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True patriotism

* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.

* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

President U Thein Sein receives Vietnamese Foreign Affairs Minister and party

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—A goodwill delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Pham Binh Minh paid a call on President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, at the Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace, here, at 11 am today.

Also present at the call together with President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Tun, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and departmental heads. The Vietnamese delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pham Binh Minh was accompanied by Vietnamese Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Chu Cong Phung.

They had a cordial discussion on promoting and strengthening mutual relationships and mutual cooperation in the sectors of agriculture, livestock, trade and investment, communication and transport.

MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein cordially greets Foreign Affairs Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Pham Binh Minh.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Pham Binh Minh and party at the Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace.

MNA

Technological Universities, Universities of Computer Studies and Arts and Science Universities in Magway Region

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PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 13 March, 2012

Better places to live in or visit

Tourism as we know is a smokeless industry, but it too has negative impacts on the environment, social lives of the people and the destinations themselves. In some cases large numbers of visitors cause damage, contamination or even threats of destruction to the ancient edifices, artifacts, paintings and murals which in reality are invaluable heritages of the host country.

As tourism is a promising and lucrative business, no country can discard this industry. Instead, countries around the world are vying with each other for a larger share in the global market minimizing the ill effects and maximizing the benefits for national interest through the best possible means of protecting the environment, the way of life and the destinations.

The bottom-line here is the sustainable development covering economic growth, environmental conservation and social and cultural values. Finally, the industry has found a new way of travelling which is about respecting and benefiting the destinations, artifacts, local people and the environment.

Responsible tourism as it is called today is the best way global countries have found at present for sight seeing, recreation, fulfillment, discovery, adventure or any other kind of tourism. It eases harmful economic, environmental and social impacts while generating superior economic benefits for local people and enhancing the well being of the people of host countries.

Actually, responsible tourism can help a visitor know more about local cultures and environments through the active involvement of local people. It encourages the traveler to buy local products, hire local guide, make contributions for local projects, stay away from buying products made from endangered species, hard woods or ancient artifacts, respect local sacred places and traditions and cultures, use public transport, and understand the views and concept of locals.

Hence, we hope that through the responsible tourism the world will offer better places for people to live in and better places to visit.

Systematic participation in tasks for socio-economic development invited

YANGON, 12 March—A coordination meeting on participation in implementing tasks for socio-economic development in Myanmar was held at the National Archive Department here on 5 March.

During the meeting, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw explained measures related to systematic participation in implementing development tasks in Myanmar by UN agencies and INGOs.

The coordination meeting was participated by Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Than Myint and departmental officials, resident representatives of UN agencies in Myanmar and officials concerned and diplomats.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives NLD Chairperson

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets Chairperson of National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the meeting hall of Pyithu Hluttaw of Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw. **MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met Chairperson of National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the meeting hall of Pyithu Hluttaw of Hluttaw Building at 9:30 am today.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to Hluttaw affairs and national and people interests.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi then observed the 12 th day regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw.—*MNA*

Union Foreign Affairs Minister receives Vietnamese Foreign Affairs Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—At the invitation of U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Mr Pham Binh Minh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam arrived Yangon in the evening of 10 March to pay an official visit to Myanmar. The Vietnamese Minister for Foreign Affairs arrived Nay Pyi Taw this morning and called on Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin at his office here at 9 am today.

Also present at the call were Director-General of Political Department U Hau Do Suan, Director-General of Protocol Department U Aye Thaw, Director-General of International Organizations & Economic Department U Win Naing, Director-General of ASEAN Affairs Department U Aung Lin and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—*MNA*

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin receives Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Pham Binh Minh and party.—MNA

Golden robe offered to Maubin Shwephonepwint Pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Ayeyawady Region Road Transportation Minister U Than Tun and Ayeyawady Social Affairs Minister U San Maung attended merit-sharing ceremony for offering golden robe to Shwephonepwint Pagoda in Maubin this morning.

The congregation led by the Union minister received Five Percepts from the Abbot of Dhammayon Shwegyin Monastery in Maubin and donated offertories to members of Sangha.

The abbot gave sermon to the congregation which then shared merit.

The Union Minister and party offered meal to members of Sangha.

The Union Minister attended the opening ceremony of one-storey building of Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Letpangyun village in Shwehlaythaung village-tract in Maubin Township on 10 March.—*MNA*

President Barack Obama talks with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan during a phone call.
INTERNET

Obama calls Karzai over civilian killings

WASHINGTON, 12 March —US President Barack Obama on Sunday called Afghan President Hamid Karzai to express his "shock and sadness" at the killing of Afghan civilians.

A US soldier Sunday morning walked out from his military base in Kandahar Province and opened fire, killing 16 civilians, including women and children.

"President Obama extended his condolences to the people of Afghanistan, and made clear his administration's commitment to establish the facts as quickly as possible and to hold fully accountable anyone responsible," the White House said in a statement.

Obama also "reaffirmed our deep respect for the Afghan people and the bonds between our two countries," *Xinhua* quoted the statement as saying.

Karzai condemned the killing as an "unforgivable action", demanding an "explanation" from Washington.

Internet

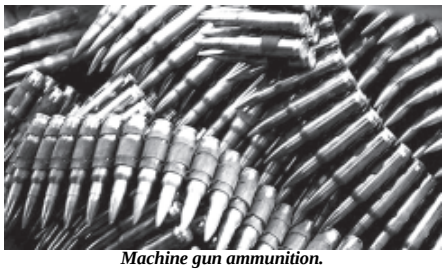
Afghanistan killings deal another blow to Obama's exit plan

WASHINGTON, 12 March—The killing of 16 civilians in Afghanistan, allegedly by a lone US serviceman, is one more blow to President Obama's hopes for an easy exit from a 10-year-old war and deepens doubts about US plans to assign advisors to Afghan forces.

The gruesome predawn attack showed how horrific and unforeseen events in Afghanistan, not timetables and plans at the White House and Pentagon, are setting the endgame for America's involvement in a deeply unpopular war. Washington had hoped for a carefully managed withdrawal starting this year, with 20,000 US troops due home by September. Obama administration officials also are seeking a long-term security agreement with Afghan President Hamid Karzai in an effort to keep the Taleban insurgency at bay after the remaining US and allied combat troops depart by the end of 2014. In public, administration officials insisted that the mass slaying would not derail their plans or force them to reassess the withdrawal.

"This tragic incident does not reflect the commitment of the US military to protect the Afghan people and help build a strong and stable Afghanistan," Defence Secretary Leon E Panetta said in a statement. He added that he told Karzai in a telephone call Sunday that he remains "fully committed to ensuring that our cooperation continues."—*Internet*

Man sits beside the body of child.—INTERNET



Machine gun ammunition.

Gunmen kill nine in Baghdad goldsmith shop heist

BAGHDAD, 12 March—Gunmen with rifles and handgrenades blasted their way into a row of Baghdad goldsmiths shops on Monday, killing nine people and wounding 15, and escaping with gold and cash, police said.

Police said the gunmen stormed the al-Aswad gold market in Baghdad's northeastern Ur district. They killed two gold shop owners, two policemen, two soldiers and three passers-by. Hospital sources confirmed the death toll. "Gunmen in two to three vehicles broke into the gold shops and started firing. Some gunmen were shooting at people standing outside to enable other gunmen to steal gold," a policeman at the scene said by telephone.

At least 15 people, including four policemen, were wounded in the attack. Iraq is no longer plagued by the mass sectarian killing that took place in 2006-07, but bombings and shootings by insurgents still take place every day, and criminals frequently use military assault weapons to carry out robberies.—*MNA/Reuters*

File photo of Britain's Foreign Secretary William Hague.
INTERNET

Britain's Hague to be sued over Pakistan drone attacks

LONDON, 12 March—A British law firm said it was to sue Foreign Secretary William Hague on behalf of a Pakistani man over claims that British intelligence was used to assist US drone attacks.

London-based Leigh Day and Co confirmed they would issue formal proceedings at Britain's High Court on behalf of Noor Khan, whose father was killed by a US strike in Pakistan.

Lawyers will claim that civilian intelligence officers who pass on intelligence to the US are not "lawful combatants", therefore cannot claim immunity from criminal law and could be liable as "secondary parties to murder".

They will also argue that the immunity clause does not apply as Pakistan is not currently involved in an "international armed conflict".

"There is credible, unchallenged evidence that (Hague) is operating a policy of passing intelligence to officials or agents of the US government and that he considers such a policy to be in 'strict accordance' with the law," Richard Stein, head of human rights at Leigh Day, said in a statement.

"If this is the case, the Secretary of State has misunderstood one or more of the principles of international law governing immunity for those involved in armed attacks on behalf of a state."

Britain's Foreign Office said it would not comment on legal or intelligence matters.

Khan says his father, Malik Daud, was killed by a drone missile while at a council of elders meeting in northwest Pakistan.

Drone attacks have become a key feature of US President Barack Obama's fight against terrorism in Pakistan, but many inhabitants are deeply unhappy about the civilian death toll incurred in the raids.

Internet

Israel lauds its anti-rocket system

An Israeli missile is launched from the Iron Dome missile system in the city of Ashdod in response to a rocket launch from the nearby Palestinian Gaza Strip.
INTERNET

TEL AVIV, 12 March—Top Israeli officials Sunday praised its homemade anti-rocket system Iron Dome after it intercepted volleys of rockets fired by Gaza militants. In a sudden flare-up of violence that shattered months of relative calm, Palestinian militants have fired more than 120 rockets into southern Israel since on Friday, the Israeli defence ministry said in a statement.

The Iron Dome system intercepted 28 of the 31 Grad rockets fired at major Israeli cities over the weekend, and another seven of 15 rockets fired on Sunday, *Xinhua* reported.

"The system has proven itself very well," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said during his cabinet's weekly meeting on Sunday. He said the government "will do everything within its power" to procure more batteries in the coming years to improve the protection of the country.

Defence Minister Ehud Barak said on Saturday that Iron Dome provided the country's political and military leadership "greater freedom" to deal with threats, referring to the decision to order the assassination of a top militant in the Gaza Strip on Friday, whom the military said had planned to launch an imminent attack on the Israel-Egypt border.

Internet

Taleban vow revenge for US soldier's rampage

File photo of Taleban fighters on patrol in Ghazni Province.
INTERNET

KABUL, 12 March—Afghanistan's Taleban militants on Monday vowed revenge against "sick minded American savages" for the weekend rampage by a US soldier who killed 17 villagers in their homes.

The Taleban would "take revenge from the invaders and the savage murderers for every single martyr", the Islamists said in a statement on their website.—*Internet*

Five of a family killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 12 March — Unidentified gunmen shot dead five members of a family in an Iraqi Town, an interior ministry source said on Sunday.

Gunmen broke into the house of a bodyguard of the mayor of Tarmiyah town, some 30 km north of Baghdad and shot him dead along with his wife, sister and two daughters. The incident occurred after midnight, *Xinhua* quoted the source as saying requesting anonymity.

The gunmen then planted bombs in the house and blew it up before fleeing, the source added.

Internet

Trial against Big Tobacco starts in Montreal on Monday

***A groundbreaking trial gets underway in Montreal Monday against three leading tobacco companies which face a $25 billion lawsuit for allegedly failing to adequately warn smokers of the dangers of cigarettes.—*INTERNET**

WASHINGTON, 12 March—A groundbreaking trial gets underway in Montreal Monday against three leading tobacco companies which face a $25 billion lawsuit for allegedly failing to adequately warn smokers of the dangers of cigarettes.

