

# President calls for establishment of fruit & vegetables wholesale markets

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March — President U Thein Sein has called for establishment of fruit and vegetables wholesale markets to ensure the produce getting into the international market.

During his visit to the 900-acre farm where the horticulture exhibition will be held to mark the Peasants' Day which falls on 2 March, the president stressed the need to establish commercial farms in regions and states and produce marketable fruit and vegetables which are favourable to the climate of respective regions and states.

He also stressed the importance of cooperation between cooperative sector and private sector in packing and producing value-added products of fruit and vegetables grown by farmers and companies to be able to penetrate international market and to fetch good prices.

The President visited the booths staged by Ayeyawady Region, Yangon



President U Thein Sein views fruits and vegetables at Horticulture Exhibition.—MNA

Region, Mandalay Region, Shan State, Bago Region, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area,

Sagaing Region, Magway Region, Taninthayi Region, Rakhine State, Mon State,

Chin State, Kayin State, Kayah State and Kachin State at the horticulture exhibition in Nay Pyi Taw.

Agricultural companies and agricultural

schools and university also exhibited booths at the show.—MNA

## AEM Retreat sets priorities for ASEAN economic integration

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw chaired the 20th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat in Singapore on Thursday. The AEM Retreat focused on strengthening preparedness for ASEAN economic integration ahead the 24th ASEAN Summit to be held in May, 2014.

In his address, the Union minister assured those present of Myanmar's commitment to ensuring expansion of SMEs, narrowing the development gap between the member countries and stepping up preparation for possible challenges and bringing successful outcomes in cooperation with dialogue partners to the region during Myanmar's ASEAN Chair in 2014.

Next, he took part in exchanging views on ASEAN economic integration and attended a press meet together with the ASEAN

Secretary-General and Singaporean and Thai minis-

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets delegates from Wa Special Region-2, Mongla Special Region-4

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe

Mann separately met with General Secretary U Puk Yu Yi of Wa Special Region-2 and party and Vice-Chair-

man U Sam Lu and party of Mongla Special Region-4 at the Speaker's residence on Saturday.

Those delegates will attend the ceremony to mark the nation-wide census taking process in 2014.—MNA



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw poses for documentary photo with ASEAN Economic Ministers at 20th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat in Singapore.—MNA

ters. The Union Minister who was also the chairman of the Retreat gave an account of the meeting that focused on 2014 priorities, the role of Myanmar's ASEAN Chairmanship, regional comprehensive

economic integration, assistance to ensuring smooth and speedy transport in the region and post-2015 vision for ASEAN Economic Community.

The Union minister attended a working dinner for coordinating pre-

paredness ahead of the AEM retreat on Wednesday and held discussions on the establishment of ASEAN-India Trade and Investment Centre and the AEM Roadshow to Canada.

MNA

## Press Release of Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health is giving health care services to the people joining hands with UN agencies and social organizations at home and abroad. As a rumour is spreading that the government will suspend all operations of MSF Holland (Medicins Sans Frontiers - Holland) (AZG) for provision of medicines to the patients, the public are informed of the real situation as follows.

Officials of the Ministry of Health held a meeting with those from MSF Holland (AZG) on 28 February morning. According to the meeting's agreement, all functions being operated by MSF Holland (AZG) in Rakhine State will be temporarily suspended. Due to public acceptance and recommendation of ethnic organizations to MSF Holland (AZG)'s providing medical care in the regions and states, the government will allow its operations in other regions and states for the sake of the people. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two sides will be signed depending on the gears of working. When Rakhine State sees peace and stability, the government will consider to resume MSF Holland (AZG)'s health care services in Rakhine State in a certain period after reviewing its medical aid to the people in the other regions and states.

Ministry of Health