

With the aim of enabling local national race youths to pursue higher education and advanced technology, Technological University (Myeik) was in Myeik, Taninthayi Region.

Archive:

Maung Nyein Aye



To widen the horizons of students in Taninthayi Region, Dawei University and Technological University (Dawei) (left photo) were built to possess the characteristics of a university.

*** With the emergence of those higher learning institutions in Taninthayi Region, new generation youths in the region have now been able to pursue higher education and advanced technology within their reach.**

Translation: AKK



Democratic Party (Myanmar) presents its policy, stance and work programmes

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—Chairman of Democratic Party (Myanmar) U Thu Wai and party's General Secretary Daw Than Than Nu presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 9 March.

The translation of their presentation is as follows.



Esteemed Union national people,
I wish you well and happy.

Esteemed voters,

I would like to explain the stance of Democratic Party (Myanmar) as we would run for forthcoming by-elections.

Esteemed voters,

Myanmar now is undergoing a very important time as it is experiencing transition period. We have to join hands for change and rapid success.

Everyone should take part in the reforms but there are opposing personalities in the government and also in some parties. There will be those who want to take advantage of the changes. There will also be those who want to destruct and deter the changes. There are some people who will instigate taking advantage of transition period. It is needed to take great attention in order not to deviate from the right

track, I would like to remind.

Esteemed voters,

Only if Myanmar people are united, can national unity can really contribute to the nation. But, unity, in reality, is easier said than done. No matter how difficult it is, we still have to build unity in diversity.

Frankly speaking, people of Myanmar, regardless of race, religion, rich or poor, are united and have affection towards each other. Party attachment, racism and sectarianism are the sole cause of fractional disputes. We encourage those who make strenuous efforts with patience to wipe off mutual misunderstanding. We can even peacefully co-exist with the global members. There is no reason not being able to bring about national unity. National unity is the objective of the Democratic Party.

Esteemed voters,

It is common knowledge that wishes were not horses in democratic process. We have to encourage education for high caliber of the people as people are the basic of democracy. Only then, can the people build democracy on their own feet. Education is high on the agenda of our party.

Esteemed voters,

Again, people need to be healthy to pursue education. It is crucial important to make sure that the public has access to sufficient medicine, effective health care and free medical attention.

Esteemed voters,

With regard to rule of law, everyone aspires justice. There have been cases in which the administrative bodies

used their power to make unfair verdicts happen, bias stemming from corruption.

The government needs to fight against these. At the same time, press freedom can deter unfairness and injustice. This is also the objective of our party.

Esteemed voters,

With regard to economy, we will make sure every citizen has equal rights in market economy. The government has to create an environment encouraging people to show up their expertise and businessmen to make investment. We also have to attract investment from international corporations.

Esteemed voters,

Union nationals have to cultivate the spirit that this Union is ours and we are obliged to develop the Union.

So, we Union national people have to be united out of friendship to build democracy. Pointing the finger at each other will not make progress but mutual understanding and affection can.

Seeking progress through amity is the objective of our party. Our party will try together with the people to build Myanmar as pleasant democratic nation.

The emblem of the Democratic Party is a dancing green peacock surrounded by 14 red stars. Its meaning is wishing the pleasure of the entire national people.



Esteemed voters,

Our Democratic Party (Myanmar) will contest the upcoming April-1 by-elections. Candidates of our party also competed in the General Election on 7 November in 2010. Democratic Party (Myanmar) firmly decided to contest the General Elections at a time when the people were feeling that they were getting into trouble once they heard the word "politics" when the State Peace and Development Council announced the General Elections-2010 after democratic rules were ceased to exist in Myanmar about 50 years, at a

time when young eligible voters who did not have experiences of elections as the country lacked the elections over 20 years and at a time when the people had a vague thinking as they were oppressed and threatened by the people who had been in power and meanwhile, they were facing no-voting activities staged by some people who called themselves as democracy activists.

Esteemed voters,

The reason why we are standing for elections is to form a government of the people and to deal with the grievances of the peoples by genuine representatives elected by the people after they won seats in the parliament. To help the genuine representatives become the Members of Parliament, it not only the duty of political parties but also the duty of the people. A candidate must be in hundred per cent spirit of politics and must be mature for political experiences. Esteemed voters have already known the fact that a farmer needs to understand the condition of his farmland and a teacher needs to understand the nature of students and to be educated to be able to teach the students. Similarly, a politician must well-experienced with the people who are playing an important role in politics. Our Democratic Party's (Myanmar) candidate U Thu Wai got involved in activities at the bottom

of the politics only at the age of 13 and since then has engaged in the political field. He founded Student Union and became one of the executive committee of Students Union when he was a high school student. When he was a university student, he served as the joint-secretary of the Burma Student Union and Secretary of Toungoo District Student Union. He also participated in international conferences as a leader of students. It is an undeniable fact that U Thu Wai is not a self-centred person and has lived in deprived situation as an ordinary person among the people.

Esteemed Voters,

We would say that a political leader must be a good speaker, must have a long political life and must have experiences in engaging in political struggles. However, just eloquent speech, a long political life and political struggles are not sufficient for a person to become a perfect politician. He or she should be a person who is equipped with a four sublime states of mind to deal with public affairs genuinely while bringing the public affairs to the fore. Hence, we pledge that we are committed to form a genuine government of the people while earning the trust of the people and to make all-out efforts for achievements in the political, social and economic sectors. Thank You.

Perpetuity of natural resources discussed

LABUTTA, 9 March—A workshop on perpetuity of natural resources and climate change was held at Yway Nadi Hall of Labutta Township in Labutta District on 1 March afternoon.

Deputy Commissioner U Aye Maung Kyi of District General Administration Department explained conservation of environment and mangrove plantations and cultivation of trees. Project Manager Daw Mya Sabei Nyunt talked about



distribution of Swan Ah Myint stove on a wider scale for saving firewood.

Environmentalism U Win Myo Thu gave talks on process of climate change based on over cutting of trees that degrades

environmental resources, reduction of carbon emission and environmental conservation. Later, he replied to queries raised by those present.

District IPRD

Map drawing course No 1/2012 for collection of census opened

KENG TUNG, 9 March—The map drawing course No 1/2012 for collection of census was opened at the office of Shan State Immigration and National Registration Department in Kengtung on 27 February morning.

Head of State INRD U Khin Soe explained the purpose of conducting the course as a preliminary works for collection of census in the whole nation from 1 to 7 April 2014.— District IPRD

All Mon Regions Democracy Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—Legal Consultant of All Mon Regions Democracy Party Daw Myint Myint Wai presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 9 March evening.

The translation of her presentation is as follows:



Greetings to you esteemed people,

I am Mi Myint Myint Wai, Legal Consultant of All Mon Regions Democracy Party.

Our All Mon Regions Democracy Party won 16 seats in Hluttaws in 2010 elections as we fielded 34 candidates. Two party members are discharging duties each in Mon State and Kayin State governments. We are holding three seats in Pyithu Hluttaw, four seats in Amyotha Hluttaw, seven seats in Mon State Hluttaw and two seats in Kayin State Hluttaw.

Esteemed people,

The entire Mon nationals are working heart and soul side by side with the entire people in promoting democracy, granting human rights to each individual and building the Union of equity. Fulfilling their quota as ever, all age groups from every corner of Mon State gathered in Mawlamyine just after the announcement of multi-party election had come and made firm decision to run the elections. The permission for registration as political party under the name of All Mon Regions Democracy Party was applied to Union Election Commission on 12 May, 2010, with 15 members. The UEC informed All Mon Regions Democracy Party that it was allowed to form as political party.

Esteemed people,

I would like to brief on policy and work programmes of All Mon Regions Democracy Party.

(a) Policy

1. To grant democratic and human rights to the entire people.
2. To establish national unity based on equity and self-determination.
3. To bring authentic multi-party democracy.
4. To perpetuate genuine Union.
5. To combat bribery and corruption.
6. To work for social development.
7. To establish peaceful global civilization.

(b) Work programmes

Political sector

1. The party will work for helping the people fully enjoy fundamental human rights and follow democratic practices.
2. The party will seek solutions for national

reconciliation and internal peace.

3. The party will build the Union formed with equal states which can prescribe their own laws democratically.
4. The party will eradicate chauvinism and narrow nationalism and build friendship of all races.
5. The party will prevent emergence of cronyism in which the interests of the entire people are neglected.

Economic sector

1. The party will establish independent market economy commensurate with the age.
2. The party will help foreign investments grower.
3. The party will develop industries with advanced technologies.
4. The party will develop production enterprises with advanced technologies and foreign investment and help land foreign market.

Agricultural sector

1. The party will develop mechanizing farming with advanced technologies and foreign investment.
2. The party will strive to provide landless farmers with reasonable acres of land and to help every one engaging in farming own farmland.
3. The party will lend a helping hand in market penetration of agricultural produce.

Labour sector

1. There will be equity on the job, with no discrimination against race, religion, gender or region.
2. We will set up a social system for enabling office staff and workers to enjoy rights of working and life guarantees in exhaustion.
3. We will strive for enabling workers to enjoy deserved rights.

Education Sector

1. We will realize literacy for all system.
2. We will implement compulsory basic education system.
3. We will encourage private education system under supervision of the State.
4. We will promote high school education and vocational education to keep abreast of international community.
5. We will strive for creation of opportunity of respective national races to pursue their literatures in their regions.