Plaintiffs have filed two separate class actions in what is Canada's biggest-ever civilian lawsuit, against Imperial Tobacco, JTI-Macdonald and Rothmans Benson & Hedges in the Superior Court of Quebec.

The first class includes 90,000 current and former smokers in Quebec who say they have fallen ill with a range of smoking-related ailments including emphysema and cancer of the throat and larynx, and are seeking $105,000 Canadian per person. The second suit was filed by 1.8 million current smokers who say they are unable to quit the tobacco habit, and are seeking $10,000 per person.

According to court documents, the plaintiffs accuse the Canadian tobacco companies of hiding research which has established a link between smoking and serious health problems like cancer.

The suit also alleges that tobacco firms in Canada have tried to manipulate the levels of nicotine in their cigarettes, increasing the levels of dangerous tar and have also added certain products such as ammonia. Mario Bujold, director general of the Quebec Council on Tobacco and Health said told *AFP* that one of the witnesses will be Robert Proctor, author of "Golden Holocaust," a book about alleged nefarious practices by the US tobacco industry.

Quebec is only one of several Canadian provinces seeking monetary damages from the tobacco manufacturers.—*Internet*

Produce may enhance skin more than creams

FIFE, (Scotland), 12 March—Adding a few servings of fruits and vegetables a day might do more than expensive creams to improve skin appearance, researchers in Scotland suggested. Ross D Whitehead of the University of St Andrews in Scotland and colleagues investigated longitudinally the effects of fruit and vegetable consumption on skin-colour, to determine the magnitude and duration of diet change required to change skin-colour perceptibly.

Diet and skin-colour were recorded at baseline and after three and six weeks, in a group of 35 Caucasian and East Asian college students who were without makeup, self-tanning agents and/or recent intensive ultraviolet exposure.

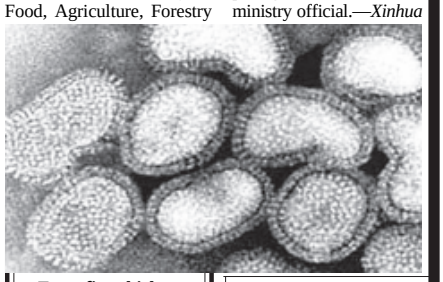
The study published in the journal PLoS One found six-week changes in fruit and vegetable consumption were significantly correlated with changes in skin redness and yellowness — three servings a day enhanced health and attractiveness of the skin. Beta carotene which give carrots their orange color helped cause a yellowish-orange tint to the skin in those who ate carrots, while reddish tones were detected in the skin of those who ate tomatoes and red peppers, the study said.—*Internet*

S Korea reports Avian Influenza case

SEOUL, 12 March—Forty-five chickens died in a poultry farm in South Chungcheong Province and an initial test with symptoms showed positive results, said the South Korean government on Monday.

"A more thorough test is underway, with the results expected to be released later," an official of the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said.

The avian influenza (AI) case was reported in South Korea in nearly 10 months. Although the further test will determine whether the virus is the H5 or H7 types, with highly-pathogenic strains, the ministry ordered epidemic prevention and restricted passage in the area, said the ministry official.—*Xinhua*



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Stocks may avert pullback - again

NEW YORK, 12 March—For a moment, US stocks looked like they were headed for a long-awaited pullback last week.

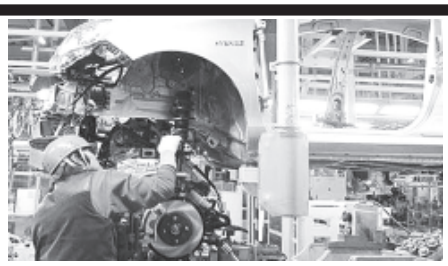
But that didn't happen.

After the latest signs of a healthier economy, stocks may have more room to rally in the week ahead.

The benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 Index <.SPX> registered another week of gains on Friday, its fifth in six weeks, once again defying calls for a reversal in its five-month rally. Friday also marked the three-year anniversary of the S&P 500's plunge to a 12-year low, a move that was followed by a sharp rally. The S&P 500 still is up 102 percent from that low.

"Everyone's looking for a correction here, which just tells me we're probably going to have another little run up before we get that correction," said Scott Billeaudeau, a portfolio manager at Fifth Third Asset Management in Minneapolis. Much of the optimism has come from signs of further improvement in the US economy. Friday's stronger-than-expected jobs report — the most widely watched US economic indicator — gave the stock market more wind in its sails. The S&P 500 ended the week up 0.1 percent, even though on Tuesday, it marked its weakest day so far in 2012 on concerns about a default by Greece on its country's debt.—*Internet*

***Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, on 6 March, 2012. —*INTERNET**



***An assembly line worker works on the body of a Toyota Aqua, the world's cheapest and most fuel-efficient conventional hybrid car, at a factory of the automaker's subsidiary, Kanto Auto Works, in Kanegasaki, Iwate prefecture, north of Japan, on 9 March, 2012.—*INTERNET**

Japan machinery orders rise, capex recovery seen

TOKYO, 12 March—Japan's core machinery orders rose at a faster pace than expected in January in a sign that rebuilding the country's tsunami-battered northeast coast could propel capital expenditure and support the fragile economy. Core machinery orders, which help gauge the strength of capital spending, rose 3.4 percent in January from the previous month, beating a median market forecast for a 1.6 percent increase.

The data bolsters the argument that domestic demand can drive the world's third-biggest economy this year as the country rebuilds from last year's disaster and could stay the hand of the Bank of Japan when it starts a two-day policy meeting later on Monday. Other recent data, including larger-than-expected gains in industrial output and an upward revision to fourth quarter gross domestic product, also raised hopes that Japan's economy will gather momentum this year.

"The data shows corporate capital spending is rising moderately thanks partly to reconstruction-related demand, although the momentum is not that strong," said Junko Nishioka, chief economist at RBS Securities in Tokyo.

"As reconstruction shifts to a higher gear, corporate capital spending is expected to pick up in April-June this year. As the yen has eased and corporate profits are expected to recover, the economy is likely to maintain a moderate recovery."—*Internet*

Yuan mid-point sees 2nd biggest single-day fall on record

SHANGHAI, 12 March—The People's Bank of China on Monday fixed the yuan's mid-point against the dollar sharply lower, its second biggest single-day fall on record, in the latest sign China intends to let its currency move in a wider range.

The central bank set the yuan's mid-point at 6.3282 to the dollar, 209 pips or 0.33 percent weaker than last Friday's fixing, which also pushed the Chinese currency down against the dollar in early spot trade.

The only other day it posted a bigger fall since China established its foreign exchange market in 1994 was on 12 August, 2010. The yuan dropped 247 pips, or 0.36 percent, on that day.

In spot trade, the yuan fell to 6.3271 against the dollar in early trade from Friday's close of 6.3107.

PBOC governor Zhou Xiaochuan said last week that conditions were now ripe for the yuan's exchange rate to float more widely.

Reuters

***Chinese one yuan coins are placed on 100 yuan banknotes in this illustrative photograph taken in Beijing 30 December, 2010.—*INTERNET**

Business

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker holds discussion with Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—A discussion between Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, took place at the meeting hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Chairman Office in Hluttaw Building here at 2 pm today.

Also present at the call together with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker were Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Legal Affairs and Special Affairs Assessment Commission U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Vice-Chairmen U Thein Swe, U Htay Myint and members.

First, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker delivered an opening speech. The Commission Chairman explained the commission's undertakings and implementations on the meeting resolutions.

Commission members Dr Tin May Tun, Dr Thida Oo and U Myint Lwin reported on arrangements made for amendment, abolishing and enactment of laws.

After that, the commission members U Win Thein submitted survey on 23 transport laws, U Win Than, on Union Hluttaw Planning Scrutinizing Law, U Myint Swe, on Airline and transport matters, U Thein Oo, on construction of data base with the use of ICT regarding E Commission, U Khin Maung Oo, on antiques, U Than Tun, on foreign relations law and U Than Maung, on proposal on enactment of new copy right law.

Afterwards, those present submitted the sector-wise matters. The meeting came to an end after the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker made a concluding remark.—*MNA*

Technological Universities, Universities of Computer Studies and Arts and Science Universities in Magway Region

Photo shows the Technological University (Magway) (above) and Magway University (left) for enabling youth in Magway of Magway Region to pursue advanced technologies and education.

Photo shows University of Computer Studies (Pakokku) (above) and Technological University (Pakokku) (below) for enabling local youth to pursue advanced computer science and technologies.

*** With a view to ensuring development of human resources in Magway Region, the government has set up universities in order that youth can pursue education in their region.**

*** There are one university and one technological university each in Magway and Pakokku in Magway Region. So, the Region has six universities.**

Translation: MT

Archive: *Maung Nyein Aye*

National Democratic Force presents its policy, stance and work programmes

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March —*National Democratic Force leader U Khin Maung Swe presented the party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV today. The translation of his presentation is as follows.*

Esteemed people

First, I wish all the people good health and happiness.

I, U Khin Maung Swe, leader of National Democratic Force, will do my presentation. The first thing I would like to explain is that the symbol portraying a bamboo hat with double stars overhead is the official logo of our National Democratic Force, which is also called 'Khamauk (Bamboo hat) Party'. As this logo has been legally permitted by the Election Commission, I would like to make it clear that it is the real logo of our party.

Our party upholds five principles —ensuring internal peace, national unity, equal right for the entire national people, equitable development of all parts of the nation and genuine Union. They are basic principles for building a new democratic Union and concerned with each and every citizen. Here, we pledge that upholding these principles, our party will try to have a careful watch both inside and outside the Hluttaw with political awareness in order to serve the public interest.

Therefore, we will try to ensure a democracy-based constitution by promulgating political, economic and social laws in the legislative Hluttaw, which will serve the best interests of the people. We believe that we will be able to promote the living conditions of the national people within the framework of legislative law.

Esteemed people,

Without peace, our economy will not develop. Without economic development, a Union with equal development will be a long way away. In the Union with inequitable progress, we cannot seek national unity. A nation without national unity will still have political problems. Our view is that achieving peace by solving the political problems now is the national cause.

This is why in Myanmar we have to take steps for promoting democracy, peace and economy simultaneously. And then, every family will be able to earn enough income to improve their living standards. Our party believes that the economy of both the entire people and the nation will improve through development of agricultural economy and small and medium enterprises. With this belief, we promise to continue our efforts in the legislative Hluttaw.

Our party submitted the proposals on the continued granting of amnesty, clearing of land mines, increasing of monthly pensions and national water resource legislation (as supply of pure drinking water is a basic human right). Moreover, we made proposals on the increasing of agricultural loans, ensuring the right for every farmer to own government grant-land, protection of women's rights, ensuring women have equal rights with men, ensuring service personnel mothers get three-month maternity leave after delivering their babies, ensuring cost-sharing health expenses and the emergence of people's hospitals in which the State will bear all medical expenses of the grassroots.

Our party maintains political uprightness — we do what have been said and we say what have been done in the interest of the people. Nothing is more important than loyalty to the people. We proved that in the 2010 elections by coming forward before the people who could not have decided who and which party they had to vote for. Despite having only a few seats in the Hluttaw, we have shown our political blood saying daringly what we wanted to do. This is why a scientist once said that one can move the world if he has only one standing. Here, we pledge that our party, even if we had only one seat in the Hluttaw, would try to shake the parliamentary politics if it was in the interest of the people.

