Established 1914
Volume XVII, Number 345 13th Waxing of Tagu 1371 ME Saturday, 27 March, 2010

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Bago Bridge commissioned

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—The bridge spanning the Bago River in Bago, Bago Division, was put into service as a gesture of honouring the 65th Anniversary Armed Forces Day today. The 360 feet long and 72 feet wide bridge on Yangon-Mandalay Highway about 50 miles north of Yangon can withstand 60 tons of loads.

Lt-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence delivered a speech. Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint gave an account of the bridge project.

Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Hla Min, Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min also conversed with local people at the ceremony.

In fact, democracy is a practice of self-discipline, sense of duty, and freedom in combination.

Union Election Commission meets

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—The meeting (12/2010) of the Union Election Commission took place at the office of UEC here this morning, attended by UEC Chairman U Thein Soe and members.

At the meeting, Chairman U Thein Soe said necessary rules had been issued since the formation of the commission. He next discussed matters related to the issuing of manuals so as to facilitate the work of sub-commissions, setting up of constituencies and formation of sub-commissions. The commission members made a detailed discussion about election matters. Later, the chairman concluded the meeting after going over the discussion and making a remark.—MNA
Tatmadaw endowed with fine traditions

The Armed Forces Day of the Union of Myanmar is in its 65th anniversary on 27 March 2010 (today). Being born in the independence struggle, the Tatmadaw made history of the nation by working in harmony with the people to help the nation regain independence.

Hand in hand with the people, the Tatmadaw launched the Anti-Fascist Resistance on 27 March 1945, which became a landmark in the Myanmar history. Due to its gallantry and dauntlessness, the Tatmadaw won victory and that day was designated as a day of significance in the nation.

The Tatmadaw is constituted with people’s sons who equip themselves with a sense of patriotism and have taken a solemn vow of sacrificing lives in the interest of the nation and the people. They always get ready to guard the motherland against dangers. The Tatmadaw stands firmly by the people whenever the nation faces a variety of crises and is on the verge of collapse.

Preserving its fine traditions, the Tatmadaw is in perpetual charge of national defence duties for perpetuation of independence and sovereignty. It is also in perpetual service of public interest, while protecting the people for sovereignty. It is also in perpetual service of perpetuation of independence and security of their lives and property.

Today, the Tatmadaw is building a peaceful, modern and developed nation by working in harness with the people to help the nation modernize. Throughout successive periods, the Tatmadaw has risked life and limb for national security, with fine traditions such as bravery, military prowess and a strong sense of patriotic spirit, the Tatmadaw will continue to keep serving the interest of the nation and the people, while adhering to Our Three Main National Causes.

Industry-1 Ministry makes welfare for staff members

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Huay Oo, Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein also took part in the activities.

Health Minister attends 7th M-CCM meeting

Minister Dr Mya Oo, Director-General of M-CCM and officials concerned were present at the meeting. The minister spoke a speech on the tasks for fighting against three diseases in cooperation with CCM.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint making speech at 7th M-CCM Meeting.—MNA

Nay Bala Win Myint emerges champion in Kaung Myat Myanmar golf tour

Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe received Australian Ambassador Ms. Michelle Su-Wen Chan to the Union of Myanmar at the ministry here this morning. They discussed making cooperation in social welfare, relief and resettlement in the aftermath of cyclone Nargis.—MNA

Ministers and cabinet ministers handed over the prizes to the winners. The government also gave away 10 gift vouchers and five luckydraw winners and so did cabinet ministers.

Nay Bala Win Myint lifted the trophy with 287 strokes, followed by Soe Moe Win with 289 strokes, and Yan Myo Aye with 291 strokes.

The Myanmar Golf Federation organized the tournament with main sponsor Kaung Myat Companies (KM Golf Centre) and co sponsor Yangon Golf Club (Danyingon).—MNA
No Russian jets violated British airspace

MOSCOW, 26 March—Russia’s airforce spokesman on Thursday denied London’s report of two Russian bombers violating British airspace this month, RIA Novosti news agency reported.

“The TU-160 strategic bombers did indeed do an overflight over the Arctic Ocean and the Atlantic on 10 March, but did not violate any country’s airspace,” Vladimir Drik was quoted as saying.

Britain’s Ministry of Defence on Thursday said that two RAF Tornado F3 fighters were sent to shadow the Russian Blackjack bombers after intercepting them near Stornoway, in the Outer Hebrides off the west coast of Scotland in the early hours of 10 March.