Culture Sector

1. We shall keep equal development of culture of national races.
2. We will protect and preserve historical heritages of national races and their regions in line with their original characteristics.
3. We will make strenuous efforts for promotion of Mon language and literature.
4. We will contribute towards studying the languages

and literatures for development of national culture.

Health Sector

1. We will provide health care services to the people in equal term.
2. We will harmonize treatment and preventive measures.
3. We will give priority to health care services for endangered groups.

Youth Sector

1. We will undertake improvement for five strengths of youths.
2. We will protect rights of women.

Disabled Sector

We will uplift and take care of social life of disabled people.

Foreign Affairs Sector

1. We will sustain peace of the world in international relations and practise non-aligned foreign policy and five-point principle of peaceful coexistence.
 - (a) We will practise that all the countries must pay respects to each other in ensuring perpetuation of territory and sovereignty.
 - (b) We will exercise that the countries must not invade each other.
 - (c) We will establish mutual relationship in equal term.
 - (d) We will practise that the countries shall not need to interfere in internal affairs of each other.
 - (e) We will emphasize peaceful co-existence.

Allied Sector

We will join hands with the organizations in conformity with basic policies of this party's policy.

Depending on the above-mentioned policy and changing politics of the world and Myanmar, All Mon Regions Democracy Party will make strenuous efforts and join hands with other national races in building the nation with flourishing of three kinds of deterrent principles through democratization process. Moreover, we would like to present that the Mon nationals will take an active part in realizing the peace process based on mutual evaluation and mutual trusts together with all national races in the future nation.

Esteemed people,

On behalf of All Mon Regions Democracy Party, I would like to urge you all—

“Let's strive for emergence of a human society where we all live in unity and amity with free from fear.”

May all esteemed people be physical and mental well-being.



District News

Fire preventive measures taken

HOPIN, 9 March—A fire drill was exercised at Shwe Myaing Yadana Shwemaw 45 Company in Hopin Sub-Township of Mohnyin District in Kachin State on 26 February.

Staff of the fuel station participated in the fire drill, supervised by Administrator of Hopin Sub-Township U Khaing Tun Zaw, Commander of Police Station IP Yan Naing Win, in-charge of auxiliary fire brigade deputy commanding officer U Myo Myint and departmental officials.

Township IPRD



Citizenship scrutiny cards issued to students

TACHILEK, 9 March—In implementing Moe Pwint-2 Plan, Tahlay Sub-Township Immigration and National Registration Department of Tachilek District in Shan State (East) issued citizenship scrutiny cards at Basic Education High School in Tahlay on 28 February morning.

Head of the District INRD Deputy Director U Htein Win presented citizenship scrutiny cards to students.—District IPRD



Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw, staging of Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales 2011 and arrangements for organizing the 49th Myanmar Gems Emporium 2012.

They then viewed display of quality jade lots on the first floor of Mani Yadana Jade Hall, jewellery shops of private companies and private entrepreneurs on the ground floor, and displays of respective work committees, and they left there.

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo views jade lots displayed on first floor of Mani Yadana Jade Hall.

MNA

The 49th Myanmar Gems Emporium will be held at Nay Pyi Taw Mani Yadana Jade Hall where a total of 16697 lots of jade, 227 lots of gems and 367 lots of pearl will be put on sale from 9 to 18 March. Lots of pearl will be sold at the Yadana Market of the Myanmar Gems Mart through tender and competitive bidding system on 9 and 10 March, lots of jade from 11 to 15 March through tender and from 16 to 18 through competitive bidding system at Mani Yadana Jade Hall.

At present, a total of 1951 foreign gem merchants from 432 foreign companies from eight countries and 3037 gem merchants from 694 local companies have arrived there. The 49th Myanmar Gems Emporium 2012 is held for the sixth time of its kind in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo attends...

(from page 1)

organizing the Myanmar Gems Emporiums, successful holding of Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2010 and the 48th Myanmar

Pyithu Hluttaw session continues...

(from page 16)

from an industrial zone not only to its own states but also to other states/regions and foreign countries. So, the above plan to establish Loikaw Industrial Zone for regional development and job prospects will be considered depending on infrastructures and feasibility study.

Regarding the question of Daw Win Maw Tun of Yenangyoung Constituency about how the government will reform and shape domestically private industries that are very important for national development, he replied that now Small and Medium Enterprises Development Centre has been opened in Yangon to distribute data, educate the privates industries through media and create incubators in line with the help of institutions of the Science and Technology Ministry and foreign countries. Moreover, small and medium enterprises development agencies will be established in cooperation with industrial supervision and inspection departments in states and regions, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Myanmar Industrial Producers Association and measures will be taken to encourage development of small and medium enterprises in collaboration with SME actors by providing market information and technology. In addition, Myanmar Industrial Development Bank is providing loans for



Union Ministers U Thein Htaik, U Soe Maung, U Nyan Tun Aung, Dr Pe Thet Khin and Patron of Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association U Aung Ko Win and Chairman U Teza formally open Myanmar Gems Emporium.

MNA

SME development. In the near future, SME development bank will be established with capital derived from the money of MIDB shareholders, the government's fund and the loans to be provided by SME banks in foreign countries at low interest in order to help SMEs financially.

Then, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than replied to the queries about the agriculture sector raised by four MPs.

U Tin Maung Oo of Shwepyitha Constituency asked whether there are plans to allow farmers to withdraw their savings during the time of farm work, to have interest rates over those savings and to withdraw the interest money together with the savings. The deputy minister replied that like Myanmar Economic Banks, Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank will pay back the savings of farmers as they wish. MADB has had procedures already to do so. Over those savings, interest money is being paid according to the rate set by the Central Bank of Myanmar. The township bank (branches) calculate annual interest rates and include interest money in the saving book of a saver. Over the rural savings in 2010-2011 fiscal year, the total interest money MADB paid was K 5085 million. So, the savings will be paid back together with interest money if the farmers want to withdraw their money in times of need.

U Aung Zin of Pazundaung Constituency asked about the practising of industrial farming on a 100,00-acre farmland under the cooperation between industrialists from Special Agricultural Zones (1) & (2) and farmers. The deputy minister replied that for

1085 farmers and 7505 acres of land from the two zones, K 200,00 for one acre totalling K 151 million has been provided. The farm huts and monasteries in the zones have been relocated in urban areas free of charge. Moreover, with the rates of K 25000, K 40000 or K 50000 for one-acre land, companies



Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung replies to questions.

MNA

have provided K 208.2 million for 4875 acres of land and K 58.6 million for houses, totalling K 266.8 million.

In this summer paddy season, companies are demonstrating the growing of high yield hybrid paddy strains and the production of seeds by establishing a model zone for



Union Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi makes clarification.—MNA

transforming to industrial farming. The farmers from the region and its nearby areas as well as those from various regions have now been used to operating and maintaining modern equipment and enjoyed more job opportunities. Green Asia Co and Dagon International Co in collaboration with foreign technicians are producing hybrid paddy strains with the use of modern seeding machines and this has benefited not only Yangon Region but also the whole nation for its agricultural development.

The representatives can learn this in the 15-2-2012 issue of Agricultural Economy News Journal. If they conduct field study, (See page 9)



Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Nyo of Loikaw Constituency raising question.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw session continues...

(from page 8)

they will be able to learn the relentless efforts of the companies for agricultural development of the nation, noted the deputy minister. He continued that high yield paddy strains will contribute a lot to the rice production of the nation and a modern agricultural farming zone will be envisioned soon. The similar questions were answered in the previous sessions of the Hluttaw, he said.

Thura U Aung Ko of Kanpetlet Constituency asked whether there is a plan to reassess and survey reclamation of high land farming in Chin State and the possibility of its usage. The deputy minister replied that in Chin State, from 2003 to date, 2717.4 acres land has been reclaimed by departmental machinery and the farmers by themselves have reclaimed 4366.07 acres. For self-reliant reclamation of farmers, the government provided cash assistance for 861.48 acres.

He pledged that the ministry would help production and dissemination of agricultural knowledge to local people in Chin State to that they can grow tea leaves, coffee and mulberry plants in commercial scale in Chin State. He said that he believed that the assistance of the government, the cooperation of union ministries, management of Chin State government and cooperation of the local farmers would improve the socio-economy of local farmers.

As part of efforts for successful implementation of the high-land reclamation project in Chin State and for environmental conservation, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Ministry of Home Affairs and Chin State government would work together and review weak and strong points of the project, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Chin State government would make a field trip to make assessment to the issue related to the question of the representative.

U Khin Maung Yi (a) U Khaing Maung Yi of Ahlon Township constituency asked **how Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation could help farmers in an attempt not to disappear crops market and to encourage the market competition with the aids of**

loans and agricultural technology and assistance of research firms.

The deputy minister replied that still, the State had no plan to lease loans to farmers who produce fruits and vegetables and the government had provided good strains of fruits and vegetables for the farmers.

Horticulture Research and Development Centre had carried out horticultural research and produce quality strains of fruits and vegetables which were favourable to the climate in Myanmar. The research had produced hybrid strains of muskmelons, pumpkin and tomatoes, he said.

The cooperation between the departments and businessmen who produced fruits and vegetables had played an important role in making efforts for encouraging horticultural market and market competitions. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was providing good agricultural patterns to farmers, encouraging the development public-private-partnership.