Esteemed people,

Although our party had to struggle politically, we worked together with other democracy forces for civilian administration and parliamentary politics in the interest of the people. It is clear that we have shouldered the democratic duty with political outlook for the wellbeing of the people. The Myanmar people still have to be in dire poverty. To eliminate their wounds of poverty, we have to create jobs. According to our policy, our party submitted the proposal to the Hluttaw demanding that the State and private banks disburse capital loans for all business people, including vendors, merchants and entrepreneurs. The micro-credit loan plan for rural development being carried out by the government is found to have been in conformity with our party policy. If we continue the micro-credit loan plan and employment measures for the people suffering from poverty, we believe that we will be able to reduce the poverty rate effectively.

The slogans of our party for the upcoming by-elections are: It is Khamout that changes the system and It is Khamount that changes the era.

This is the history of our party. When political party registration law was passed in 2010, we formed National Democratic Force with political sense and political outlook. No one can deny that the people who had lost democracy for many years found out the trace of democracy at that time. Therefore, our party's slogan was 'Let's vote for Khamount for the victory of the people' in order for the people to meet their basic needs. Our party values new generations. As the future of the nation is in the hands of young people, the political future of our party will be built with the strength of youths. So, we have committed to achieve the victory of the people with the strength of the youths.

Esteemed people,

We have to achieve the goal of perfect market economy. For the proper evolution of market economy, there must be guarantees for full private ownership rights. Every citizen must have equal right to do business. Only then, can perfect market economy be achieved. Therefore, to the Hluttaw, we made a proposal on the promulgation of economic monopolization prevention law so that only a handful of people cannot monopolize the economy. Besides, our party will encourage the abolishing of laws that are not in conformity with democratic practices. Actually, we took measures for economic legislation that will suit AFTA to emerge in 2015.

Democracy is the tool of freedom and that freedom will be enjoyed depending on the amount of public participation. If there is only the rule of law without justice, one's own freedom will be threatened. Grave poverty will also restrict one individual's freedom. What's more, if a group of people accumulated all richness, freedom of the majority will be threatened as well.

Therefore, we have to guarantee one's own freedom by discarding social wounds such as poverty, lack of education, unhealthiness and unemployment. With individuals fully enjoying their freedom, we will be able to reach a democratic society. We are keeping social liberalism and market-oriented economy in the fore.

We have four fulfillments for the people. They are as follows:

- to eliminate social wounds
- to develop social rights
- to make sure the people meet their basic needs
- to reach the Union with equal right and achieve national unity

We will continue our political journey side by side with the people.

Esteemed people,

With the above five principles and four fulfillments in hand, we will send our candidates before the people so they can shoulder the duty the people will give in the by-elections.

Our party is doing steadfastly in the present Hluttaw session. This is why we promise that our party's candidates who looks at only the public face are not the ones who will stay in the far corner of the Hluttaw if the public face has turned pale.

Wishing all the people happiness!

Talks on rehabilitation for cardiac patients on 17 March

YANGON, 12 March—The Physical Rehabilitation Society of Myanmar Medical Association (Central) will organize the orientation talks on rehabilitation for cardiac patients at its auditorium (A) of MMA at 8.30 am on 17 March.

Physiotherapists and any interested person may attend the talk.

Those wishing to attend the talk may enlist at MMA (Central) on Theinbyu Street in Mingala Taungnyunt, here, beginning 8 am on 17 March.

MMA

***STAKE DRIVEN: A ceremony to drive stake for construction of Zeyamon Library was held in the compound of Ward 11 of South Okkalapa Township on 2 March morning. Departmental officials, social organization members, wellwishers and ward administrator U Myint Hsan drives stakes for the building.*—MYANMA ALIN**

Talks on cooperative policies given in Muse

MUSE, 12 March—Staff Officer U Kyaw Khaing of Muse District Cooperative Department and Staff Officer Daw Khin Hla Myint of Township Cooperative Department of Muse District in Shan State (North) and party gave talks on policies of the Ministry of Cooperatives and procedures at the hall of Muse Township War Veterans Organization on 29 February.

Chairman of the Township War Veterans Organization Captain Ko Zaw (Rtd) and members and family members attended the talks.

District IPRD

People's Democracy Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March — *Chairman of the People's Democracy Party Dr Than Htaik Oo presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV this evening.*

The translation of his presentation is as follows:-

Esteemed Peoples,

First of all, I wish all the people watching the TV right now and the 60-million population of Myanmar may free from fear and enjoy happiness and good health.

I am Dr Than Htaik Oo, Chairman of People's Democracy Party based in Mandalay Region. I would like to present our party's policies, stance, political concepts, work programmes, future work and objectives to protect the interests of the people.

To present our party's policy, stance and political convictions, I'd like to clarify our party's flag, logo and emblem first.

There is a blue colour square on the left upper corner on the red background is designed on our party's flag and there is a big white star circled by five white stars in equal size in the blue square. The hammer and sickle tools and a pinion circled by 14 white stars in equal size are designed on the lower right corner of the flag. The red colour represents brave and decisiveness, the blue colour peace and the white cleanliness. The big white star represents the Union and the five white stars in same size around it represent workers, farmers, intellectuals and intelligentsias and businessmen, reflecting the Union is surrounded by the people from the five strata.

The design of the hammer and sickle tool circled by 14 white stars in same size represent shows that the development of the country would be carried out based on the farmers, labourers and workers in industries.

This design of hammer and sickle does not mean that we uphold the leftism. It is found that the population of workers and labourers in the agricultural sector of the developing countries in the South East Asia is huge. In Myanmar, the population of farmers living in rural areas makes up the 70% of the total population of the country. Besides, the country has seen gradually development of small- and large-scale industries and foreign investment would flow into the country in the near future due to the political reforms. There would be a rise of workers population when mass production driven by foreign investment happened in the country. Therefore, nations in the south-east Asia region including Myanmar should work for the development based on farmers and workers and it is necessary to promulgate policies and laws that shall give protection to those strata. This is the reason why we use the symbol of the hammer and sickle and pinion.

Esteemed Peoples,

Let me clarify our party's policies, stance, political convictions, long-term visions and current visions. The policy of our party is aimed at building a socio-economic environment blessed with freedom, social security and basic rights or a social market economy in which social affairs and the economy is agreeable each other. It is found that the world's rich countries such as Norway, Sweden and Scandinavia which also meet the high living standard have a political system that combines the principles of the freedom of democracy and socio economy. In Myanmar, there is a wide gap between rich and poorness today due to lack of fair competitiveness in the past. If liberalization and free market system are allowed in the country by reason of democracy, the rich will become richer and the poor will be just in comfortable. If there is no laws which can guarantee protection to the masses even in the transition period, there would be social disparities and exploitations. Besides, it is the time to prepare for promulgating laws that can guarantee protection to interests of the farmers, workers, small- and medium – scale industries and entrepreneurs as foreign investments are going to flow into the country due to the opening up of the country. As part of efforts for prevention of social disparities, laws should be drawn to give guarantee basic rights such as education, health, social security and workers rights and can guarantee in minimum. The agreeable socio economic environment should be for all citizens including the peoples of different national races and religions. It is our party's policy, stance and political convictions to emerge only one Tatmadaw comprising all national races and equal sovereignty of the Union.

Esteemed Peoples,

My presentation on our party's policy, stance and political convictions are a long-term visions, and an environment where socio and ecomomic affairs are agreeable each other should be built with the participation of the government, Hluttaws and the people. That's why, my presentation above are our party's long-term visions.

Esteemed people,

May I present our party's current aims and objectives, process and undertakings. While taking a look at the current situation, our country's democratization is only at the stage of political transition. People feel the direct impact of political, economic and social instability, which is usually faced in the time of transition. The countries in transition always have to face such difficulties as policy implementations have yet to reach low-level administration, there is no adaptation of the old system to the new one and self-interested low-level administration and business tycoons are making capitalizations on ordinary people who are unfamiliar with the new system by using the abuse of laws. The ordinary people have to suffer the direct consequences of it. Taking a look at our country's transition, although country's highest institutions which are the government and the Hluttaws are putting strenuous efforts into the democratization process, it can be seen that it have yet to reach low-level administration. It is also found that there is weakness in obedience to the new system, their sheer negligence of it and adherence to the old system. For instance, here, I would like to present the problems of people in Mandalay in which our party headquarters. Our party was set up only after the 2010 Election. Since then, we have been engaged only in politics outside the Hluttaw. The affairs with which our party is dealing more frequently are that unlawful confiscation of ordinary people's lands, removal of those people and physical oppression in some places by self-interested business tycoons in cooperation with low-level administration. With a view to ensuring the consolidation of check and balance system which is the essence of democracy, we are submitting complaints from the people who come into contact with our party about their general grievances to the President, the respective Hluttaws and the respective Union level organizations along with full legal evidences, even though our party is outside the Hluttaw. Thanks to it, low-level administration that oppressed the people could be charged. Other difficulties are illegal taxes and unfair fines, which are not in accord with the Constitution. For instance, people have to pay the fines to three departments for one traffic rule penalty while a roadside vendor has to pay unlawful taxes to three or four departments. Mandalay Region Government has already abolished All Buses Lines Supervisory Committee (Mandalay) collecting illegal taxes which are not in accord with the Constitution after our party has submitted the letter calling for abolishing of that Committee to the President and the respective Hluttaws. Our party continues to keep a watchful eye on such illegal taxes.

To name one of the recent cases of oppression over the basic stratum, ex-governmental officials and ego-centric capitalists, taking advantage of ambiguity and some loopholes of law, went hand in glove with some self-interested departments and staff and confiscated over 80 acres of farmland illegally without prior notice from farmers who are working on those farm honestly. People who suffered from illegal farm confiscation asked help from our party with much trust in us. So, we are collecting required legal evidences and preparing to submit the case to the President and Hluttaws at different levels and committees, and related Union ministries in search of justice.

Esteemed people,

In addition to some recent cases I have presented, there are many more similar cases. We know how Mandalaly people feel as our party is headquartered in Mandalay. As well, our party members and candidates from regions in which we open party office know well the hardships of the people concerned. So, I would like to inform the people that every representative of party knows exactly how people in those places feel and seeking remedial solutions.

Esteemed people,

Currently, we are realizing our long-term and short-term objectives, work programmes and political beliefs, public interests prevention works as a political party outside the parliament. No matter, we win a seat in the parliament or not, we would accomplish the responsibility of a political party to get check and balance into shape and to protect public interests, the essence of democracy. However, during the transition period, it is more effective take actions inside the parliament rather than outside so as to solve the difficulties of the people especially the basic stratum. To eliminate the problems people are facing, it needs to discuss grievances of the people at the parliament and submit the bills for enactment of certain preventive laws to ensure rule of law. To do so, we need to win seats in the parliament. We just cannot walk straight into there and no authority can take us into there. We cannot get into parliament unless people, the original owner of the national authority, allow. If only the people cast vote in favour of our party, can representatives from our party can demand and submit bills in the interests of the people.

Therefore, I would like to request the people—

Please let us protect your general interests and send our party members into the parliament.

We know what you feel and what you want to be. We have also sought the ways to realize your dreams.

We won't go into the parliament just for sitting and to say "Yes" but to amplify the voices of the people. I pledge we would surely take the bills to protect the interests of the people when we go into the parliament.

Let us air the grievances of people especially of farmers and blue workers at the parliament, protect public interests and build a society of harmonious socio-economy. Trust us and let us serve for you. Please, vote in favour of People Democracy Party whose emblem is hammer, sickle and pinion.