The British jets followed the bombers as they flew south, before they turned north just north of the Northern Ireland coast, leaving British airspace, the ministry said. The Tornado crews returned to base after four hours.—INTERNET

Taleban commander detained in S Afghanistan

KABEL, 26 March—Security forces detained two Taleban militants including a commander in Afghanistan’s Ghazni Province, a Press release of NATO-led troops said on Thursday.

“A Taleban commander and another militant were captured by an Afghan-international security force in Ghazni Province last night,” the Press release said.

The Press release did not identify the arrested commander, but said he and his comrade were captured from Qarabagh District. Taleban militants have yet to make comment.—Xinhua

Somali pirates spreading their net further in Indian Ocean

LONDON, 26 March—US Admiral Mark Fitzgerald warned on Thursday that pirates based in Somalia are extending the reach of their seize-and-ransom activities.

The admiral told the Institute for International Strategic Studies, a London think-tank, that piracy had now reached as far south as Mozambique and as far east as India.

Admiral Fitzgerald is the commander of United States naval forces in Europe and is also commander of US Naval forces in Africa. In addition he is the commander of NATO missions in the Balkans, Iraq and the Mediterranean from his base in Italy. —Xinhua

India receives second AWACS aircraft

MUMBAI, 26 March—The second Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft acquired from Israel by the Indian Air Force (IAF) has landed, India’s media reported on Friday.

The Second AWACS arrived at Jamnagar air base in the western Indian state of Gujarat on Thursday evening, and will be deployed at Agra air base in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, the news agency Press Trust of India quoted an IAF official as saying.

With the arrival of second AWACS, the IAF could boost the aerial patrol capability by covering the eastern and western part of India at the same time, said the official.

Like the first AWACS, the second one could detect and track dozens of flying objects from more than 300 kilometres away, including hostile fighters, bombers and cruising missiles, and direct its anti-aircraft units to intercept the incoming flying targets.

According to the contract signed with Israel in 2004, the IAF will get three Phalcon AWACSs, of which the first was delivered in May last year.

The IAF could provide air patrol by covering the whole nation as the third AWACS arrives later this year, the official added.—Xinhua

Roadside bomb kills five NATO soldiers in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 26 March—Five soldiers of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) were killed in roadside bomb in Kandahar south of Afghanistan on Wednesday, Governor House said on Thursday. “A roadside bomb struck a vehicle of international troops in Pashtmol village of Jalal District on Wednesday afternoon as a result five soldiers were killed,” Press department of Governor House in Kandahar city the capital of Kandahar Province told newsmen.—Xinhua

Suspicious letter, white powder in US congressman’s NY office

NEW YORK, 26 March—At least nine people were decontaminated for exposure to a possibly toxic substance on Thursday at a New York City office of US Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-NY, following discovery of a suspicious letter with an unidentified white powder, officials said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries. The letter was found shortly after noon EDT, in the Kew Gardens section of Queens, the easternmost borough of New York City, officials said. It was reported shortly after other threats and alleged attacks on Democratic congressmen, Democratic Party offices or other locations associated with Democrats, following passage of US President Barack Obama’s Health Care Reform package earlier this week.—Xinhua

A broken and empty swing stands in a deserted park in Porvenir on 25 March, 2010. Mexican drug hitmen are shooting up houses and terrorizing remote farming towns on the US border, forcing residents to flee, as they try to secure key trafficking routes into the United States.—INTERNET

Tourists take pictures of the Little Mermaid statue just before it was moved from Copenhagen harbour on 25 March, 2010. —Xinhua

More than 25,000 flee homes after flood in West Java, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 26 March—Flood in West Java province of Indonesia has forced more than 24,900 people to take shelters as their houses have been submerged since earlier this week, the Disaster Management Agency reported here on Friday.

The floods in Karawang of the province have submerged over 15,000 houses since Tuesday, it occurred after the authorities opened the water gate at Jatiluhur dam at the province, as the dam could not hold water as its volume has exceeded the dam capacity, spokesman of the agency Priyadi Kardono said.

“Heavy rains for days have led more waters from several areas flow into the Jatiluhur dam, so the dam could not hold the excessive water,” he told Xinhua over phone.

The spokesman said that most of the evacuees lived in tents and got relief aids from the government.

The waters submerged the houses up to three meters high, he said.