In the proposal submission session, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Judiciary and Legal Affairs Committee Thura U Aung Ko submitted **a proposal to abolish the code of criminal procedure and penal code.**

Regarding the proposal, Judge U Mya Thein of the Supreme Court of the Union replied that the bill amended the code of criminal procedure had been drafted in accordance with the constitution and the draft included the proposals submitted by the Pyithu Hluttaw Judiciary and Legal Affairs Committee, he said. The draft would be sent to the Attorney-General's Office of the Union to be able to promulgate as a law.

He continued to say that the Attorney-General's Office of the Union had scrutinized the bill amended the penal code sent by the Supreme Court of the Union and sent it back to the Supreme Court of the Union and gave suggestions for preparations.

The bill amended the penal code drafted by the Supreme Court of the Union would be promulgated in accordance with the proposals of the Pyithu Hluttaw Judiciary and Legal Affairs Committee and suggestions of the Attorney-General's Office of the Union, he said.

Pyithu Hluttaw agreed to approve the proposal of the Pyithu Hluttaw Judiciary and Legal Affairs Committee.

Similarly, Secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw

other types of pensions until the pensioner is 80. Those who get special pensionable age pension and disability pension (B) type can take out sum total pension only after they have received pension for ten years.

For example, those who have taken out 50 per cent of his original pension can receive increased pension rate on the remaining 50 per cent. So, it is impossible to let the pensioners who have taken out certain part of his total pension to receive the increased rate on taken-out proportion as it is not in conformity with existing laws according to sum total pension rule 8(3).

Regarding the question of U Kham Sun Hmon of Chin State Constituency No (5) about **if there is any plan to open Myanmar Economic Bank branches in Kyikha Sub-township, Redkhoda Sub-township and Rezwa Sub-township**, the Union Minister replied that treasuries are opened and the number of pensioners is very small in those townships and governmental staff can take out their salaries conveniently.

Pensioners have difficulties in taking their pensions out but there are only 60 pensioners in Kyikha, 20 in Redkhoda and 100 in Razwa, and the number is still low. When those sub-townships have developed and met the characteristics of a township, MEB branches will be opened there.



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham shakes hands with Minister-President of Flemish Government of Belgium Mr Kris Peeters.
(News on page-16)
MNA

Farmers, Workers and Youths Affairs Committee U Htay Oo submitted a proposal to amend, add the Leave and Holidays Act-1951, the Factory Act (1951), the Shops and Establishment Acts (1951), the Payment of Wages Act (1936), the Employment and Training Act (1950) and the Minimum Wages Act (1948).

Regarding the proposal, Union Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi replied that the ministry had a plan to amend add the 1951 Leave and Holidays Act and to amend and add the Factory Act (1951) in accordance with the international regional standards.

He said he agreed to amend the Shops and Establishment Act 1951 to meet international norms and its nationwide effect in the entire Myanmar, and rewrite some new facts, to amend the Wage Act 1936 to be up to date with the time. Regarding the Employment and Training Act 1950, the act prescribed that government is solely responsible for conducting training courses. But, the government alone cannot handle now as there is prominent increase in genres of factories, workshops, departments and

works and number of workforce, and there is different standards of competency, calling for the cooperation of the employers and employees together with the government. And thus, the act is being rewritten. With regard to Minimum Wages of Farm Workers 1948 Act, there are two existing laws, namely Minimum Wages of Farm Workers 1948 Law and Minimum Wages Law 1949. Now, the new minimum wage law has been drafted and there is plan to revoke the above-mentioned two minimum wage laws and thus the proposal is acceptable, he said.

The Hluttaw approved the proposal of Farmers, Workers and Youth Affairs Committee as there is no objection.

The Hluttaw then approved the amendments made to important commodities and service bill and provision of allowances to disable Tatmadawmen and family members of fallen Tatmadawmen made by the members of Union level organizations, Bill Committee and Hluttaw representatives.

Today's session came to an end at 4.30 pm and the 12th day session continues at 10 am on 12 March.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw session continues ...

(from page 16)

In addition, according to Article 54 of microfinance services law, running the works of the microcredit union without license is prohibited and actions can be taken against those who break the law according to Article 57 of the law.

Regarding the question of U Nan Khin Paung of Chin State Constituency No (7) about **if there is any plan to make those who have taken out the sum total of his pension eligible for the newly-fixed salary rate**, the Union Minister explained that when the service personnel retire, pension gratuity is given to them at once and pension is given monthly for their daily and monthly living expenses.

However, if a pensioner wants to get a sum of money, the government gives him the certain part of his monthly pension as the sum total pension. It is in fact granting the partial amount of pension to the pensioner in consideration of his livelihood in the long-run.

It has been practiced since 1 September, 1936 according to Article 10 of Pension Act 1871 Chapter (2) and the appendix (D) of Burma Supplement to the Civil Service Regulations. Except family pension, it can be allowed for

Next, Deputy Culture Minister Daw Sanda Khin replied to questions of two representatives.

Regarding the question of U Naing Tun Ohn of Mon State Constituency No (5) **if there is any plan to salvage Dhammazedi Great Bell, the artistic work of ancient Mon nationals**, the deputy minister replied that the bell was one of the good deeds of Hanthawady Monarch King Dhammazedi (1471-1492) and it is the world's biggest and also the most ancient bell. It is also the first bell donated to Shwedagon Pagoda. It is 216 inches in height and weighs 290 tons.

Thanlyin Governor Portuguese Nga Zin Ka or Filipe de Brito e Nicote took the bell from Shwedagon Pagoda to Thanlyin by raft to cast it into cannon in 1608 ME. The raft drowned at Pazundaung Creek mouth while crossing Dawbon River, immersing the bell in the river. Buddhists and researchers at home and abroad made several abortive attempts to salvage the bell since 1987.

The 15-BC-casted Dhammazedi Great Bell will serve as invaluable historical evidence for Myanmar. It is a thing with cultural and sentimental value, proving the iron casting standard of Myanmar.

Companies have proposed to salvage the bell, Catalina Deep Sea Divers in 1995-1997, Animax Film of Australia in 2010 and SD Mark

International LLP Co in 2010-2011 and the Singaporean Co has offered to hire the vessels in search of the bell at the cost of USD 10 million.

So, there still needs to make further coordination with those companies to salvage the bell.

Regarding the question of U Khin Maung (a) U Aung Kyaw Oo of Rakhine State Constituency No (3) about **if there is any plan to open different kinds of museums from which people can obtain knowledge**, the deputy minister replied the International Council of Museums define the museum as a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment. The ministry establishes for the public, educates students under museum educative programme, collects and preserves cultural heritages.

There have been 11 cultural museums in all states and two regions including the National Museum in Yangon, General Aung San's Residence Museums in Yangon and Natmauk, Buddhism Museums like Nyaungshwe, Sagaing and Sittway Buddhism Museums, regional museums like Kyauktaw Maha Muni

(See page 10)

Amyotha Hluttaw session continues ...

(from page 9)

Museum and Butalin Museum, monastery museums like Sale Monastery, Myanan Sankyaw Shwenandaw Museum in Mandalay showcasing royal items of Yadanabon Period, eight archaeological museums including Bagan Archaeological Museum, and Mrauk U Archaeological Museum, totaling 28 museums and for public knowledge apart from Myanan Sankyaw Shwenandaw, Kanbawzathadi Shwenandaw, Shwebon Yadan Mingala nandaw and Thiri Zeya Bhumii Bagan Nandaw renovated for national integrity.

Cultures, handicrafts, musical instruments, traditional costumes, livelihood methods and customs of Myanmar national races in different regions are comprehensively showcased in cultural museums of regions and states.

National Museum (Yangon) is built with primate and stone weapons, Stone Age booth, Pyu Period to Yadanabon Period booths, Thihha Thana Throne booth, royal regalia booth and ancient embellishments booth, ten arts and crafts booth and paintings booth.

Alphabets booth comprising evolution of Myanmar alphabets, manuscripts of famous diseased writers, alphabets and manuscripts for national races' literature, Myanmar traditional rural arts booth, ASEAN-Corner booth, cultural booths of respective national races, Buddha image booth and nation-building tasks booth are put on display. Moreover, the new National Museum is under construction in Nay Pyi Taw to show off prestige and integrity of the nation, high-class cultural heritages and brilliant performance of the nationals. For the first phase, a total of 13 booths will be displayed at the museum.

The booth of State leaders and heads of government who discharged duties in successive eras will be displayed for public studies. Furthermore, cultural museums will be opened in Lashio and Nyaungshwe of Shan State. At this juncture, museums can be classified into National Museums, Cultural Museums, Archaeological Museums, memorials, regional museums, monastic museums and Buddhological Museums. Arrangements are being made to change the objects into the educative displays, realizing the educative programmes, performing special shows and presentations of clarifications on the booth in detail with labels are being undertaken for public observations. As of 2011, all students are allowed to visit all museums under Ministry of Culture free of charge.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint replied to queries raised by four Hluttaw representatives.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 4 asked **whether the government has a plan to construct low-cost plots and housings for State service personnel in economic hub Yangon.** The deputy minister replied that the Ministry of Construction sold Myintha housing of South Okkalapa Township and Thuwunna housing estate in Thingangyun Township with 50 per cent payment and 15 years installation system in 1967. Cash payment was set in similar to bank's interest rate, and when the payments have been completed, the property was handed over to owner.