President U Thein Sein's Wife visit Border Area National Races Youth Development Training School in Kengtung

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—Wife of President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Daw Khin Khin Win, accompanied by wife of Shan State Chief Minister Daw Phyu Phyu Nyunt and members of Kengtung District Women Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, arrived at Training School for Development of National Races Youth in Border Area, yesterday morning. There, the School principal reported about the training school.

After that, a donation of K 0.5 million by the President and wife and family was presented for education funds for the school, Kanbawza Bank Ltd and Shwe Thanlwin, also presented K 5 million each, Shwe Thanlwin Co, a set of Sky Net (DTH) receiver, a set of TV and one generator.

Afterwards, the President's wife proceeded to the Child Care Department of Social Welfare Department in Yankhan of Kengtung. There, the President and wife and family's donation of K 0.5 million was presented Kanbawza Bank Ltd and Shwe Thanlwin, donated K 5 million, Shwe Thanlwin Co a set of Sky Net (DTH) receiver, a set of TV and one generator.

Then, the President's wife and party donated the supplementary food and looked round the compound. They then proceeded to Zaytawun Monastic Education School in Yanlaw village of Kengtung Township and paid homage to the Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sanda Wara. The President's wife and family donated K 0.5 million for education funds of school. Kanbawza Bank Ltd and Shwe Thanlwin also donated K 10 million for school fund, Shwe Thanlwin Co a set of Sky Net (DTH) receiver, a set of TV and one generator.

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Wife of President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Daw Khin Khin Win giving sweet complement to the students at Border Area National Races Youth Development Training School at Kengtung.

MNA

Wife of President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Daw Khin Khin Win treating the children nutrient food at Child Care Department of Social Welfare Department in Yankhan of Kengtung.

MNA

UEC Chairman meets US Special Envoy and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye received United States Special Envoy and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar Mr Derek Mithchell and party at his office at 11 am today.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on developments in Myanmar and preparations for holding the by-elections in a free and fair manner, and mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Also present on the occasion were UEC members and others.

MNA

Rail Transportation Ministry crown victory in Fifth Nay Pyi Taw inter-ministry Men Basketball Contest-2012

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—The fifth Nay Pyi Taw inter-ministry Men Basketball Contest-2012 reached its final match at Basketball ground in the sports zone in Zabuthiri Township here this morning.

Chairman of Myanmar Men Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan enjoyed the final match between the Ministry of Rail Transportation and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, which the Rail Transportation Ministry won the competitor with 66-43 marks.

The awarding ceremony took place soon after the final match ended. Union Minister U Tint Hsan presented first, second and third prices to the winner teams, and presented duplicate shields and the Champion shield to the Ministry of Rail Transportation, the continuous champion for three years.

The Union Minister attended the opening of the training course No. 1 for the Liaison Officers who will be assigned in the 27th ASEAN SEA Games, at the hall of the holding 27th ASEAN SEA Games and achieving victory Committee in Shwekyarbin Ward, Nay Pyi Taw.

The two-week course is being taken by a total of 201 trainees of the States and Regions.—*MNA*

Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye receives United States Special Envoy and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar Mr Derek Mithchell and party.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives NLD Chairperson

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March— Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint met Chairperson of National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the meeting hall of Amyotha Hluttaw of Hluttaw Building at 8:45 am this morning.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to Hluttaw Affairs.—*MNA*

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint meets Chairperson of National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the meeting hall of Amyotha Hluttaw of Hluttaw Building.—MNA

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(from page 16)

Myanmar private hospitals association was held on 2-3-2012 and the ministry has assigned works to be continuously implemented by the association. In addition to above-mentioned efforts, others will also be included in the draft of Private Health Industry Bylaw and Rules and Regulations which will meet international standards.

U Thein Tun Oo of Amarapura Constituency asked **whether there is plan to organize workshop with respective scholars for effectively learning English.** Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye answered: Basic Education Primary and Middle School Level English and Mathematics Skills Contests held annually since 2008-2009 academic year. One week day is designated as English speaking day in schools on which students are required to speak in English.

Training teachers at education colleges and basic education schools with native speakers in cooperation with international organizations and non-governmental organizations and they will be handed scholarships for English offered by foreign education centres.

English test is included in entrance exam for post-graduate, master and doctorate courses. English departments of Yangon University, Yangon University of Economics, Yangon Institute of Education and Yangon University of Foreign Languages are compiling international-standard English curricula for each year.

Upskilling Programme for Freshly Appointed Tutors of English, English Language Course for Higher Education Teachers, English proficiency course of students of Ph.D courses, summer English refresher course for English teachers, Global English courses and SEAMEO English course are being opened.

A total of 548 trainees completed 13 English courses at Myanmar-India English Language Training Centre from December, 2009, to December, 2011. Staff under the ministry are also sent to English proficiency courses conducted by Myanmar-Singapore Training School.

A workshop on education promotion was held from 24 to 27 May 2011. Eleven academicians for higher education sector and eight for basic education sector discussed English proficiency in groups. For promoting English language skills of students, ongoing tasks and other measures to be taken for English language development according to the results from the workshop will continue. So, regarding that matter, there is no plan at the moment to hold a separate workshop.

In response to the question of U Tun Thein (a) U Tun Tun of Mansi Constituency about **whether the government has any plan to carry out reconstruction work for the resettlement of local people who fled their region due to clashes in Kachin State,** Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe said the number of people who have moved temporarily to 65 rescue camps in 12 townships for security reasons is 19103. They are now being rendered assistance by government departments, the Kachin State government, public wellwishers, UN agencies and INGOs. Up to 6 March 2012, cash and aids worth K 2652.689 million were provided. Measures were taken for the education and healthcare of the children of those families.

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Thein Tun Oo of Amarapura Constituency asking questions.

MNA

When peace prevails, those who want to resettle in their native places will be allowed to do so with reestablishment of their businesses. And new projects will be undertaken for those who want to settle in new places. In the second week of February, a group led by the deputy minister for border affairs and deputy minister for social welfare, relief and resettlement made a field trip and carried out resettlement and rehabilitation tasks for those people who fled their regions due to regional security. In so doing, the Union government and the state government as well as UN agencies, NGOs, INGOs and public wellwishers are cooperating with each other.

Next, Deputy Minister for Energy U Soe Aung answered the two questions about the energy sector raised by two MPs.

Regarding the question by Dr Than Win of North Okkalapa Constituency about **whether the State can reconsider any amendment concernging the increased electricity bills and fuel prices as that can have impact on low-income people,** the deputy minister said that diesel is mainly used in public transport sector. As diesel price does not change, commodity flow will not be affected and the economy of the people will not be affected either. Increased petrol prices are cheaper compared with the neighbouring nations. As a result, public burden can be reduced, the Ministry of Energy's spending of money from the fund of the Union Government can also be reduced. Thus, the government can spend more on other sectors such as public health, education and social sectors.

The Union government has directed the ministries to operate themselves in a businesslike manner. So, the ministries need to stand on their own income and it is a must in the market economy system. Electric bills did not increase tremendously and such measures had to be taken so as not to cause public burden and to reduce the spending of the government's fund.

Regarding the question of U Thaung Han of Yinmabin Constituency on **"there is any plan to implement Urea Fertilizer Plant project on the river bank of Salingyi, Yinmabin and Kani Townships on the west bank of Chindwin River in Monywa District with the use of gas from gas reserve in Mahutaung Region, Pale township" Monywa District,** the Deputy Minister replied:

Thingadon region of Pale Township, Monywa District sees decrease in amount of oil and natural gas less than estimated. So, Padaukkone well No.3 and Yargyi well No.1 were stopped, which would be done in Mahutaung region. At the same time, gas and oil exploration and drilling in Thingadon region were temporarily stopped. Detailed survey on findings is being conducted. Development programme for gas exploration can be drafted only after gas reserve in Thingadon Region is known. Then, gas exploration can be carried out on a commercial scale in Mahutaung Region. It would take six or seven years for gas production.

Construction of a new fertilizer plant needs enough gas as raw materials and fuel, gas with quality chemicals, enough investment, time and technology for running of the plant. The project can be implemented only after detailed survey regarding the aforesaid factors is conducted.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin replied the questions raised by two representatives. With respect to the question of Daw Nan Say Owar of Hpa-an Constituency on **"there is any plan to reduce closing time of Thanlwin Bridge in Kayin State or to make arrangement for 24 hours use,"** the deputy minister said that: Kayin State is sharing border with the other country where Thanlwin Bridge crosses. There was no peace and stability when Thanlwin Bridge was opened. So, security forces designate crossing time for security measure of the Bridge. Officials concerned gradually reduce the closing time based on Kayin State's peace and stability.

People can use the Bridge from 4 am to 10 pm, starting 8-2-2012. Security forces allow the use of Bridge on emergency basis. There is a plan to reduce the closing times of the bridge in coordination with Kayin State government if the region sees more peace and stability.

With respect to question of U Aung Kyaw Khin of Kyauktan Constituency on **"Why are respective departments carrying out survey and taking photos and videos of farmlands and huts in villages in 11 village-tracts on the other bank of Hmawwon Creek and in Kamakaloke Station in Kyauktan Township"** the deputy minister replied: with the aims of ensuring the State's economic development, technology transfer and creating more job opportunities in the region, confiscation of farm lands was carried out for construction of industrial zone in Thanlyin-Kyauktan region development area.

Human Settlement and Housing Development Department is collecting data and taking photo and video records in cooperation with General Administration Departments in Thanlyin Township and Kyauktan Township and Settlement and Land Records Department so as to know the implementation of special economic zones in industrial zones area and its related areas. Doing so is meant to know actual conditions there if the State has plan to implement special economic zones in that region.

At the report-submitting session, Chairman of Bill Committee U T Khun Myat submitted the committee's report regarding the foreign investment bill sent by Amyotha Hluttaw.

The Hluttaw has proposed to discuss the Bill on 16 March. Those representatives who want to submit the amended proposal are to register their names not later than 14 March, along with detailed description of paragraph, subparagraph and particulars. The meeting came to an end at 1.35 pm and will go on at 10 am tomorrow.

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The union minister replied that the road had a distance of two miles and four furlongs in Monyo Township and four furlongs in Shwedaung Township totalling three miles. It was estimated that it would cost K 68 million to construct the earthen road and K 7 million to construct seven conduit pipes along the road as it was passing the wetland and farmland, he added.

In the 2012-2013 fiscal year, Monyo Township Development Affairs Committee would pave a distance of three furlong with asphalt in the township at the cost of K 21 million funded by the State and work on construction the new road linking between Nyaungpinkaryar and Kanyan villages would be launched in the 2013-2014 fiscal year and stepped up year by year, he said.

U Aung Win of Taninthayi Region Constituency No 4 **asked whether the ministry had a plan to upgrade the road linking between Kyaukhlegar and Taungzin in Thayetchaung Township to a gravel one.**

The Union Minister replied that the road had a distance of seven miles and four furlong in a gravel section and seven miles and four furlong in earthen portion totaling 15 miles. The ministry had constructed a distance of two furlongs in the 2007-2008 fiscal year and two concrete bridges in the 2008-2009 fiscal year and one wooden bridge in the 2010-2011 fiscal year, at the total cost of K12.62 million.

It was estimated that it would cost K606 million to upgrade the road which was about 10 miles long and just a road for bullock carts to a gravel one and it would be necessary to seize private-own farmland to upgrade the road. Besides, it would cost around K 55.5 million to construct two 80 ft long bridges and five wooden bridges on the road, reaching a total cost of K661.5 million, he said.

Thayatchaung Township DAD was constructing the distance of two miles of Rin-kanatthiri earth road and the distance of one mile of Nyaungzin-Sawbya gravel road at the cost of K 48 million funded by the State, he said.