But, the spokesman said that so far there was no casualties of the natural disaster.

Xinhua

INTERNET

This file picture shows a Russian TU-160 long-distance heavy bomber (left) and a fighter jet flying over the Red Square in Moscow during a Victory Day Parade, Russia’s airforce spokesman on Thursday denied London’s report that two Russian TU-160 bombers violated British airspace earlier this month. —INTERNET

Roads leading to strategic areas in Afghanistan and the red sea route to India are blocked by Soviet Child Brigade.
China VP due in Sweden as Volvo takeover nears fruition

SHANGHAI, 26 March—Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping is due in Sweden this weekend, amid signs that Chinese carmaker Geely could soon formally seal a deal to buy troubled Volvo from US auto giant Ford.

Xi, tipped in political circles to replace President Hu Jintao by 2013, is due to arrive in Stockholm on Saturday for a four-day visit, state Xinhua news agency reported.

The visit comes after the chairman of China's Zhejiang Geely Holding Group, Li Shufu, told the Wall Street Journal last week that he expected to complete the deal to acquire Volvo by the end of the month.

But there were still unspecified problems at Ford holding up the definitive accord, Li said.

Geely spokesman Yuan Xiaolin told AFP on Friday that the company had no update on the deal's status.

Ford Motor Company announced in December that it had agreed on the main terms of the sale of its loss-making Swedish subsidiary Volvo Cars to Geely, one of China's largest private automakers, for a reported two billion dollars.

If completed, the deal will bring to an end Ford's decade-long association with the premium Swedish brand, known for its sturdy, family-friendly cars.

Ford had said it anticipated “a definitive sale agreement will be signed in the first quarter of 2010, subject to appropriate regulatory approvals”.

Geely reportedly secured the financing needed for the purchase earlier this month.—Internet

Nissan, Renault, Daimler in final talks over cross-holding stakes

TOKYO, 26 March—Japan's Nissan Motor Co, France's Renault SA and Germany's Daimler AG are in the final stages of talks to form a cross-holding stake of around 3 percent in each other, local media reported on Friday.

France's Renault SA, which already holds a 44.3 percent stake in Nissan, has been pursuing a partnership with Germany's Daimler for some time, said the reports.

Similarly Toshibake Inoshita, a spokesman for Nissan, declined to comment on the report, calling it "speculation."—Internet

Jobless claims fall, buoy jobs recovery hopes

WASHINGTON, 26 March —The number of workers filing for jobless aid fell sharply last week and a gauge of underlying labour market trends hit a 1-1/2 year low, boosting hopes the economy is on the verge of creating jobs.

Even though the report released on Thursday pointed to improvement in the battered labour market, recovery is likely to be too slow to make a huge dent in the country's 9.7 percent unemployment rate and will keep pressure on President Barack Obama for solutions.—Reuters

Japanese carmakers keen to produce eco-friendly cars in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 26 March—Indonesian Industry Minister M.S Hidayat said that four Japan major automobile producers have expressed keen interest to join the government’s programme to produce eco-friendly and low-cost cars, local media reported here on Friday.

The minister was quoted by the Jakarta Post as saying that representatives of Daihatsu, Toyota, Suzuki and Nissan had all expressed the interest.

The minister said on Thursday that executives of Daihatsu, Toyota and Suzuki had met him earlier to discuss the programmes and they expected to begin production by 2011.

“They are very serious. They have all submitted business plans,” he said, adding that Daihatsu had shown the government its prototype.

The minister said on Friday that the company had agreed on the project is considered a key to reduce Europe’s energy dependence on Russia.

Under the law approved by the parliament, Nabucco pipeline will carry Caspian natural gas to Austria through Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary.

The project is due to begin in 2011 and that the first flow of the gas will take place in 2014.

Mitschek underlined that there has been no change in the time table of the Nabucco Gas Pipeline Project, adding “The pipeline will be filled with natural gas step by step. We will reach a maximum capacity of 31 billion cubic metres per year as of 2018.”

On 4 March, Turkish Parliament approved a bill on a deal signed by Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Turkey to launch Nabuco pipeline project.

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Russia to help Vietnam build submarine base

Moscow, 26 March—The Russian Navy will help Vietnam build a submarine base, Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov said on Thursday.

Russia and Vietnam have bright prospects of bilateral military and technical cooperation, he said, as “Vietnam needs a submarine base and the Russian Navy will provide help.”