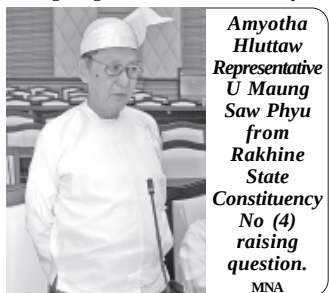
In 1997, the State and private entrepreneurs undertook joint-venture works in implementing the Yuzana Garden City in Dagon Seikkan Township by building four-storey apartments housings and separate housings. At that time, apartments were sold at K 400,000 in minimum. The prices of apartments reached K 2.3 million in minimum and K 4.7 million in maximum in

2005. In 2009, the apartments were sold between K 4.4 million and K 7.8 million.

The Ministry of Construction allotted land plots to companies for construction of the buildings. And, the board sold apartments, which were shared by the companies for the department, on a basis of departmental ranks and social difficulties by scrutinizing the applications. Moreover, the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction manages construction of buildings, and apartments were sold to the applicants under securitization of the board.

Although the government and private sector joined hands in implementation of the 15-year installment sale system in 1967 and sales of buildings by Yuzana Co in 1997 for selling apartments to State service personnel and needy people, low-cost housings and low-cost public housings to the people, there is no plan to sell low-cost staff quarters and low-cost public housings.

U Hlaing Oo of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No. 12 asked **where there is a plan to maintain Labutta-Thingangyi Motor Road.** The deputy minister replied that Labutta-Thingangyi-Pyinsalu Road is 35 miles and two furlongs long that links Labutta Township and



Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Maung Saw Phyu from Rakhine State Constituency No (4) raising question.
MNA

Pyinsalu Sub-Township of Labutta District in Ayeyawady Region. Capital expenditure and maintenance expenditure were spent on upgrading the road sections to the all-season used road in 2011-2012 fiscal year. Of them, the hard road and earthen one were upgraded to four miles long asphalt road and one mile long hard road.

In 211-2012 fiscal year, the damaged section of Labutta-Thingangyi Road is being repaired to prevent erosion of Yway River by spending the maintenance fund. Moreover, K 1400 million as capital expenditure is being demanded from the government to upgrade the earthen road to 14 miles long hard road section, construct the nine miles long and 30 feet wide earthen works and build 500 feet long gravel-filled retaining walls.

U Maung Saw Phyu of Rakhine State Constituency No. 4 asked **whether there is a plan to build a bridge to link between Tattaung and Kyweku.** The deputy minister replied that the section from Nyaungchanug to Kyweku Port is seven miles long on Nyaungchaung-Tattaung Road being built by Airport Special Group (8) of Public Works in Rakhine State. The An Creek is about 700 feet wide and 60 feet deep. If a bridge is built across the An Creek, the length of facility will be about 1000 feet. At present, the Ministry of Construction has no plan to build the An Creek Bridge linking Tattaung and Kyweku.

U Soe Aung of Mandalay Region Constituency No. 11 asked **whether there is a plan to build a new bridge in parallel with the bridge across Meiktila Lake.** The deputy minister replied that Meiktila Lake crossing bridge being built by Myat Noe Thu Co through BOT system is located on Meiktila-Kyaukpadaung Road in Meiktila of Mandalay Region. The bridge is 200 feet long and 24 feet wide two-way facility. At present, the Ministry of Construction has no plan to build one more

bridge in parallel with the existing bridge.

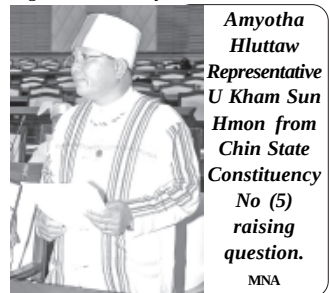
Decision was sought from the Hluttaw to approve the Labour Dispute Arbitration Bill sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

U Tin Yu of Yangon Region Constituency No. 11 took the permission to discuss the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill at the Amyotha Hluttaw. And, the Hluttaw approved it. Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 4 supported the bill. U Tin Yu of Yangon Region Constituency No. 11 read the bill.

As the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw sought the approval of the Hluttaw for discussing the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill, the Hluttaw decided to discuss it, and the duty was assigned to the Bill Committee.

It was announced that the Hluttaw representatives wishing to discuss the bill may enlist their names.

With regard to the proposal **urging the Union government to effectively supply irrigation water for development of agricultural crops** raised by U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No. 6, U Soe Myint of Magway Region Constituency No. 6, U Sai Kyaw Zaw Than of Shan State Constituency No. 2, Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Constituency No. 8 and U Hla Thein of Magway Region Constituency No. 3 discussed that



Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Kham Sun Hmon from Chin State Constituency No (5) raising question.
MNA

they all understand effective supply of irrigation water for development of agricultural crops and utmost efforts of the respective ministry. However, dams, diversion weirs and canal systems decline their capabilities of supplying water and standards of designs in the long-term period, so these irrigation facilities lose and waste water. It is necessary to efficiently use water for development of agricultural sector. Farmers are to systematically use irrigation water and abide by directives of Irrigation Department. Likewise, the Irrigation Department should supervise water supply system and water supply management.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw also replied that Irrigation Department does not issue timetable for supply of irrigation water for seasonal crops yearly, and farmers do not know supply of water for their turns and do not try to know the water supply timetable. If necessary, the educative works are to be given to farmers to wait for taking irrigation water in their turns.

Effective supply of irrigation water and minimizing loss and waste of water depend on farmers to some extent. Surplus water from Monchaung Dam Project is drained to Kyeoehn Kyeewa Dam that was completed in February 2012. Likewise, surplus water from Kengkhram and Myogyi Dams are drained to right canal of Kinda Dam. Water supporting dams are under construction for supplying water to the dams with less annual inflow of water and to sufficiently supply irrigation water.

Local authorities broaden horizon of the people to strictly abide by the water supply system. Staff of the department also organize the farmers to overcome difficulties in water supply. However, there were not complete works due to less skillful workers and wider scale of works.

As less than 5000-acre-irrigation-facility



Deputy Construction Minister U Soe Tint replies to queries.—MNA

will be handed over to respective region/state governments for their governance, the irrigation facilities will be more effective. The fund has been demanded to upgrade 16 irrigation systems.

In the past, earthen canals were constructed with designs depending on various sorts of soil in the irrigated areas. The canals on sandy soil are being built with concrete facilities so as to minimize waste of water. However, a plan is yet to upgrade all dams and reservoirs due to large amount of expenditure. Funds will be demanded from the State to upgrade the betterment of irrigation systems on priority.

It is necessary to receive the fund in time for building the completed irrigation facilities. Dam workers and canal workers are to be appointed in line with the organizational setup for thoroughly maintaining the irrigated areas.

To be able to effectively undertake the supply of irrigation water, the water consumer group formed with local farmers is assigned duty to jointly take responsibility in supply of irrigation water and maintenance of canals under the leadership of the local authorities. Directives have been issued to them to take action against those who offend the canal law.

Thus, farmers are to abide by Myanmar Canal Law for ensure systematic use of irrigation water and durability of irrigation systems. Therefore, works will be done effectively with the strength of region and state governments in the time of the new government.

The proposal was approved by the Hluttaw.

U Myint Tun of Bago Region Constituency No. 10 submitted the proposal **urging the Union government to contribute towards clean government and good governance by applying good sample systems of some foreign countries so that the government departments and State service personnel gain more trusts and confidences of the people.** U Nyunt Tin of Yangon Region Constituency No. 2 supported the proposal.

The Hluttaw decided to discuss the proposal and announced to enlist the Hluttaw representatives wishing to participate in discussions.

The 12th day third regular session of the first Amyotha Hluttaw came to an end at 3.50 pm and the 13th day session will be held at 10 am on 12 March.

Today's session, a total of 10 questions were answered, one bill approved, one bill submitted, one proposal discussed and approved and one new proposal submitted.

MNA

Japan Festival-2012 launched



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Region Minister for Development Affairs (Yangon) Mayor U Hla Myint, President of UMFCCI U Win Aung, Japanese Ambassador Mr Takashi Saito and Director General Mr Nobuyuki Koyama of JETRO formally open Japan Festival 2012.—MNA

YANGON, 9 March—Japan external Trade Organization (JETRO) managed to launch Japan Festival-2012 at Strand Hotel in Kyauktada Township here this morning.

At the opening, Yangon Region Chief

Minister U Myint Swe, Yangon Mayor regional minister for development U Hla Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung, Japanese Ambassador to

Myanmar Mr. Takashi Saito, and Japan External Trade Organization Director-General Mr. Nobuyuki Koyama, who made an opening speech, cut the ribbon to put the festival into action.

A total of 48

Shwechaung Bridge No. 1 completed by 50 per cent

PAKOKKU, 9 March—Special Project Group-3 of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction is building Shwechaung Bridge No. 1 to be substituted into the place of old Shwechaung Bridge damaged in floods in Pakokku. So far, the construction of the bridge has completed by 50 per cent.

Construction of Shwechaung Bridge No. 1 started on 7 February 2012. The bridge will be 900 feet long and 24 feet wide. It will have two-way motor road flanked by 3.5 feet wide pedestrian ways. The facility

companies display electronic devices, electrical accessories, cosmetics, medicines and medicals, and foodstuff at the booths in the festival lasting up to 11 March, 2012.