The upgrading of the old road passing through Kyaukhlegar, Sawbya, padatchaung and Taungzin would benefit the areas than construction of Kyaukhlegar-Taungzin new road, and a distance of two miles of road section between Sawbya and Padatchaung would be upgraded to a gravel one in the 2012-2013 fiscal year and the remaining sections would be upgraded year by year.

Afterwards, two representatives asked questions related the education sector and Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu replied the questions.

Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region constituency No 6 **asked whether the ministry to transfer teachers working in other areas to their residential townships.**

Deputy Minister U Aye Kyu replied that the Ministry of Education had been taking measures related to yearly transfer of teachers including those who should be transferred due to their family and social conditions and those who had been serve their duties for one or two years in specific areas.

With respect to the question of U Zung Hlei Htang of Chin State Constituency No.2 on " **there is any plan to upgrade the post primary school in Htalanyaw village in Falam Township into middle school (branch)**" Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu said that for more education opportunity, Ministry of Education is upgrading of schools and opening of new schools for four years project starting 2012-2013 Academic year. There are 372 post primary schools in which a total of more than 150 middle level students are pursuing their education. Post primary school in Htalanyaw village in Falam Township has 49 middle level students only. So, there is no plan to upgrade to Basic Education Middle School (Branch) at present.

Regarding the question of U Thet Naing Oo of Bago Region Constituency No.6 on **"does the Union government assign the duties to private companies and entrepreneurs for carrying out economic and social affairs in Region/ State or whether or not the Union government can do like so,"** Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw replied: with respect to the State's economy, Chapter 8, Section 370 "Citizen, Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens in the 2008 Constitution states that Every Citizens has, in accord with the law, the right to conduct business freely in the Union, for national economic development.

Section 455 under Chapter 15 (General Provisions) in the 2008 Constitution says that the Government of the Union may in the interest of the Union, relating to any of the economic activity prescribed to be carried out only by the Government of the Union:

(a) permit the Region government or the State government to form a joint venture with the Government of the Union or to operate under terms and conditions;

(b) permit a co-operative organization, economic organization and an individual person to form a joint venture with the Government of the Union or to operate under terms and conditions

Section 4 under Chapter (2) in State-owned enterprise law prescribes that the government of the Union may in the interest of the Union, relating to any of the economic activity prescribed according to section 3 to be carried out only by the Government of the Union permit the government and any persons or any economic organization to form a joint venture with the Government of the Union or to operate under terms and conditions by issuing notice.

So, according to the Constitution, Myanmar citizens have the rights to engage in the State-owned enterprises.

Ministry of Commerce has started setting up paddy specialized companies in townships since 2009 in coordination with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Paddy Trading Association, Myanmar Beans and Pulses and Sesame Merchants Association, local authorities in region/State, local merchants and local farmers.

A total of 54 paddy specialized companies have been set up in Ayeyawady, Bago, Sagaing and Yangon Regions and Rakhine, Shan, Kayin and Mon States; 21 beams and pulses specialized companies in Ayeyawady, Bago, Magway and Yangon Regions; and one agriculture specialized company in Nay Pyi Taw. These companies are providing the farmers with strains, inputs and agricultural expenses and carrying out the distributions of farm equipment.

These companies are disbursing loan with two percent interest rate without buying farmlands from the farmers and doing farming themselves. In so doing, there have been no problems in every township such as removal and compensation.

There are no time limits on these companies. From agricultural production to sale, farmers, local merchants, machine owners, merchants and exporters, which include in supply chain mechanism, would carry out in harmony.

With respect to the social affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is giving green light to local private donors and entrepreneurs for opening of self-reliant preschools, volunteer primary night schools, youth development philanthropic center and homes for the aged in the Region/State, regardless of time limits. Secretary of Amyotha Bill Committee U San Tun submitted the reports on amendment to Government Facade Act (eviction) (1955).

U Nyunt Tin of Yangon Region Constituency No. 2, Dr Tin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 6, U Htay Win (a) U Zayad Rawman of Rakhine State Constituency No.7, U Pe Thaung of Kachin State Constituency No. 6, U San Pyae of Kachin State Constituency No. 7, U Zaw Naing Oo of Mon State Constituency No. 12, Daw Khin Waing Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No. 1, Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No. 8, U Hla Swe of Magway Region Constituency No. 12 and Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 4 discussed the proposal submitted by U Myint Tun of Bago Region Constituency No. 10 **"urging the Union government to copy preferable systems of some foreign countries to make government departments and staff reliable by the public in order to support formation of Clean Government and Good Governance".** They discussed: Bribery brings about high commodity prices, inflation, moral dilemmas, misconducts for life improvement and downfall in personality. The issue of civil servants must be addressed through combined efforts. The solution is reducing the current workforce of civil servants. The government has to grant full pensions and create job opportunities for those who are made redundant. As the government mechanism is running on collected tax, the tax levying system should be more thorough. If the government could block loopholes of tax, decent salary and profits can be paid to the staff from the increased earnings. Transparency will curb bribery. It is needed to form anti-bribery commission with scholars and experienced persons at home and abroad. In seeking remedial measures, the systems of developed countries should be copied.

Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung said: It is the time the democratic government elected by the people is making all-out efforts to bring about all-round development to the country. The civil servants play a key role in this attempt. The Union government is systematically supervising capacity building, improvement of attitude and morale building of government staff.

I myself met heads of government staff from Union ministries on 6-5-2011 and directed them to discharge duties under rules and regulations and existing laws for emergence of Good Governance and Clean Government as guided by the President. Six departments at Central Institute of Civil Service are training government staff to improve their skills, have the right attitude and accomplishing duties.

Basic courses for officers are also opened to improve their skills in order to cope with changes of the age. Workshops and courses for capacity building of civil servants were conducted in cooperation with ASEAN member countries, UN agencies, and international organizations.

ASEAN Resource Center for Training for Civil Service was opened in 2004 and training courses are being conducted. The Union Civil Service Board has distributed copies of office manual to various ministries and organizations in order to carry out office work effectively and correctly.

In choosing gazetted officers, written examinations, psychological tests and interviews, finalized choosing and training at central institutes for civil service are being carried out with a view to ensuring loyalty to the State, serving the public interest, promoting moral and morality and increasing work knowledge and professional skills.

Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Nyunt Tin of Yangon Region Constituency No.2 making discussion.
MNA

Measures are also being taken for civil servants to become good and qualified personnel by publishing civil service rules journal-1984, civil service rules enforcement manual-1985 and civil servants' code of ethics-2004. Assistance measures for the work of civil servants are being taken in accord with the civil service rules.

Moreover, action is taken against service personnel who break laws and rules, lack moral conducts, shirk their duties and violate departmental rules and orders in accord with the nine kinds of punishment prescribed in the civil service rules enforcement. Such measures are being taken for service personnel to be able to live in discipline, for ensuring that punishment is deservedly done according to the crime committed, for ensuring that any punishment leading to demoralization is not done and enabling them to be able to work harder for wellbeing of their own departments after they have been punished.

Moreover, letters of suggestion, complaint and appeal regarding any inconvenience and dissatisfaction between the public and service personnel can be submitted directly to the President, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission or Letters of Complaint and Appeal Committee in the Amyotha Hluttaw. In connection with those letters, the President of the Union Government assigns duty to the Union Minister at the President Office to take systematic supervision measures.

To ensure good governance and clean government, the Ministry of President Office

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scrutinized 3200 out of 7869 letters of complaint submitted during the period from 5-4-2011 to 29-2-2012. The remaining are 2085 letters, some of which lack set standards and some of which are submitted repeatedly, and 2584 letters under scrutiny. Continued measures are being taken to take action for the scrutinized letters in accord with the motto 'No one is above the law and everyone is equal before the law. Some letters, after being scrutinized, were also found to be aimed at harming the character of service personnel and manufacturing fabrications with intent to disrupt the systematic performance of personnel. Accordingly, warnings had to be given against those letters. In the future, action will be taken against such cases. Anyone who lodges a complaint letter must give his signature, name, citizenship scrutiny card number, contact address and phone number. If not, such a letter will be regarded as lack of set standards. Occasional measures are being taken to grant service personnel from respective departments rights and privileges, awards for working overtime and contributions made by wellwishers. As for discipline, if there is any inconvenience in departments that have direct contact with the public, officers or responsible persons can be met in person or letters of suggestion can be put into mail boxes which can be seen at ministries, banks, post offices, electric bill departments, hospitals, bus stands, seaports, rail stations, airports.

Measures are also being taken to distribute free civil servants' cod of ethics manuals, to hold seminars, talks and examinations and to conduct advanced on-job training courses at the ministries. With democracy more mature, the government is trying to win the trust and reliance of the people by taking all possible reform measures and promoting the skills of personnel. The Hluttaw decided to approve the proposal and announced to enlist representatives for discussion.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency-4 submitted the proposal urging the Union government to establish emergency rescue units as car accidents are happening on Yangon-Mandalay Highway causing lots of deaths. An MP seconded it. The Hluttaw agreed to discuss it and announced to enlist representatives for discussion.

Dr Aye Maung of Rakhine State Constituency-1 submitted the proposal urging the Union government to make sure that the duties, authority and rights, facilities and salary rates of civil servants meet with the international, regional and ASEAN standards by abolishing some departmental organizations, reducing and extending the size of some organizations and forming some organizations. A representative seconded it. The Hluttaw agreed to discuss it and announced to enlist representatives for discussion. Today's session was concluded and the 14th day session will be held tomorrow.

At the session, 10 questions were raised and answered, one report read, one proposal discussed and approved and three new proposals submitted. —*MNA*

49th Myanma Gems Emporium continues for fourth day

***Merchants gather at 49th Myanma Gems Emporium at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March — The 49th Myanma Gems Emporium continued for the fourth day at Mani Yadana Jade Hall here today.

So far, 1894 jade lots have been sold through the open tender system and the sales will continue till 15 March. The sales will be held through the competitive bidding system from 16 to 18 March.

Patron of the central committee for organizing the emporium Union Minister for Mines U Thein Htaik inspected the sales today.

Visiting Vietnamese delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pham Binh Minh visited the emporium today.—*MNA*

Second contract on onshore oil and gas exploration signed

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March— Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise of Ministry of Energy and Geopetrol International Holding Inc of Switzerland and A-1 Mining Company Limited signed a contract for sharing RSF-9 onshore block at Yadana Hall of the Ministry, here yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Member of Myanmar Investment Commission Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min, Joint-Secretary of Myanmar Investment Commission Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Minister for Energy U Soe Aung, Corporate Technical Manager of Geopetrol International Holding Inc Mr Francois Payot, Managing Director of A-1 Mining Company Limited U Yan Win and departmental personnel and guests.

At the ceremony, Union Minister U Than Htay made address and Managing Director of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise U Aung Htoo and Corporate Technical Manager of Geopetrol Internatioanl Holding Inc Mr Francois Payot extended greetings.

The contract was signed by Managing Director of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise U Aung Htoo, Corporate Technical Manager of Geopetrol International Holding Inc Mr Francois Payot and Managing Director of A-1 Mining Company Limited U Yan Win. Director-General of Energy Planning Department U Htin Aung, Country Manager of Geopetrol International Holding Inc Mr Claude Seiler and Director of A-1 Mining Company Limited U Soe Myint Swe signed the contract as witnesses.

The new exploration of off shore and on shore oil and gas will be used for local consumption. It can satisfy the demand of local consumption.