Vietnam also invited Russia to take part in the construction of a ship repair plant, which may later service Russian warships, said Serdyukov, who recently paid an official visit to Vietnam and held talks with his Vietnamese counterpart Phong Quang Thanh during the trip.

“They (Vietnam) will also need rescue and auxiliary vessels,” he added. He claimed Russia is ready to help Vietnam build naval aviation, as soon as the Vietnamese military solved its financial problems.

According to the Russian Defence Ministry, Vietnam’s arms orders to Russia steadily increased in the past two years. In 2008, the total value of the two countries’ arms contracts exceeded 1 billion US dollars at the first time. The number reached 3.5 billion US dollars in 2009 and has already surpassed 1 billion in the first quarter of this year.

China, Namibia pledge closer ties

Windhoek, 26 March—China and Namibia on Thursday pledged to work more closely to upgrade their relationship and strengthen cooperation in all fields, as they celebrate the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relationship.

The pledge came after talks between China’s top political advisor Jia Qinglin and Chairman of the National Council of Namibia, Mr. Kapere here on Thursday afternoon.

Jia, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the country’s top advisory body, arrived in Windhoek on Thursday for a four-day visit to the southwestern African nation.

UK: Making children interested in science

In the UK, children are being invited into a million pound laboratory at one of the world’s top universities to learn how to build robots, make loud explosions and have fun with science.—Xinhua

Berlin, 26 March—In the UK, children are being invited into a million pound laboratory at one of the world’s top universities to learn how to build robots, make loud explosions and have fun with science.—Xinhua

UK: Must not join any collective security organization, says President

Kiev, 26 March—Ukraine must not join any collective security organization, President Viktor Yanukovych said here on Thursday.

“Ukraine needs to think of other ways of maintaining national security instead of choosing which existing collective security system to join,” Yanukovych said at a ceremony marking the 18th anniversary of the Ukrainian Security Council. “To join any collective security organization could upset the balance of forces inside Ukraine and in Europe,” he said. “As a reliable country, Ukraine will seek other ways to guaranteeing national security and cooperations with the international military organization,” he added. “This is the sole principle that will be applied to all of the existing collective security systems,” the Ukrainian President noted.

But this does not at all mean that Ukraine is distancing itself from efforts to stabilize the situation in Europe, he also said.—Xinhua

EUROZONE leaders endorse standby aid plan for Greece

BRUSSELS, 26 March—Eurozone countries agreed on a bailout plan for debt-hit Greece late Thursday night, combining bilateral loans and money from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a standby aid package for the country.

The eurozone leaders have sent a strong “political signal” by adopting the plan, Herman Van Rompuy, president of the European Council, told a Press conference at the end of the first day of the European Union (EU) spring summit.

Van Rompuy said the bailout plan was not only for Greece, but also for the stability of the European economy and the global financial market.

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso also hailed the plan, saying the eurozone leaders have made “the right decision” and created a “safety net” for Greece.

He said the eurozone leaders have delivered on their promise made at the informal summit in February, at which they pledged to “take determined and coordinated action, if needed, to safeguard financial stability in the euro area as a whole.”

Brazil reports 36 A/H1N1 flu deaths so far this year

RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 March — A total of 36 Brazilians have died from A/H1N1 flu so far this year, the Brazilian Health Ministry reported Thursday.

Last year, the country registered a total of 2,051 deaths from the flu.

Brazil started in early March a nationwide vaccination campaign against A/H1N1 flu, which killed thousands of people all over the world in 2009.

According to the Health Ministry, over 3.8 million citizens have already been vaccinated against the disease.

All Items from Xinhua News Agency
Not to leave an evil legacy behind (1)

A Lawman

Now, Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law, Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law, Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law, and related rules have been promulgated for the multiparty democracy general election due to be held in 2010. Those laws and rules are attracting a widespread criticism.

In fact, in a nation, a hluttaw (parliament) is the main body to make important decisions. Every country has their central hluttaws and state level hluttaws. Hluttaws are the organs of highest authority, to which every country and every citizen have to give special consideration. So, laws and rules on hluttaws are written and promulgated in a systematic way in line with the objective conditions for long-term interest of the nation and the people. The laws on elections and hluttaws in Myanmar meet international norms.