MNA

will withstand 75-ton loads. The bridge is of reinforced concrete bored piles and structure. The upper structure is of RC beams and floors. Its clearance is 72 feet wide and nine feet and nine inches high.

Shwechaung Bridge No. 1 is being built on Pakokku-Yesagyo-Monywa Road. On

completion, the local people can transport domestic products from Pakokku to Yesagyo, Monywa and Mandalay along smooth transportation facility. After Shwechaung Bridge No. 1 has been completed, Shwechaung Bridge No. 2 will be constructed.

Myanma Alin

PROJECT CLARIFIED: Clarification on right statistics for areas of farmlands and sown acreage for 2011-2012 and data collection course was made at Settlement and Land Records Department in Danubyu on 22 February.

TOWNSHIP IPRD



Prizes given for raising reading skill in Maubin

MAUBIN, 9 March—The village library development, prize presentation for raising reading skills and book donation were held in Htani Village of Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 25 February morning.

Ayeyawady Region Minister for Transport U Than Tun, Head of Ayeyawady Region Information and Public Relations Department U Ngwe Tun and Staff Officer of Maubin Township IPRD Daw Yin Swe Win formally opened the signboard for development of village

libraries and raising of reading skill.

At the hall of Basic Education Middle School in Htani Village, the book donation ceremony followed. The Ayeyawady Region Minister for Transport made a speech.

The head of Region IPRD explained the development of village libraries. Chairman of Maubin Township Writers and Journalists Association U Myint Thein (Chingyar) explained raising the reading skill.

Officials presented prizes to outstanding persons in best reading skill in poems and essays and reading of Doh Kyay Ywa journal.

The head of Region

IPRD donated books and applications on various subjects worth K 500,000 and wellwishers, cash to the fund of library.

Myanma Alin

Thedawlay-Aungzeya earthen road maintained

MEIKTILA, 9 March—With a view to ensuring smooth transport to be able to contribute towards rural development and poverty alleviation, Thedawlay-Aungzeya earthen road was repaired in Chiset Ward of Meiktila Township in Mandalay Region.

On 17 February, the maintenance works were completed.

Under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner U Sein Oak of Meiktila District General Administration Department and Township Administrator U Kyaw Swe,

the Township Development Affairs Committee constructed the earthen road.

The earthen facility is 20 feet wide and 1500 feet long.—Myanma Alin

Graduates from Institutes of Economics holds workshop

YANGON, 9 March—Graduates of 1994-95 of Institute of Economics held the 17th workshop at Lin Yaung Ni Hall at 4/6/1954 on Tabinshwehti 1st Lane in Hlinethaya Township on 26 February afternoon.

Secretary of the association U Thant Zin made a speech. Professor Daw Hla Myint, retired dean of management department of Yangon Institute of Economics talked about Logistics & Supply XChain Management and replied to queries raised by those present.—Myanma Alin

Triplets born at Central Women's Hospital in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 9 March—Triplet babies were successfully given birth at the delivery room of Central Women's Hospital (Mandalay) in Mandalay on 15 February.

Mother of the triplets is Ma Sanda Htwe of 883 in Chanmyathazi Township. The triplets were two boys and one girl. At present, babies and mother are under care of doctors and nurses, and they are in good condition of health.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



LIBRARY WORKS DONE: Head of Dawbon Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Khin Htay Myint explains durability of library in Yamonna Ward 2 of Dawbon Township on 27 February.—TOWNSHIP IPRD

Fire breaks out at warehouse

MANDALAY, 9 March—A fire broke out at RC three-storey stationery warehouse due to overheat of electronic breaker at No. 596 on 82nd Street between 27th and 28th Street in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay at 11.9 pm on 4 March.

Altogether 200 fire brigade members and 53 fire engines arrived at the scene and put out the fire at 00.45 am.

The property worth K 14 million lost in the fire. File Pa/137/2012 was opened against the manager of the warehouse under Section 285 of the Penal Code at No 8 Police Station.

Kyemon



Summer basic sports training course conducted

KYAUKME, 9 March—The summer basic sports training course, jointly conducted by Sports and Physical Education Committee and Ministry of Education, was opened at District Gymnasium in Kyaukme of Kyaukme District on 5 March morning.

The Assistant Director of District Sports and Physical Education Department made a speech.

Next, the deputy head of Township General Administration Department and the Township Education Officer spoke on the occasion.

After that, various departments concerned in the township presented cash assistance to be spent on the course.

At the training course, trainers will provide practical and theoretical training courses on basketball, football, volleyball, Sepak Takraw, aerobics and Myanmar martial arts to the trainees.

Township IPRD

LOCAL SPORTS

Former LA detective guilty of murder

LOS ANGELES, 9 March — A jury Thursday found a former Los Angeles police detective guilty of first-degree murder in a 1986 case that was reopened in 2009 using updated DNA technology.

The jury convicted former Detective Stephanie Lazarus in the killing of Sherri Rasmussen, three months after the victim had married a man Lazarus had dated prior to the wedding.

Lazarus had worked for the Los Angeles Police Department for more than 25 years and retired from the department while in jail awaiting trial, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

California law requires a sentence of life in prison without parole for first-degree murder.

During the initial investigation of Rasmussen's killing, detectives thought the victim had been killed by two men during an attempted burglary and disregarded Rasmussen's father's attempt to get them to look at Lazarus as a suspect, the *Times* said.

Internet

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M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
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P. O. Box 60, Yangon
makhinkylaw@mptmail.net.mm
Dated: 10 March 2012

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA MACHAN VOY NO (345)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MACHAN VOY NO (345) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (296)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (296) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.3.2012 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Swiss nuclear plant to close by 2013

ZURICH, 9 March—One of Switzerland's nuclear plants must shut down by June 2013 because of safety issues, the Swiss Federal Administrative Court said.

The Muhleberg plant near Bern, built in 1972, is one of five nuclear facilities in Switzerland and provides 5 percent of the country's energy needs.

It will be phased out because a three-month

shutdown in 2011 revealed cracks in the reactor's core shroud, as well as other issues, the *Swissinfo* news service reported on Thursday.

The ruling of the court, made 1 March but released Wednesday, also mentioned security concerns that include the inconclusive evaluation of the Muhleberg plant's vulnerability to earthquakes and its reliance on the nearby Aare River for cooling.

In light of the country's heavy reliance on nuclear power and the government's re-evaluation of its energy policy following the March 2011 Fukushima disaster in Japan, Switzerland has pledged to abandon nuclear power as an energy source by 2034, *Swissinfo* said.

Internet



**THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT
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The ASEAN Secretariat Jakarta has a vacancy for Director, Corporate Affairs. This position will report to the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community & Corporate Affairs. The Director, Corporate Affairs will be responsible in providing high-level secretariat services and operations; overseeing the Human Resource, Finance & Budget, Information Technology Systems, Legal Service & Agreements, and Administration, Protocol & Conference Services Divisions, as well as matters associated with the hosting of ASEC in Jakarta.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (036)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (036) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Russian PM Vladimir Putin (2nd L) listens to a guide during a visit to Borodino Museum in Moscow. The Battle of Borodino in 1812 was the largest and bloodiest single-day action of the French invasion of Russia.

INTERNET

Russia urges US to respect rights of WikiLeaks suspect

MOSCOW, 9 March —Russia wants the US to respect the human rights of a soldier accused of leaking American classified information through whistleblowing website WikiLeaks, a Russian foreign ministry official said.

Army Private Bradley Manning, 24, was arrested in May 2010 for allegedly leaking thousands of classified US diplomatic cables and battlefield reports from Iraq and Afghanistan to WikiLeaks.

According to *Xinhua*, Konstantin Dolgov, the Russian foreign ministry's commissioner for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, criticised the US after a report from UN Human Rights envoy Juan Ernesto Mendez accused the American government of "inhuman and degrading treatment" against Manning.

Manning has complained of being held in solitary confinement, of bullying by guards and of being subjected to an ultra-restrictive regime.

He faces 22 charges, including abetting the enemy—a charge that carries a maximum punishment of life in prison.

The other charges carry a combined maximum of more than 150 years behind bars. Dolgov said the US must pay attention to the UN report.

"Judging from the big importance Washington lays to the human rights and freedom issues, we expect the US authorities would act in a strict compliance with their international obligations toward their own citizens, including Manning," Dolgov was quoted as saying by *Xinhua*.

Internet



Chinese police officers patrol Tiananmen Square during a plenary meeting of the National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.
INTERNET

Two foreigners killed in Bangkok hotel fire

BANGKOK, 9 March—Two foreigners were killed in a fire broke out Thursday night at a hotel in Thailand's Capital of Bangkok, Thai media reported on Friday. The fire started from the fifth floor of the 18-storey Grand Mercure Park Avenue Hotel at around 9:40 pm.

A western woman died after jumping from

the sixth floor to a swimming pool. An Asian man was found dead on the seventh floor, English newspaper *Bangkok Post* reported on its website, quoting firefighters. Some people were carried out of the hotel unconscious. An officer said the fire was brought under control at around 11 pm.—*Xinhua*

Spiders on the move in flood-ravaged Australia

Thousands of spiders have cast eerie webs over vast areas of flood-hit Australia after being forced to seek shelter by the rising waters.

Experts said the spiders may be spinning the sticky webs to help them survive the deluge, which has forced thousands of people to leave their homes over the past week. "What we've seen here is a type of wolf spider," Owen Seeman, arachnid expert at Queensland Museum, told *Reuters*.