MNA

***Chairman of Rotary Club of Essendom of Australia Mr Steve Roe and party donated medicines and medical equipment in total amount of US$ 50,000 to Jivitadana Sangha Hospital through Board of Chairman of Hospital U Maung Maung.*—MNA**

Deputy Minister for Transport U Win Shein attends the anniversary commemmorative ceremony of earthquake hit on the west-east beach of Japan being welcomed by Japanese Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Takashi Saito on 12 March.

MNA

Union-level Peace Making Group meets press

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—A press conference on peace negotiation between Union-level Peace Making Group comprised of group leader Pyithu Hluttaw Representative of Taungtha Township U Aung Thaung, deputy leader Pyithu Hluttaw Representative of Myitkyina Township U Thein Zaw, and members Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai and Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win and Kachin national armed group KIO was held in Shweli Yadana Yeiktha Hall in Muse on 10 March evening.

It was attended by chief editors and reporters of the Yangon Times, the Monitor, the Snapshot, the Northern Star, Naypyitaw Times, Modern, Kumudra, the Nan Myint, Man Taung Yeik, The Voice, the Irrawady, the Express Times and Sky Net TV channel. The leader and members answered queries raised by the journalists.—*MNA*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV OS SINGAPORE VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OS SINGAPORE VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: SONG WON ENTERPRISE LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 09 VOY NO (2/12)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 09 VOY NO (2/12) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W-4 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: G. LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MINDORO VOY NO (121)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MINDORO VOY NO (121) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-4 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: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD JAPAN
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EGS CREST VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EGS CREST VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.3.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MARTRADE GULF LOGISTICS
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (12005)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (12005) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.3.2012 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 T.S LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (629)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (629) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.3.2012 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

Chronic stress clouds thinking, memory

WASHINGTON, 12 March— Being subject to chronic stress not only clouds your thinking but also impairs memory, new research says.

It uncovered a neural (brain cell) mechanism that directly links stress with impaired memory and clouded thinking.

Stress hormones are known to influence the prefrontal cortex (PFC), a brain region that controls high level "executive" functions such as working memory and decision making, reports the journal Neuron.

"Previous work has shown that chronic stress impairs PFC-mediated behaviours, like mental flexibility and attention, explains study author Zhen Yan, State University of New York, according to a State University statement. Yan and colleagues examined whether repeated stress had a negative influence on glutamate receptors in juvenile rats. Glutamate signalling plays a critical role in PFC function.

They found that in response to repeated stress, there was a significant loss of glutamate receptors, which resulted in a deficit of PFC-mediated cognitive processes, such as working memory and decision making.—*Internet*

Chinese hostesses working for delegates from the National People's Congress pose outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. INTERNET

A clock 100-fold more accurate than its atomic cousins

SYDNEY, 12 March—A new timekeeping system could be a 100 times more accurate than the best atomic clocks in existence, gaining or losing only 1/20th of a second in 14 billion years - the age of the universe.

Based on the orbiting of a neutron around an atomic nucleus, "it would allow scientists to test fundamental physical theories at unprecedented levels of precision and provide an unmatched tool for applied physics research," study co-author Victor Flambaum.

Flambaum, professor of theoretical physics at the University of New South Wales School of Physics, co-authored the study with rsearchers from the Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Nevada, the journal *Physical Review Letters* reports.

Flambaum and New South Wales colleague Vladimir Dzuba reported that their proposed single-ion clock would be accurate to 19 decimal places, according to Wales statement. The exquisite accuracy of atomic clocks is widely used in applications ranging from GPS navigation systems and high-bandwidth data transfer to tests of fundamental physics and system synchronization in particle accelerators. "With these clocks currently pushing up against significant accuracy limitations, a next-generation system is desired to explore the realms of extreme measurement precision and further diversified applications unreachable by atomic clocks," says Flambaum. "Atomic clocks use the orbiting electrons of an atom as the clock pendulum.

But we have shown that by using lasers to orient the electrons in a very specific way, one can use the orbiting neutron of an atomic nucleus as the clock pendulum, making a so-called nuclear clock with unparalleled accuracy."—*Internet*

Photo taken on 11 March, 2012 shows the site of the accident where 2 young men died when they practiced "bungee jumping" in Buenos Aires, Argentina.—XINHUA

Bugs help make eco-friendly detergents

BERLIN, 12 March — Environmentally conscious detergent manufacturers are turning from crude oil to plant oils, sugar and bugs to develop green products.

Researchers are involving bugs and fungi to engineer surfactants with the help of biotechnology. Surfactants remove dirt from human skin, textiles and others solids.

"We produce biosurfactants microbially, based on sustainable resources such as sugar and plant oil," says Suzanne Zibek, technical biologist at the Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial Engineering and Biotechnology IGB, Germany.

Unlike their synthetic competitors, biological surfactants are biodegradable, less toxic and are just as good at loosening fats. But they are being used in only a few products and cosmetics, because of the steep production costs and low yields, according to a Fraunhofer statement.

One biosurfactant researchers use as an additive in household cleaning products is the sophorose lipid, produced by a yeast harvested from bumble-bee nectar.

"If we want natural surfactants to conquer the mass market, we need to increase fermentation yields," says Zibek. Accordingly, scientists are optimizing the production process in order to bring down manufacturing costs.—*Internet*

News Album

Penguins waddle down aisle on plane

Passengers flying from San Antonio to Atlanta and Atlanta to New York said they got an unexpected treat when two penguins waddled down the aisle mid-flight.

Pete and Penny, the penguins from SeaWorld, became the star attractions Wednesday, ABC News reported.

"When we reached cruising altitude, the captain allowed their handler to take them for a stroll up and down the aisle so that everyone could take a look at the cute, 1-foot-tall penguins and get some great photos and videos," passenger Jane Worthington Roth wrote on her YouTube page.

She uploaded three videos of the penguins on the plane.

The pilot and flight crew allowed trainers to let the penguins out of their kennels, to the delight of passengers.

"Oh my gosh! Look at him," one said.

"They're just so cute," said another.

"Pete and Penny are obviously enjoying their training to become flight attendants," Roth wrote. "You'll note that since they were sitting in first class, they are wearing their tuxedos!"

The two penguins were en route to New York for the premier of the upcoming Discovery Channel/BBC series "Frozen Planet." "It's the first time I've ever seen everyone on a plane smiling at the same time!" Roth wrote.

Cooks prepare grasshopper food for vistors during the Museum Night in the Historic Nature Museum in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on 10 March, 2012.

Wild turkey collides with school bus

A wild turkey collided with a school bus Friday morning on a rural road in South Jersey, shattering the windshield, school officials said.

The driver was able to maintain control of the bus and come to a stop despite being hit by flying glass, The News of Cumberland County reported. The driver and three students from the Myron L Powell School in Lawrence were treated for minor injuries.

The turkey was killed by the crash.

"Fortunately several staff members on their way to work saw what happened and stopped to help calm the kids," Superintendent John Saporito said. "Everyone was shaken up pretty badly, but otherwise OK. We are just very grateful that no one was hurt."

Edwin Ramos, the driver, said he was near the end of his run. "He just went right through that windshield glass, shattered the whole glass and hit me in my face," Ramos told WCAU-TV, Philadelphia. "Everything was in slow motion, I could only see through one eye."

Wild turkeys, common in New Jersey, can weigh 25 pounds or more.

Man caught speeding three times in an hour

A Nevada man driving to a court hearing was stopped for speeding three times in Oregon, racking up $2,000 in fines, police said.

Lt Gregg Hastings, a spokesman for the Oregon State Police, said the driver, Jose Romero-Valenzuela, 34, of Las Vegas, was clocked at 105 mph the first time, 98 mph the second and 92 the third, The Portland Oregonian reported. All three stops occurred within about an hour. Romero-Valenzuela came close to getting a fourth ticket, when a trooper west of Hood River tracked him with a radar gun and found he was chugging along at a stately 65 mph.

"I've heard of two stops, but not three," Hastings said. "You'd hope that the message would have gotten across the first time he was stopped. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case."

In addition to a possible $2,000 in fines, Romero-Valenzuela could lose his license for 90 days for driving at more than 100 mph, Hastings said. Romero-Valenzuela already had legal problems in Oregon. He was on his way to a preliminary hearing on a drug charge in Oregon City.

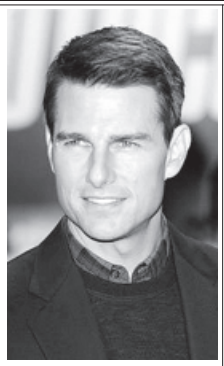
Tom Cruise eyed for 'A Star is Born'

HOLLYWOOD, 12 March—Tom Cruise's dance card may soon include a staring role in the upcoming remake of "A Star is Born," Hollywood sources told *Daily Variety.*

Cruise has been getting good buzz among studio executives for his work as a rock star in the upcoming musical "Rock of Ages" and is considering joining the cast of the Clint Eastwood production opposite leading lady Beyonce.

Variety said no negotiations have taken place and Cruise has two other projects lined up before he could devote his attention to "A Star is Born."

Warner Bros. and New Line are apparently not banking entirely on Cruise for the picture. They have also considered Leonardo DiCaprio for the role as well as Christian Bale and Hugh Jackman.—*Internet*



Tom Cruise

Video shows Evil Queen using social media

LOS ANGELES, 12 March—An online video promoting the Hollywood flick "Mirror, Mirror" shows to hilarious effect what the story's Evil Queen might accomplish using social media.

"Mirror Mirror on the Web, who is the fairest of them all?" said a news release announcing the clip's debut on YouTube Friday. "The video follows the Evil Queen surfing the Web and exploring the kingdom's best social media Web sites to win over the handsome prince and get rid of the beautiful and fair Snow White."

"Mirror, Mirror" stars Julia Roberts, Lily Collins, Armie Hammer, Nathan Lane and Sean Bean. It opens in US theaters 30 March.

Internet

Actress Julia Roberts

Actor Madsen arrested for fight in Malibu

Actor Michael Madsen

MALIBU, 12 March—Actor Michael Madsen was arrested on child endangerment charges after allegedly getting into a fight with his son, sources told TMZ.com.

Law enforcement sources told the entertainment industry Web site that the star of "Kill Bill" was taken into custody Friday afternoon at his Malibu home and brought to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's station in the area.

Sources said deputies reported Madsen appeared to be under the influence of alcohol and was locked up on $100,000 bail.

Madsen's lawyer called TMZ later and said the dispute was a family matter that began when Madsen busted his juvenile son smoking marijuana in the home. Recommended Stories. *Internet*

Oprah Winfrey receives DVF 'Lifetime Leadership' award

JOHANNESBURG, 12 March—Oprah Winfrey has been honoured with a "Lifetime Leadership" award at the third annual DVF Awards.

Winfrey, 58, was hugged by long-time friend, designer and humanitarian Diane von Furstenberg, as she took the stage to accept the accolade on Friday night, Channel 24 reported.

Von Furstenberg called Winfrey the "most formidable person I have ever met in my life".

Oprah Winfrey

The famous chat show host spent much of her speech honouring another of the night's award winners, Jaycee Dugard, who was abducted when she was 11 and held against her will for 18 years.

Dugard took the stage soon after and got emotional as she thanked her mother for never giving up hope of finding her. She also spoke about her JAYC Foundation, which supports families dealing with abduction and other tragedies.

Internet

Clarkson, Richie to star in ABC's 'Duets'

LOS ANGELES, 12 March—Kelly Clarkson, Jennifer Nettles, Lionel Richie and Robin Thicke are to star in the new US music competition series "Duets," ABC said.