Article 443 of the State Constitution (2008) says, "The preparatory work done by the State Peace and Development Council, before this Constitution comes into operation, to bring the Constitution into operation, shall be deemed to have been carried out in accordance with this Constitution." According to this article, power has been bestowed upon the State Peace and Development Council to take measures as necessary to hold multiparty democracy general elections in accordance with the constitution before this Constitution comes into operation. The State Peace and Development Council is a legal government and it has won the recognition of the global community including the United Nations. Therefore, the government's promulgation of the laws and rules on elections and hluttaws wielding the power bestowed in accordance with Article (443) conforms with both internal laws and international norms.

So, the preamble of Union Election Committee Law says, "The State Peace and Development Council hereby promulgates the following law in accordance with Article (443) of the State Constitution of the Union of Myanmar to form a Union Election Commission to supervise the exercise of election and standing for election to hluttaws, as well as political parties."

Article 405 (c) of Chapter (X) "Political Parties" of the State Constitution says, "A political party shall form and register as a political party in accord with the law." Therefore, every political party that honours the constitution shall form and register in accordance with the promulgated laws.

Article 8 (k) of Chapter (III) "Duties and Rights" of Union Election Commission Law says, "To supervise, make political parties supervise and guide the rules to make sure that political parties act in accordance with the law" in order to entrust duties and rights upon the commission. That is designed to conform with the law, not to unfairly restrict the political parties. In every country, an election commission has to supervise the activities of the political parties that will stand for election. Similarly, duties and rights are bestowed on the commission to take action as necessary if political parties breach provisions of the law. In Indonesia, for instance, duties are entrusted not only to the election commission but also to the ministry of legal affairs and the ministry of home affairs to supervise activities of the political parties.

In fact, democracy is a practice of self-discipline, sense of duty, and freedom in combination, not the right to act at will and indiscriminately. In other words, it is an exercise to seriously honour the promulgated laws. Therefore, in conformity with international norms, duties and rights are bestowed on the election commission to make sure that political parties act in a democratic way, and honour promulgated laws. The duties and rights bestowed on the commission in accordance with Article (8) of the Union Election Commission are intended to practise democratic principles systematically without any adverse effects on democracy.

Article (14) of the Commission Law says, "The Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission Law (Law 1/88 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council) is prorogued with this law." In this regard, the old election commission law is no longer needed because a new Union Election Commission Law has been enacted for successful completion of the elections in accordance with the power bestowed according to Article (443) of the State Constitution (2008). Therefore, the Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission promulgated according to State Law and Order Restoration Council Law 1/88 was revoked. In like manner, Article (90) (a) of Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law says, "Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law (State Law and Order Restoration Council Law 1/89) is revoked with this law." So, the government's revocation of old laws was just a routine to carry out a compulsory task.

Here, I would like to extract important points of the Political Parties Registration Law. Article 4 (e) of the law states those wishing to set up a political party shall not be a convict. Article 10 (e) also states convicts shall not be organized as party members. Article 10 (a) of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law states those servicing prison terms shall have no right to be elected. Actually, these provisions are for the long-term interest of the nation and the people. Because political parties are organizations formed with the resolve to serve the interest of the nation and the people. Hluttaws are the highest organizations to lead the nation or a Region or a State. So, the best thing is to form these organizations with respectable, able and noble persons. Inclusion of convicts, corrupt persons and dishonest persons may lead to eruption of problems in the whole organization.

In this regard, international laws and election laws stipulate restrictions as regard the participation of corrupt persons, persons who will disturb to the State, persons under foreign influence, persons who are serving prison terms or completed their terms in parties and parliaments. Some countries even fix a period of five- or six-year restriction beginning from the date an inmate is released from prison. Inclusion of restrictions in connection with persons serving jail terms in election laws is in accord with the international norms and not an unlawful or bias act.

The Article 23 of the Political Parties Registration Law states that the Commission shall supervise the parties in accord with laws, rules, regulations, notifications, orders and instructions and shall assign the said duties

(A See page 7)
Not to leave...

(from page 6)

to commissions at different levels to supervise on its behalf. The Article 24 (b) states that if a member of a party files a complaint to the Commission matters relating to intra party affairs, the Commission shall make an inquiry into the matter and if necessary shall give instructions to be followed by the said party for a specific period. Hence, the provisions are in accord with the international norms and not an extreme interference in the rights of a political party.