"They are trying to hide away (from the waters)."

The spider webs were seen near the inland city of Wagga Wagga in New South Wales, where 8,000 people were forced from their homes before the flood waters receded on Wednesday.

The Australian Museum's entomology collections manager Graham Milledge said the spiders' behaviour was known as ballooning, and was typical after spiders are forced to flee from floods. "They often do it

as a way of dispersing and getting into a new area," Milledge told the news.com.au website. "In an event like this, they are just trying to escape the floods."



A spider is seen on a fence covered with spiderwebs near to flood waters in Wagga Wagga, about 380 km (236 miles) southwest of Sydney on 7 March, 2012.

US woman, 81, keeps lottery ticket in Bible, wins jackpot

An 81-year-old Rhode Island woman, who slept with her winning lottery ticket in a Bible, came forward on Tuesday to claim a \$336.4 million (214 million pounds) PowerBall prize, one of the largest ever jackpots in the United States, lottery officials said.

Louise White kept her identity secret for weeks after buying the lucky ticket at a grocery store in Newport, Rhode Island, when a family member wanted some rainbow sherbet dessert.

She took the prize in one lump sum payment of \$210 million, the highest cash jackpot ever, lottery officials said.

"I'm very happy and I'm very proud and this will make my family very happy. We are truly blessed," White, a Newport resident, said during a brief appearance at a news conference.

White slept with the winning ticket in her Bible the night after the drawing and later kept it in a safe deposit box.

PowerBall is played in 42 US states, Washington DC and the US Virgin Islands. The largest PowerBall jackpot was in 2006 for \$365 million, according to lottery officials.

The odds of winning the PowerBall jackpot are roughly 1 in 175 million.

Woman arrested for painting nails on plane

A California woman was arrested for allegedly cursing at a Southwest Airlines flight attendant who asked her to stop painting her nails, officials said.

Jeanie Daniels of Burbank was detained for 10 hours after the 26 Feb altercation, *CBS News* reported on Tuesday.

Daniels was en route from Los Angeles to

Houston to visit her boyfriend and said she asked the people sitting around her if they would mind if she painted her fingernails. She said they told her to go ahead, but a flight attendant

told her to stop.

"I thought it was all going well until the attendant came over and was very upset I was painting my nails, saying it was offending everyone around me," Daniels said.

News Album



Lead singer of the sixties rock band The Monkees, Davy Jones, sings on stage at the Newcastle Arena on 7 March, 1997.
INTERNET

Private funeral for Davy Jones held in Florida

NEW YORK, 9 March—A private funeral was held on Wednesday for one-time teen heartthrob and pop singer from The Monkees, Davy Jones, near his home in Florida, a spokeswoman said on Wednesday.

Immediate family including his wife and daughters attended the small, private service. Jones' body was to be cremated and his ashes returned to his birthplace in Manchester, England, publicist Helen Kensick said.

The lone British member of the 1960s made-for-television pop band that scored hits such as "Daydream Believer" and "Pleasant Valley Sunday," died suddenly after suffering a heart attack in Florida last week at the age of 66.

A public memorial service for Jones will be held next week in Manchester, where Jones also grew up, while another public service is yet to be confirmed but may be held in either Los Angeles or New York, Kensick said.—*Reuters*

Arquette and McLarty break up

LOS ANGELES, 9 March—Hollywood actor and producer David Arquette says he has ended his five-month relationship with "Entertainment Tonight" reporter Christina McLarty.

"Sadly I'm single again," Arquette said via Twitter late Tuesday. "A long distance relationship proved to be too difficult."

Arquette lives in Los Angeles and McLarty is based in New York.

The actor separated from actress Courteney Cox, his wife of 11 years, in 2010. He is best known for his work in the "Scream" film franchise and

for competing on TV's "Dancing with the Stars." He now lends his voice to an animated parrot in the series "Jake and the Never Land Pirates."

INTERNET



David Arquette, a cast member in the motion picture thriller "Scream 4".
INTERNET

Raven-Symone to step into 'Sister Act'

NEW YORK, 9 March—Raven-Symone is all grown up—and going to a convent.

The former cutie from "The Cosby Show" will take over the lead part in Broadway's hit musical "Sister Act" later this month, playing a nightclub-singer-turned-nun.

The 26-year-old actress and singer says she's in rehearsal almost every day of the week from "sun-up to sun-down" to "make sure I have everything down" when she takes over at the Broadway Theatre on 27 March.

Raven-Symone says she fell in love with the musical the moment she saw it. "I was definitely one of the audience



In this 7 Aug. 2011 photo, Raven-Symone arrives at the Teen Choice Awards in Universal City, Calif.
INTERNET

members dancing in the aisles," she says. "I think it's a wonderfully scored and directed and written musical. I'm very excited to be part of this."

She takes over the role from Patina Miller, who earned a Tony Award nomination in the part and whose final performance is 18 March. Whoopi Goldberg, who was the original Deloris Van Cartier in the hit 1992 film, is producing the musical.

While Raven-Symone did a guest spot with "The Boys Choir of Harlem" on Broadway when she was 5, she prefers to think of this as her Broadway debut.

INTERNET

Houston leaves everything to daughter

ATLANTA, 9 March—Whitney Houston left all of her money, furniture, clothing, jewelry and cars to her only child, Bobbi Kristina, court documents filed in Atlanta indicate.

Houston died 11 Feb in Los Angeles at the age of 48. The cause of her death is under investigation, but a lethal mixture of prescription drugs and alcohol is suspected.

The recording star battled substance abuse for years. "Inside Edition" said Houston's money will be placed in a trust in keeping with her 2000 will. Her mother, Cissy, is the executor of her estate, and her brother and sister-in-law are the trustees.

Bobbi Kristina will get some of the money when she turns 21 in two years, then more when she turns 25 and the final sum at age 30.

Houston's ex-husband,

singer Bobby Brown, is to receive nothing, "Inside Edition" said.—*Internet*



Singer Whitney Houston (L) and her daughter Bobbi Kristina Brown.
INTERNET

Yearwood gets own Food Network show

NEW YORK, 9 March—US country music star and cookbook author Trisha Yearwood is to star in "Trisha's Southern Kitchen" this spring, the Food Network said on Wednesday.

The six-episode series is to debut 14 April. "Trisha's best known as a music legend, but her talents don't stop there. She's a passionate and talented cook, whose down-to-earth style, winning recipes, and southern hospitality will charm and inspire viewers," Bob Tuschman, the network's general manager and senior vice president of programming, said in a statement. "For me, cooking is very connected to my family and friends," Yearwood said. "Every recipe on the show carries wonderful memories with my loved ones and I can't wait to share my



British actress Amanda Seyfried

Seyfried and Hartnett dating

LOS ANGELES, 9 March—Amanda Seyfried and Josh Hartnett have been dating for about two months, a source close to the Hollywood couple told *Us Magazine.com*.

"Josh likes to keep things low-key, so they've just been hanging out," the insider said, adding the film stars were set up by a mutual friend. Seyfried previously dated actors Ryan Phillippe and Dominic Cooper. Hartnett's former flames include actresses Scarlett Johansson and Penelope Cruz, and singer Rihanna.—*Internet*

Country music artist Trisha Yearwood.
INTERNET

meals, stories and family photos with Food Network viewers.—*Internet*

Bilbao upset Man United in Europa League

LONDON, 9 March — Spain's Athletic Bilbao stunned Manchester United with a convincing performance in the Europa League on Thursday, outclassing the English champions in a 3-2 away win in the first leg of the last 16.

Behind 1-0 to Wayne Rooney's 22nd-minute goal, Bilbao then ripped United apart with an attacking master class, Fernando Llorente equalized just

before halftime before Oscar de Marcos and Iker Muniain scored in the final 18 minutes.

Rooney grabbed his second from the penalty spot in stoppage time, but Bilbao should have been well clear by then after spurning a series of great chances against the competition favorites in a dominant performance at Old Trafford. The second leg will be played at Bilbao's San Mames stadium next Thursday. —Xinhua



Athletic Bilbao's Fernando Llorente, second left, scores his side's first goal at Manchester United. —INTERNET

Thursday, 8 March, 2012 Europa League Results

Atl Madrid	3 - 1	Besiktas
Met'st Kharkiv	0 - 1	Olympiakos
FC Twente	1 - 0	Schalke 04
Sporting	1 - 0	Man City



Xandão of Sporting Lisbon, right, scores with a back-heel past Joe Hart of Manchester City in the Europa League. —INTERNET

Sporting edge past Manchester City in Lisbon

LISBON, 9 March — Manchester City's quest for Europa League glory received a setback on Thursday when the Premier League leaders lost 1-0 at Sporting Lisbon in the first leg of their last-16 tie.

Brazilian centre-back Xandão claimed the game's only goal with a clever back-heel in the 51st minute to give Ricardo Sa Pinto's side a narrow advantage ahead of the second leg at the City of Manchester Stadium next week.

"This result was not a surprise, anything can happen in football. I don't think we deserved to lose," said City coach Roberto Mancini.

"We did not play well.

We had chances to score, but we didn't take them. It will be a different game in Manchester. When we have chances to score, we will score." Victory extended Sporting's unbeaten European home record to 10 games, while Mancini was left to rue an injury to captain Vincent Kompany that forced the Belgian centre-back to leave the fray early in the game.