The series is to debut this summer on the network.

Clarkson, Nettles, Richie and Thicke will individually set out across America looking for undiscovered talent worthy of being their proteges, a synopsis said.

"Ultimately, each superstar will choose two singers to be his/her duet partners," the synopsis said.

"Together the superstars and their proteges will take the stage each week and perform in front of a live studio audience. In the end, only one duet will be at the top of the charts, and the winning amateur will receive a recording contract with Hollywood Records."—*Internet*

Actor David Hasselhoff

David Hasselhoff hates being alone

LONDON, 12 March — Actor David Hasselhoff has admitted that he hates being alone and finds it difficult travelling for work without his girlfriend.

The 59-year-old is currently dating Welsh beauty Hayley Williams.

"Eighty percent of the time I am positive and upbeat. But you know what? You can meet 10,000 people in a night, however, if you then go back to your hotel room and you're on your own, the silence can be deafening," contactmusic. com quoted Hasselhoff as saying.

"I worked on Christmas Day, I've missed a lot of weddings because of work commitments. You miss a lot," he added.

Internet

Lionel Richie

AC Milan extend lead as Juve draw again

***Zlatan Ibrahimovic of AC Milan, centre, in action against Lecce during the match at Stadio Giuseppe Meazza on 11 March, 2012 in Milan, Italy.—*INTERNET**

ROME, 12 March— AC Milan extended their lead to four points at the top of Serie A with a 2-0 win over Lecce as Juventus were held 0-0 at Genoa on Sunday.

Goals from Antonio Nocerino and Zlatan Ibrahimovic gave Milan a comfortable victory.

Juve, who were facing a defensive selection crisis, drew for the fourth game in a row and sixth time in their last seven outings although they hit the woodwork three times on Sunday.

Although unbeaten, they have now drawn more than half their league matches this season.

And that is what has allowed champions Milan to not only haul them in but streak past as they bid for a second title in a row.

Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri insisted nothing was decided despite their lead.—*Internet*

Serie A: the graveyard of coaches

ROME, 12 March—When Davide Ballardini was fired by Cagliari on Sunday he became the 15th coaching casualty in the 20-team Serie A this season.

Italy is quickly becoming the graveyard of coaches as club presidents display increasingly shortening patience with the men they put in charge of their teams.

The situation is so severe that Cagliari president Massimo Cellino has just fired his third coach in less than seven months.

In August, in pre-season, the Sardinians were coached by former Italy boss Roberto Donadoni but he was dismissed following a pre-season friendly — which Cagliari actually won — and replaced by Massimo Ficcadenti. He lasted less than three months before Ballardini took over, only to be fired in under four months with Ficcadenti widely tipped to be given back his old job.

***Roberto Donadoni was sacked in pre-season by Cagliari, the first in a long line of Serie A dismissals.—*INTERNET**

That is a common occurrence in Italy where presidents, although trigger-happy in firing coaches, are less keen on the contract pay-offs those actions would incur.

Instead they essentially stick unwanted coaches on gardening leave.

This allows the president to bring back that coach, who is still under contract, when his successor may be axed.

A few years ago current Udinese boss Francesco Guidolin had four spells as Palermo boss between 2004 and 2007.

The Sicilians' president Maurizio Zamparini is considered the most cut-throat president in Italy having changed coach on average more than twice a season in his 10 years since buying Palermo.

It is a situation that has left Players' Union president Renzo Ulivieri flabbergasted.

Internet

Azarenka run goes on, Kvitova out

Victoria Azarenka of Belarus.

INDIAN WELLS, 12 March—Top seed Victoria Azarenka charged into the fourth round of the Indian Wells WTA tournament by crushing Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-1 6-2 on Sunday, improving her unbeaten record to 19-0 this year.

The Belarusian world number one, who had battled through her opening match against Germany's Mona Barthel 6-4 6-7 7-6, broke Russian Kuznetsova three times in the first set and twice in the second.

Serving for the match at 5-2, Azarenka went 40-15 up before double-faulting but then sealed the win on the next point when her opponent's backhand flew long.

Kuznetsova, who won the 2004 US Open and the 2009 French Open, had won four of their previous meetings but she was outplayed by the Belarusian on a sun-splashed afternoon in the California desert.

Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova became the highest seed to exit the Indian Wells WTA tournament after a 2-6 6-2 6-3 loss to American teenager Christina McHale in the third round. French Open champion Li Na beat fellow Chinese Zheng Jie 6-1 6-3, her first victory over her compatriot in five career meetings.—*Reuters*

Nadal breezes through at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, 12 March—Twice champion Rafa Nadal imperiously coasted into the third round of the Indian Wells ATP tournament with a ruthless 6-1 6-3 victory over Argentine Leonardo Mayer on Sunday.

Rafael Nadal of Spain.

The Spanish left-hander, who has reached the last four at Indian Wells in his last six appearances here, broke Mayer twice in each set to wrap up a commanding win in one hour 15 minutes. In dazzling afternoon sunshine, the match ended when a Mayer forehand sailed wide and Nadal removed his green headband in triumph as the near-capacity crowd erupted in applause. "I am happy to start with a victory," the Spaniard, who will next face compatriot Marcel Granollers, said in a courtside interview. "I think I did a very good match." Nadal, who dominated Mayer with his crunching ground strokes from behind the baseline, has not competed since he lost an epic Australian Open final to Novak Djokovic in January. The world number two enjoys a superb record at Indian Wells where he won the title in 2007 and 2009 and was beaten in last year's final by Serb Djokovic.—*Reuters*

Players succumb to stomach bug at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, 12 March—Intestinal fortitude has become a prized commodity at Indian Wells where Vera Zvonareva and Gael Monfils are among eight players who have succumbed to a widespread viral infection.

Russian Zvonareva, the ninth seed in the WTA tournament, withdrew from her scheduled third-round match on Sunday, gifting Czech Klara Zakopalova a spot in the next round.

Vania King of the US

Earlier in the day, Frenchman Monfils, the 14th seed in the ATP event, American Vania King and Austrian Juergen Melzer also pulled out because of stomach problems.

"I'm really sorry to withdraw from the tournament but unfortunately I'm not feeling well enough to compete today," Zvonareva, a 12-times winner on the WTA Tour, said in a statement.

Monfils, who had been set to play his first match against Russian Nikolay Davydenko in the second round, was replaced by lucky loser Bjorn Phau of Germany.

King, who won her first WTA title in Paris last month, had already played two matches in the California desert and her pullout handed 18th-seeded German Angelique Kerber a place in the fourth round.

Reuters

International Sports

***Doral Golf Resort owner Trump poses with Britian's Rose and daughter Ivanka Trump after Rose won the WGC-Cadillac Championship .—*REUTERS**

Rose sets sights on a major after WGC triumph

DORAL, 12 March— England's Justin Rose clinched the biggest win of his career in Sunday's WGC-Cadillac Championship then promptly set his sights on landing his first major.

Rose shot a two-under-par 70 to beat American Bubba Watson by a stroke and hold off a late surge from world number one Rory McIlroy to claim his first victory in the elite WGC series.

It was Rose's fourth win on the PGA Tour, following victories in the Memorial Tournament and the AT&T National in 2010 and last year's BMW Championship, and crowned an impressive start to the year for the 31-year-old.

It also suggested the South-African born, Orlando resident, who also has five wins on the European Tour, could be a real contender at the Masters next month.

"If you look at the tournaments I've won and now a World Golf Championship, the progression is really, really nice. The only thing that really is the next level up is a major," Rose said.

"But that's not to say that I'm at that stage in my career where I am only focusing on the majors. I think there is a lot more for me to do in the game to get to that point. But no doubt, I feel my game is getting ready for that."

Rose's best finish in a major was tied for fourth in the 1998 British Open while he finished fifth at the Masters in 2007 and fifth at the 2003 US Open.—*Reuters*

Tigers Woods withdraws with sore Achilles' tendon

Tiger Woods grimaces after he hit off the 12th tee during the final round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament on Sunday, on 11 March, 2012 in Doral, Fla. Woods withdrew from the tournament, and was driven away in a cart.
INTERNET

DORAL, 12 March—Tiger Woods' road to the Masters took a surprising detour Sunday when he withdrew after 11 holes in the Cadillac Championship because of soreness in his left Achilles tendon.

It's the same Achilles that he injured last year at Augusta National, which eventually caused Woods to miss two majors last year.

The severity of this injury won't be known until Woods has it evaluated. He was 3-over par in the final round at Doral, 10 shots out of the lead, when he hit a 321-yard tee shot on the par-5 12th hole, shook hands with Webb Simpson and left in a cart. "I felt tightness in my left Achilles warming up this morning, and it continued to get progressively worse," Woods said in a statement. "After hitting my tee shot at 12, I decided it was necessary to withdraw. In the past, I may have tried to continue to play, but this time, I decided to do what I thought was necessary." NBC Sports showed Woods behind the wheel as he drove away from Doral in a black sedan. Woods is to play in two weeks at Bay Hill, his last tournament before the Masters. Woods is a four-time champion at Augusta National, and with an ordinary game, he still has tied for fourth the last two years.—*Internet*

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(13-3-12 09:30 am ~ 14-3-12 09:30 am) MST

* News
* News Tip-Bids
* News
* Music Programme
* News
* Talks "Health - TB"
* News
* Cow Decoration Items
* News
* Topic on Journal "Natural Beauty"
* News
* TSweet Memories in Pyin Oo Lwin
* News
* Demo's Birthday
* News
* A Salient Myin Mahti
* How to cast vote?
* Myanmar Movie "Dutiful But Thoughtless Son"

MYANMAR TV

(13-3-2012) (Tuesday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw -Uppatasanti Paritta

7:50 am
2. Nice & Sweet Song

8:00 am
3. Helth Programme

8:20 am
4. Dance Of National Races

8:25 am
5. Teleplay (Health)

8:40 am
6. International News

4:00 pm
7. Martial Song

4:45 pm
8. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:15 pm
9. Documentary

5:45pm
10. Songs on honour of (67th) Anniversary Armed Forces Day

6:35 pm
11. Documentary

6:55 pm
12. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
13. News
14. Bakery World
15. India Drama Series

Shenzhou-9 may take female astronaut to space

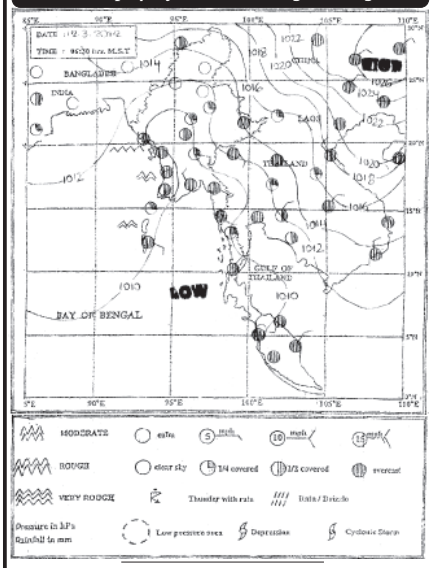
BEIJING, 12 March—Authorities have completed the initial selection of crew members for China's first manned space docking mission, and the roster includes female astronauts, an official with the country's manned space program has said.