Election laws of all countries have their own reasonable restrictions, supervisions and directives. A government has to enact laws in the long-term interest of its own nation and people. More or less there can be some advantages or disadvantages for every party in a provision or provisions as these laws are not meant for any single party, but for all in an equal manner. Even if a party does not agree with a certain provision there is nothing to blame on the law. The parties should carry out organization campaigns in accord with the laws. If there is any complaint about the failure to observe the said laws, the party concerned must accept the inquiry and supervision made by the Commission. The law will be helpful to the party if it accepts the inquiry and supervision.

Now, I will discuss the important points of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law. The Article 11 (d) of the law states that if an elected MP is sentenced to imprisonment under a certain law the person shall have no right to continue as MP anymore. The same applies to Amyotha Hluttaw and Region or State Hluttaw. This practice is also in accord with the international norms. The election laws of most of the countries never permit persons who have served prison terms as an MP anymore.

The Representation of the People Act 1981 of Britain states that a person sentenced to imprisonment or detention in Britain or any other place has no right to run in an election for a member of House of Commons and if the said person is an elected member of the House his seat shall be vacant for he is disqualified. Likewise, the Representation of the People Act 1951 of India also states that a person shall be disqualified to run as an MP if he is convicted for a crime; that he shall be barred from standing in election for up to six years from the date he is fined for his crime or six years from the date he is released from prison for committing a crime. Pakistan, Thailand and Indonesia also have laws stating that convicts are disqualified from standing for MP post.

(Translation: MS+TMT)
Honouring the 65th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Army soldiers helping cyclone victims.

Naval men carrying relief aid for cyclone-ravaged regions.

Airmen work day in, day out to provide assistance to cyclone-hit regions.

Medical corps providing health care to cyclone victims.

Cyclone Shelter in Kyonda village of Dedaye.
1. Construction of 10 road networks
   - Mawlamyinegyun Road - 43/5 miles
   - Maubin-Yelekalay-Shwetaunghmaw-Kyaikpi-Mawlamyinegyun Road - 499/7 miles
   - Mawlamyinegyun-Hlinebone-Thitpoke-Kwinpauk-Pyinsalu Road - 69/3 miles
   - Labutta-Thingangyi-Pyinsalu Road - 35/2 miles
   - Labutta-Thonggwa-Ottwin-Hteinswon Road - 39/0 miles
   - Bogale-Kyeinchaung-Kadonkani Road - 41/2 miles
   - Bogale-Sethsan-Hawpaing-Ama Road - 38/5 miles
   - Pyapon-Kyonkadon-Daw Nyein-Ama Road - 51/5 miles
   - Kyonkadon-Sethsan Road - 19/1 miles
   - Pathein-Thaletkwa-Mawtinswon Road - 96/0 miles
   - Bogale-Mawlamyinegyun-Wakhema-Myaungmya Road - 66/0 miles

2. Maintenance of saltwater preventing dam
   - 34 dams
     (a) 14 maintained dams in Labutta District
        - Alalgyun (1, 2 and 3), Makyipin Madaukan, Thingangyi, Leikkwin, Zinshwal, Labutta (North and South), Briut sections (1, 2, 3 and 4) and U Guangpo
     (b) 20 maintained dams in Pyapon District
        - Myogon, Daw Nyein, Dedalu, Letpanpin, Zinbuang, Tamakataw, Sukalat, Kyonot, Hleseik, Thandi, Mya Sein Kan, Daunggyi (East, West and Up), Kyetphamwezaung, Banbwesugon, Thonkwagyun and Maubin (North and South)

3. Construction of cyclone shelters
   - 34 buildings
     (a) 19 cyclone shelters constructed by the State
        - Pyinkhayine, Chaungwa, Ohnchaung, Kwintyi, Nalinkyaw, Zinywelay, Poelaung, Saluseik, Piysalu (Land 2), Thitpoke, Ama, Daw Nyein, Ayeeya, Kadonkani, Daminweik, Kyonda, Thaukkya and Toeywa
     (b) 15 cyclone shelters constructed by wellwishers
        - Ottwin, Makyichai, Thayachau, Thabyengau, Suseik, Phokalagon, Pyaythaya, Aungkhaing, Thaunglay, Ouaypynwa, Kyinechau, Taungthale, Padekaw, Pechuang, Thagayahinwe and Akalchaungwah

4. Completed Basic Education School
   - 222
     (a) Mawlamyinegyun
        - 1 BEHS, 1 BEMS and 40 BEPS - 42
     (b) Labutta
        - 8 BEHS, 6 BEMS and 114 BEPS - 128
     (c) Dedaye
        - 1 BEHS and 1 BEMS - 2
     (d) Bogale
        - 1 BEHS, 2 BEMS, 47 BEPS - 50