"We have to wait one or two days to know the exact extent of his injury, but it is a problem with his calf," said the Italian. "I hope to have Kompany back in 10 days or two weeks, but we have other solutions." —Xinhua

Medal prospects look rosey for Britain's Halsall

LONDON, 9 March — European champion Fran Halsall wore a bright pink swimsuit so her dad could spot her at the British Olympic qualifiers on Thursday but her medal potential was clear for all to see as she blazed to victory in the 100m freestyle.

Having already booked her place on the British team in the 100m butterfly, Halsall surged home in 53.57 seconds, ahead of Loughborough team mate Amy Smith who also guaranteed her place on the Olympics team with second spot in 54.01. Halsall, runner-up in the 2009 world championships in Rome in a British record 52.87, produced two powerful lengths of the London 2012 Aquatics Centre pool to lay down an impressive marker for the summer when she will be part of a powerful home team hoping to gain a clutch of gold medals.

"I was a bit disappointed with the time to be honest but having said that I've never been this fast in Britain and it's the fastest I've swam at this time of year," the gregarious 21-year-old told reporters. "My coach always says I never really turn up until the summer anyway. So hopefully I'll be able to go

faster at the Games and now I'm in the team I can just totally focus on that."

Explaining her garish choice of swimwear, Halsall, who also sported turquoise nail varnish, explained: "My dad normally says 'what's wrong with Fran, her stroke's awful'," Halsall, whose boyfriend will be playing for Britain in hockey at the Olympics, joked. —Reuters



Francesca Halsall of Britain prepares to start her race before winning the women's 100m freestyle final at the British Gas Swimming Championships 2012 at the Olympic Aquatics Centre in London on 8 March, 2012. —REUTERS

Three-time French Open champ Kuerten elected to Hall

NEW PORT, 9 March — Three-time French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten was elected Thursday to the International Tennis Hall of Fame. The lanky Brazilian nicknamed "Guga" reached No. 1 in the ATP rankings and collected singles titles at Roland Garros in 1997, 2000 and 2001.

He showed up at the 1997 French Open unheralded, unknown and 66th in the rankings, but wound up being the second-lowest-ranked man to win a Grand Slam championship.

"I have to confess, in my first years playing tennis, I didn't even know that the Hall of Fame existed," Kuerten said Thursday at a news conference in Brazil. "It was something I really didn't expect to happen. Now I know how important it is to be there."

Kuerten, who couldn't hold back the tears when he watched a video of his retirement in 2008, is working to bring the ATP World Tour Finals to Brazil beginning in 2014.

"Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo already showed interest in organizing the event," Kuerten said. "I think the timing is right and there are indications that there is a real chance to bring the tournament to Brazil. I'm going to Miami to talk to the new ATP president (Brad



In this 11 June, 2000 file photo, Gustavo Kuerten, of Brazil, holds the trophy after he defeated Magnus Norman of Sweden in the final of the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros stadium in Paris. —INTERNET

Drewett) to know more about this possibility, but we already have partners willing to help."

He also wants to play an exhibition match against Roger Federer at the end of the year in Brazil. "We need some time to have the details sorted out, and some time for me to start practicing," Kuerten said.

Internet

Chinese swimmers to prepare 2012 Olympics in the University of Bath

LONDON, 9 March — The University of Bath announced on Thursday that 25 Chinese swimmers are to prepare for the upcoming London Olympics at the University for three weeks. The team will arrive on 2 July and be trained alongside the Bath-based British Olympic swimmers until 22 July, when they will depart for London.

According to an announcement on the

university's official website, the contract was signed by Glynis Breakwell, vice chancellor of the university, and vice chairman of the China Swimming Association Shang Xiutang. "China is one of the sports global superpowers and, as such, demand world-leading facilities and services to support their athletes as they prepare for the 2012 Games," said Stephen Baddeley, director of sport at the university. —Xinhua

Scott and Dufner in joint control at windy Doral

DORAL, 9 March — Australia's Adam Scott and American Jason Dufner produced smart golf to share the lead at six-under after the first round of the WGC-Cadillac Championship on Thursday while the big names toiled in windy conditions.

Newly-crowned world number one Rory McIlroy struggled to a one-over-par 73 while Tiger Woods, who shot the best final-round of his life last Sunday, ended even-par after mixing four bogeys with three birdies and an eagle on his opening hole.

"It was a difficult day," said Woods. "The wind was blowing putts around and it made for a very challenging



Jason Dufner of the US watches his tee shot on the ninth hole during first round play in the WGC-Cadillac Championship PGA golf tournament at the Doral Resort in Doral, Florida on 8 March, 2012. —INTERNET

round." Scott, who tied for second at last year's Masters, made four birdies on the back nine, where he started, before an eagle on the par-five first and a birdie on the second.

His only blemish was a bogey on the sixth which allowed Dufner, who finished second at the PGA Championship last year, to grab a share of the lead with a birdie on his last hole, the par-three ninth, for a 66.

"I'm very satisfied with my round in these blustery conditions," said Scott. "I took advantage of my good play the first 11 or 12 holes and then managed to kind of get it up-and-down here or there coming in. It is a good way to start."

Denmark's Thomas Bjorn and Masters champion Charl Schwartzel of South Africa were both two shots off the pace after shooting four-under 68s.

The top group featured McIlroy and world number two Luke Donald and third-ranked Lee Westwood.

Internet

Arsenal and Cologne agree Podolski deal



Cologne's Lukas Podolski

BERLIN, 9 March — Cologne forward Lukas Podolski is set to sign a four-year contract with Arsenal at the end of the season after the two clubs agreed a deal for the Germany international, Bild newspaper reported on Thursday. Podolski, who returned to Cologne in 2009 after struggling for three years at Bayern Munich, has scored 16 Bundesliga goals this season for the club who are fifth from bottom and fighting to avoid the drop.

Cologne, who have so far failed in their efforts to extend the player's contract, refused to comment on the Bild report. Podolski's deal at the club is due to end next year. —Reuters

International Sports

Mancini confirms Van Persie interest

LONDON, 9 March—Manchester City manager Roberto Mancini has confirmed his interest in Arsenal's Robin Van Persie but believes the prolific Dutch striker will ultimately extend his contract with the Gunners.

Van Persie's contract with Arsenal expires in 2013 and a number of clubs have been alerted to the possibility of a shock summer move because he has ruled out discussing his future until then.

Despite his interest in the Dutchman, who has scored an impressive 32 goals already this season, Mancini believes Arsenal will move quickly to make sure he accepts a new deal.

Quoted in several national newspapers, the Italian said: "We are interested in all good players. This is normal, but not only us. I think all the good teams are interested in Van Persie."

"I think Van Persie at this moment is one of the best strikers in Europe with Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and with Sergio Agüero and Mario Balotelli. I think he is a fantastic striker, but I think he will remain with Arsenal."

City have signed several Arsenal players in recent years, acquiring Samir Nasri last summer and also signing Gael Clichy, Kolo Toure and Emmanuel Adebayor.

Mancini added: "I think



Arsenal striker Robin van Persie shoots during an English Premier League match against Aston Villa last year. INTERNET

if there is a good player who wants to leave a club, then we are interested.

"But if this player wants to stay, we don't have any problem. In my opinion, Van Persie will stay at Arsenal."

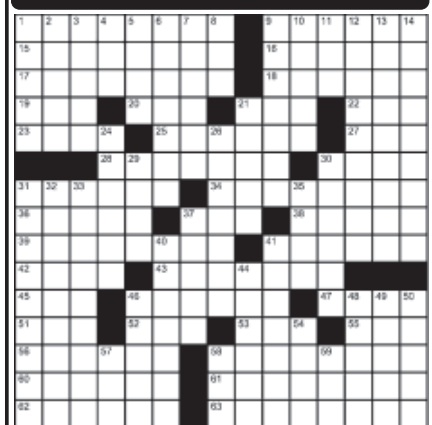
"I think Robin van Persie will sign a new contract with Arsenal

because if Arsenal lose also Van Persie, they will have a big problem."

"I think Arsenal will buy good players in the summer. Arsenal is a top team. They want to win the next Premier League, so for these reasons I think he will stay."