Model Chinese spacerockets are seen on display at the Shanghai Science & Technology Museum in Shanghai in January 2012. Tiangong-1, China's first space station module, was launched in September.—INTERNET

But the final three-person crew will be decided "on the very last condition," said Niu Hongguang, deputy commander-in-chief of the country's manned space program and deputy head of the General Armament Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. The manned spacecraft *Shenzhou-9* will take its crew members to board the Tiangong-1 space module lab, which was launched in September last year and completed the country's first space docking with the unmanned *Shenzhou-8* spacecraft in November. The selected astronauts are in training at the moment, Niu, who is also a deputy to the 11th National People's Congress (NPC), said on the sidelines of the annual parliamentary session.

Assembly on the *Shenzhou-9* and its carrier rocket, the *Long March-2F*, has been completed, and the manned space docking is due between June and August this year, he said. "The perfect docking between *Shenzhou-8* and *Tiangong-1* has laid the perfect foundation for the manned docking this year," Niu said, noting that the manned docking will feature brand new technology. *Tiangong-1*, or *Heavenly Palace-1*, has been orbiting normally for more than 160 days, and is capable of docking with *Shenzhou-9* and accommodating astronauts, he said.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Weather forecast for 13th March, 2012

Sr. No.	Regions/States	Temperature (°C/°F) Maximum	Minimum	For Tomorrow Forecast	Percent
1	Kachin	34/93	15/59	Partly cloudy	
2	Kayah	32/90	18/64	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
3	Kayin	37/99	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
4	Chin	27/81	05/41	Partly cloudy	
5	Upper Sagaing	34/93	16/61	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
6	Lower Sagaing	38/100	19/66	Partly cloudy	
7	Tanintharyi	36/97	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
8	Bago	36/97	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
9	Magway	37/99	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
10	Mandalay	36/97	21/70	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
11	Mon	36/97	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
12	Yangon	37/99	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
13	Rakhine	34/93	21/70	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
14	Southern Shan	29/84	15/59	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
15	Northern Shan	32/90	08/46	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
16	Eastern Shan	31/88	18/64	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
17	Ayeyawady	36/97	24/75	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
18	Neighbouring Nay Pyi Taw	38/100	20/68	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
19	Neighbouring Yangon	37/99	23/73	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
20	Neighbouring Mandalay	36/97	21/70	Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers	60(%)
Summary of observations at 09:30 hr MST on today		During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Regions, Kayin State and isolated in Mon State, weather have been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperatures were (3°C) above March average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Southern Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and about March average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States.The significant day temperature was Minbu (40°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Kawkayeik (1.50) inches and Phyarpon (0.63) inch.			
Bay Inference		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		Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.			
Outlook for subsequent two days		Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.			

Free eye tests provided to eye patients

GYOBINGAUK, 12 March—Optical Vision Co Ltd provided free eye test and donated optical glasses at the hall of Gyobingauk Township General Administration Department of Thayawady District in Bago Region on 2 March morning.

Deputy Speaker of Bago Region Hluttaw U Win Myint Soe delivered an address and gave optical glasses to eye patients.

At the ceremony, optical glasses worth over K 1 million were donated to over 700 people from wards and village-tracts of Gyobingauk Township.—*Myanma Alin*

11 killed in fire in Istanbul, Turkey

ISTANBUL, 12 March—Eleven workers died in a fire in the Turkish city of Istanbul on Sunday night, according to a Turkish official.

Necmi Kadioglu, mayor of Istanbul's Esenyurt District, said that 11 workers were killed when a fire engulfed a giant tent in which the workers were staying at the construction site of a shopping mall.

A local TV station said that the fire might have been sparked by a short circuit in the mall, which is about 35 kilometres west of Istanbul city centre. The report said that firefighters had already put out the fire. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Firefighters and police attend the scene of a fire at a construction site in the Esenyurt district in Istanbul. INTERNET

Avalanche kills 45 in E Afghan Nuristan province

PARUN, (Afghanistan), 12 March—At least 45 people were killed on Monday morning when a snow avalanche hit and destroyed 13 houses in Mandol District of eastern Afghan province of Nuristan on Monday morning, deputy to provincial governor Qazi Mohammad Nabi Ahmadi said.

"The tragic incident happened in Guru and Koshan villages of Madol District in the wee hours of Monday and so far 45 people including women and children have been confirmed dead," Ahmaid told *Xinhua*.

He also said that the casualties could go up as rescue operation is going on in the remote area of the province some 180 kilometres west of capital city of Kabul.

MNA/Xinhua

Suarez, Cavani admit PSG interest

PARIS, 12 March—Uruguay team-mates Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani both expressed interest in playing for Paris Saint-Germain during a report broadcast on French television channel Canal+ on Sunday evening.

Both players were speaking in a segment about their Uruguay team-mate Diego Lugano, who is currently playing for PSG.

"It would be very tempting to come to Paris," said Napoli striker Cavani. "I'd love for us to play together." Liverpool forward Suarez said he would "love to play at the same club as (Lugano)" and admitted he could be tempted by a move to Parc des Princes in the future. "Yes, I could come to Paris, but like any other big club," he said.

Uruguay's Edinson Cavani (L) and Luis Suarez during a training session in 2010.

"There are lots of big clubs with that kind of status, who want to build a great team, and Paris are one of those clubs that are recruiting to make themselves stronger." PSG have embarked on an ambitious recruitment drive since being taken over by Qatar Sports Investments last summer, notably signing Argentine playmaker Javier Pastore from Palermo for a French record fee of 43 million euros ($56m).—*Internet*

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Third regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw continues for 12th day

Eight questions raised, one report submitted

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—Pyithu Hluttaw regular session continued for 12th day at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Building here at 10.20 am today. It was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and 347 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives. Eight questions were raised and one report was submitted at today's session.

U Ngun Moung of Haka Constituency asked **whether there are restrictions on tourists' travel to Chin State; by which department or on which date or for which reason the restraint order, if any, is issued; if the recommendation is needed, which department can recommend or in how many days it can be issued.** Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tint Hsan answered: There are restrictions on tourists' travel to Chin State. There are also restrictions for other regions and states. The designation of existing restricted area, routes and vehicles was made in the order of the Ministry of Home Affairs dated 10-4-1996 to contain travel of foreigners. It was issued as it was found some foreigners arriving in Myanmar illegally often crossed borders, smuggled precious things from Myanmar and undermined economy, social affairs and security of the country. The travel of tourists to Chin State was restricted under this order.

If they want to travel beyond the area limited for the travel, they are allowed by the superior department with the assurance of respective Union ministries depending on road transportation and security of the region. Both package tour groups and foreign independent travelers are allowed to visit Kanpetlet, Natmataung, Mindat, Ayeywa station, Ramsi station, 8-mile station, Kennedy mountain, Haka and Falam under the programmes of tour companies.

Myanmar Police Force allows foreigners to enter Myanmar through Yangon and Mandalay International Airports. The intelligence corps checked whether the foreigner is blacklisted by the government. Those who are not blacklisted are issued designated visa and allow entering, traveling and observing the country. Respective local police closely attend to the tourists for their security without restriction or prohibition.

Chin State government has issued directive to eject the foreigners who do not have the permission of the superior departments and only have social visa as there is no specific directive for it after scrutinizing entrance of foreigners and neutralized Chin nationals to Chin State by Immigration and National Registration Department and other departments.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is trying to issue permission within a few days under the existing laws. The branches in Muse, Tachilek and Kawthoung border gates have been equipped with email and internet to grant the permission within the short range of time. In accord with the changing policies of the new Union government, restrictions on travel to Chin State will soon be relaxed.

Dr Nay Lin of Seikkan Constituency asked **whether there is plant to handle improvement in treatment provided by private specialist hospitals and clinics officially permitted by the Ministry of Health in accord with Private Health Industry Law.** Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin answered: In accord with health policy of the government, the development of private health industry is being implemented under Private Health Industry Law prescribed with a view to developing private health industry, encouraging private health industry to fulfill their quota in national health system, using resources of private sector effectively in providing healthcare to the public, offering the public with more options for healthcare, providing high-quality healthcare to the public at reasonable price and ensuring accountability.

It is being encouraged to the private hospitals to employ more doctors/specialists, to improve the capacity of nurses, to appoint diploma holder/graduate nurses and to not assign nurse aids as nurses.

Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye replies queries.

MNA

The ministry is encouraging the emergence of private health entrepreneurs' association to form united public healthcare system and help each others. General plenary meeting for formation of

(See page 9)

Third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continues for 13th Day

Ten questions raised, one report read out, one proposal approved and three new proposals submitted

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March— The third regular session of the first Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the 13th day at the Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in the Hluttaw Building here today.

It was attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and 191 representatives of Amyotha Hluttaw.

During the meeting, five representatives raised questions and Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay replied the questions.

U Swe Aung of Yangon Region constituency No 12 asked the ministry **whether it had a plan to upgrade the laterite road in Waryonson Village-tract in Hlegu Township to a asphalt road or a concrete road.**

He replied that it was estimated that it would cost K165.43 million to upgrade the road to a 12-ft-in-width asphalt road and K 236 million to a concrete one. The road, passing through villages, was linking Waryonson Village-tract and the Yangon-Mandalay Highway and the road was two miles and one furlong long, he said.

The development affairs committees had been carrying out tasks for upgrading roads from earthern to gravel ones in rural areas, and still, the ministry had no plan to upgrade the road to a concrete one, he said. In the 2012-2013 fiscal year, one conduit pipe would be constructed on the road and would upgrade a distance of three furlong to a gravel one at the cost of K23 million funded by Hlegu Township Development Affairs Committee, he added.

U Aye of Mandalay Region constituency No. 7 asked **whether the ministry had a plan to maintain the roads leading to famous pagodas in Bagan archaeological region.**

NyaungU Township Development Affairs Committee had planned to maintain the major roads Anawrahta, Shwesigon, Ngatpittaung, Alodawpyai and Phayani roads and the department would spend K26.45 million on maintain a distance of four furlong on Anawrahta Road, extension of a distance of one furlong on Shwesigon Pagoda Road and repaving a distance of one furlong on Payani Pagoda Road.

The ministry did not upgrade some earthen roads in Bagan archaeological region, but repaired damages in coordination with boards of trustees of ancient pagodas not to destroy the original styles, he said.

To maintain the roads leading the famous pagodas in Bagan archaeological region, the Ministry of Culture had drawn plans to conserve the region and the Ministry of Border Affairs would maintain the roads in the region without damaging the original styles in coordination with the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library of the Ministry of Culture.

U Naing Tun Ohn of Mon State constituency No. 5 **asked whether the ministry had a plan to repair Karuitpi Bridge over the Karuitpi Creek in Karuitpi Village in Thanbyuzayat Township.**

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay replied that the bridge was constructed at the cost of K426.678 million funded by the people and was commissioned into service on 27 October 2010. The bridge located on Thanbyuzayat-Anin Road passing through villages was 300 ft long and 18 ft wide, he said. The bridge crosses the creek in 60-foot-in-length two spans of iron bailey type. The span of the bridge on the bank in Thanbyuzayat side is 120 ft long while 60 ft long on the bank in Karuitpi side and those portions are of iron-reinforced type.

Trucks loaded with fish paste, dried fish and rubber weighing five tons were crossing Karuitpi Bridge daily. The trucks weighing over five tons of loads were prohibited not to pass through the bridge though it could withstand eight tons of loads, he said. The ministry would make detailed assessment to the foundation of the bridge and Thanbyuzayat Township Development Affairs Committee would carry out the tasks for maintaining and conserving the bridge.

Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw answers questions.—MNA

U Aung Cho Oo of Bago Region constituency No 11 **asked whether the ministry to construct Nyaungpinkaryar-Kanyan Road linking between Monyo and Shwetaung townships and to repair roads in Monyo.**

(See page 10)