Internet

Crossword Puzzle



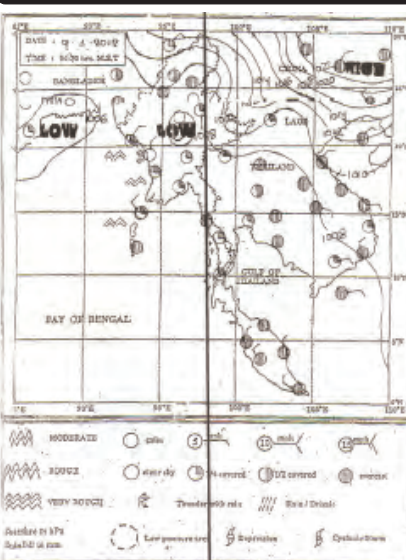
Across

1. Most squalid
9. "The English Patient" setting
15. Disburser
16. Cut back
17. Gain control again by conquest
18. Paternal relative
19. Machine used to send electronic copies
20. Appear
21. "Am ___ believe ...?" (2 wd)
22. End
23. Eye affliction
25. Object that shoots paintballs
27. Columbus Day mo.
28. Jeer
30. "Absolutely!"
31. Municipal magistrate (Scotland)
34. Cross this to score a touchdown (2 wd)
36. One year's record
37. "Give it ___!" (2 wd)
38. "Smart" ones
39. Sharp
41. Entertains
42. Warm, so to speak
43. Courtroom conference between lawyers and judge
45. Blueprint
46. Stripped the skin off
47. Apiece
51. In the style of (French)
52. Amscrayed
53. Pistol, slangily
55. Bygone bird
56. It might be cut by a politician
58. Record of employee's start and finish
60. Region away from a sea
61. Lifts

Down

62. Gets rid of
63. One who explains the universe in terms of energy
1. Drudges
2. Leave of absence
3. Adhesive
4. Calendar abbr.
5. Ancient Andean
6. School
7. Infected
8. "Don't give up!"
9. Flipper?
10. About 1% of the atmosphere
11. Barbarian
12. Plant or animal structures
13. Reserve
14. Great skill
21. Block house?
24. Cream puff
26. ___ Ann and Andy
29. Afflicts
30. Attraction
31. Similar to double boiler (2 wd)
32. Hardening by heat treatment
33. Lacking ability
35. Dalai ___
37. Birdlike
40. Hawaiian ___
41. Belly
44. In a spooky manner
46. Attack locale
48. Cremona artisan
49. Centers
50. Verb with thou
54. Hindu divine being
57. ___-relief
58. "First Blood" director
59. Video

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 10th March, 2012

Sl. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C)		For Tomorrow	Percent
		Maximum	Minimum		
1	Kachin	27/81	16/61	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
2	Kayah	35/95	12/54	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
3	Kayah	39/102	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
4	Chin	22/72	10/50	Partly cloudy	
5	Upper Sagaing	30/86	17/63	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
6	Lower Sagaing	38/100	18/64	Partly cloudy	
7	Tanintharyi	35/95	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
8	Bago	38/100	16/61	Partly cloudy	
9	Magway	40/104	19/66	Partly cloudy	
10	Mandalay	39/102	18/64	Partly cloudy	
11	Mon	38/100	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms	60%
12	Yangon	38/100	20/68	Partly cloudy	
13	Rakhine	33/91	20/68	Partly cloudy	
14	Southern Shan	28/82	12/54	Partly cloudy	
15	Northern Shan	31/88	09/40	Partly cloudy	
16	Eastern Shan	31/88	11/52	Partly cloudy	
17	Ayeyawady	36/97	21/70	Partly cloudy	
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	39/102	17/63	Partly cloudy	
19	Neighbouring Yangon	38/100	20/68	Partly cloudy	
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	39/102	18/64	Partly cloudy	

During the past (24) hours, light rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Yangon Region, Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperature was (4°C) below March average temperature in Kachin State, (7°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Magway Region, Kayah and Mon States and about March average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant day temperature was (44°C).

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

State of the Sea: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

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

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(10-3-12 09:30 am ~ 11-3-12 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Fantastic Orchid Garden from the Flower City
- * Serene and Happy Rural Life in Myanmar
- * News
- * Music Gallery
- * Cyber Power
- * News
- * Kid's Talent
- * News
- * 10th International Conference on Computer Application
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * News
- * A Memorable Visit to Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park
- * News
- * Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes "Fish Soup"
- * News
- * How to Cast Vote?
- * Myanmar Movie "Runaway Righteous Guy"

MYANMAR TV

(10-3-2012) (Saturday)

- 7:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw - Uppatasanti Paritta
- 7:30 am
- 2. Morning News
- 7:50 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:30 am
- 4. Songs in honour of (67th) Anniversary Arm ed Forces Day
- 11:20 am
- 5. Game for Children
- 1:35 pm
- 6. Delicious Dishes
- 1:50 pm
- 7. TV Drama Series
- 4:00 pm
- 8. Martial Song
- 4:15 pm
- 9. Cultural Dance
- 5:00 pm
- 10. Songs for Upholding National Spirit
- 5:25 pm
- 11. Beautiful "ASEAN"
- 6:50 pm
- 12. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 13. News
- 14. Talk Of The Political Parties
- 15. Demo Birthday (Myanmar Motion Picture Aseayone)
- 16. Cartoon Series
- 17. TV Drama Series

Fresh seawater fish on sales

YANGON, 9 March—The government is striving for ensuring domestic food sufficiency and raising exports.

With the aim of enabling the local people to consume fresh sea fish at fair prices, Cooperative Department, Fisheries Department, Annawa Aung, Shwe Zin Yaw Hein, Myanmar Mann and MMG in Yangon Region sell various species of seawater fish at the shops of Township Cooperative Departments.

Swe Naing



REPAVED ROAD INAUGURATED: The road to Electrical Engineer's Office repaved with asphalt, 930 feet long and 12 feet wide, was opened in Maungta Township of Rakhine State on 28 February. Deputy Commissioner U Aung Myint Soe, Township Administrator U Kyi San and Executive Officer U Aung Thet Shy formally open the road.—TOWNSHIP IPRD

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Minister-President of Flemish Government of Belgium

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham received a delegation led by Minister-President Mr. Kris Peeters of Flemish Government of Belgium at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 3 pm today.

Also present at the call were Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Myo Myint and departmental heads.

The Minister-President of Flemish Government of Belgium and party were accompanied by senior officers.

At the call, they frankly discussed bilateral relationship, strengthening of friendly ties and cooperation matters.

MNA

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Minister-President of Flemish Government of Belgium Mr. Kris Peeters and party at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace.—MNA



Pyithu Hluttaw session continues for 11th day Eight questions replied, two new proposals submitted and discussed, two bills approved

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—The 11th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw took place at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex here at 10 am today, attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 338 MPs. At the session, eight questions were raised, two new proposals submitted and discussed and two bills approved.

In response to the question raised by U Moe Zaw Hein of Katha Constituency about **whether there is a plan to open Government Technology High School in Katha**, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo said in Sagaing Region, three technological universities, one government technological college, two government technical institutes and four government technical high schools have been opened. Students who have completed middle school education in the townships of Katha District can study not only at government technology high schools

in Sagaing Region but also at Government Technology High School (Bhamo). Besides, matriculated students possessing set qualifications can study not only at above universities, colleges and schools in Sagaing Region but also at Technological University (Bhamo) and Government Technological College (Mohnyin). So, there is no plan to open a government technology high school in Katha at the moment. But, there is a possibility of opening one there at a required and opportune time.

Responding to the question U Htan Lein of Mindat Constituency about **whether or not Indian Government's financial assistance has gone to Chin State**, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw said the matter of 4-million US dollar aid by the Indian government to be used in the education and health sectors is still under negotiation. As the money has not been received,

it was not drawn in the budget of 2012-2013 fiscal year. Regarding the discussion of the Indian Government's aid, like in other states and regions, it is necessary to have government-to-government contact plan.

Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung answered the two questions about industrial sector put by two representatives.

In response to the question asked by U Khin Maung Nyo of Loikaw Constituency about **whether the government has a plan to upgrade the industrial ward in Loikaw Township, Kayah State like the upgrading of other industrial zones**, the deputy minister said the emergence of an industrial zone requires input forces for good infrastructure such as land area, water, electricity, transport, communication and other energy resources as well as capital. It is necessary to sell products

(See page 8)

Amyotha Hluttaw session continues for 12th day Ten questions answered, one bill approved, one bill submitted, one proposal approved, one new proposal submitted

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—The third regular session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw continued for 12th day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here today, attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and 192 Hluttaw representatives.

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun replied queries asked by four representatives. Regarding the question of U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (6) about **if there is any plan for computerization of Myanmar Economic Banks**, the Union Minister replied that MEB (Head Office), six departments, 14 region/state offices, 74 district branches, 203 township branches, 19 treasuries and 10 saving bank branches, totaling 326 are providing banking services, and computers are applied in the MEB branches.

Local area network system is applied in Yangon MEB

Branch Nos. 1,2,3,4 and 5, Savings Bank Nos. 1,2,3 and 4 and Mandalay MEB Branch Nos. 1 and 2, Taunggyi Branch, Muse Branch and Lashio Branch in Shan State and Nay Pyi Taw Branch and Pyinmana Branch in Nay Pyi Taw totaling 16 branches. Over the counter system software is applied in 53 district branches and five township branches and online account system in Yangon MEB Branch Nos. 1,2 and 5, Saving Bank No. 3, Nay Pyi Taw MEB, Mandalay MEB Branch Nos. 1 and 2.

Application of over the counter system needs full supply of electricity during office hours and costs a lot to be installed at 58 district branches, thus will be done based on expenditure allocation and functions of the branches.

Regarding the question of U Hla Swe from Magway Region Constituency No (12) about **non-registered pawnshops and money lenders in wards and villages**

should be sued by what laws, the Union Minister replied that it is question about whether pawning and borrowing is permitted legally. There have been enacted laws to allow pawnshops enabling the needy to pawn their properties to borrow money. Those wishing to open pawnshops can run it in line with rules and regulations only after they got licenses or permission. The development affairs committee can take actions against illegal pawnbrokers according to Section 73 of Development Affairs Committees Law.

Articles 5 and 6 of the Money Lenders Act 1945 prescribed that those wishing to run money lending business have to seek permission and register and thus money lenders who do not have licence and permission can be brought to trial in line with Article 17 of the Money Lenders Act.

(See page 9)