5. Construction of fair price housing
   - 17579
     (a) Bogale Township - 701
     (b) Dedaye Township - 390
     (c) Labutta Township - 4890
     (d) Hainggyi Township - 734
     (e) Mawlamyinegyun Township - 1914
     (f) Pyapon Township - 8950

6. Reclamation of salt farms conducted by Ministry of Mines (813 salt kilns)
   - 30,771.22 acres
     (a) Labutta Township - 27895.82 acres
     (b) Pyapon Township - 2875.40 acres

7. Supplying motorboat township-wise
   - 9569
     (a) Ngapudaw - 1398
     (b) Labutta - 4951
     (c) Mawlamyinegyun - 677
     (d) Pyapon - 388
     (e) Bogale - 1034
     (f) Dedaye - 955
     (g) Kyaiklat - 20
     (h) Maubin - 146

8. Supplying fishing net
   - 970
     (a) Ngapudaw - 102
     (b) Labutta - 50
     (c) Mawlamyinegyun - 143
     (d) Pyapon - 187
     (e) Bogale - 309
     (f) Dedaye - 179

9. Supplying other fishing net
   - 23629
Russian tycoon buys two ailing British national newspapers for just one pound

LONDON, 26 March—A Russian tycoon has bought two British national newspapers and a website—for just one pound (about 1.49 US dollars), it was announced on Thursday.

Billionaire Alexander Lebedev bought “The Independent,” its sister title “The Independent on Sunday” and their associated website for less than it would cost to buy copies of the two papers.

Both newspapers, currently owned by Independent News and Media (INM), made a loss of 12.4 million pounds (about 18 million dollars) over 2009.

Lebedev is likely to become owner in May, possibly after the probable date of the general election on 6 May.

As part of the transaction, INM, an Irish company, will pay new owner Independent Print Limited (IPL) 9.25 million pounds (about 13.5 million dollars) to fund IPL assuming all future trading obligations. Existing staff will transfer to IPL.

Gavin O’Reilly, group chief executive officer of INM, said: “This is a most satisfactory and positive outcome for the titles, their staff and for shareholders.”—Internet

Up to a third of breast cancers could be avoided

BARCELONA, 26 March—Up to a third of breast cancer cases in Western countries could be avoided if women ate less and exercised more, researchers at a conference said on Thursday, renewing a sensitive debate about how lifestyle factors affect the disease.

Better treatments, early diagnosis and mammogram screenings have dramatically slowed breast cancer, but experts said the focus should now shift to changing behaviours like diet and physical activity.

“What can be achieved with screening has been achieved. We can’t do much more,” Carlo La Vecchia, head of epidemiology at the University of Milan, said in an interview. “It’s time to move on to other things.”

La Vecchia spoke on Thursday at a European breast cancer conference in Barcelona. He cited figures from the International Agency for Research on Cancer, which estimates that 25 to 30 percent of breast cancer cases could be avoided if women were thinner and exercised more. The agency is part of the World Health Organization.

His comments are in line with recent health advice that lifestyle changes in areas such as smoking, diet, exercise and sun exposure can play a significant role in risk for several cancers.—Internet

New search starting for Air France black boxes

RECIFE, 26 March—The lead investigator of last year’s Air France jetliner crash that killed 228 people off the coast of Brazil said on Thursday he hopes a third search for debris and flight and data recorders will be successful and help authorities determine what happened.

The 30-day operation, to begin next week after search ships sail for the mid-Atlantic on Sunday, will scour an area of seabed only one-tenth that combed in the two previous attempts, Jean-Paul Troaude, chief of the BEA French investigation agency, said at a news conference in northeastern Brazil.

The smaller area was the result of a collaborative effort by scientists, including from the US-based Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, to reconfigure the trajectory of the Airbus 320’s debris and the time the wreckage was found, giving investigators a better idea of where to look, Troaude said.

“We think we have a good chance of finding the wreckage,” he said.

Officials say that locating the flight data and voice recorders is crucial, since the 1,000 pieces of wreckage already recovered have provided no concrete information as to what caused the jet to crash on June 1, killing everyone aboard. The devices contain recordings of cockpit conversations and various data readings from the aircraft.—Internet

EU, US move to allow foreign ownership of airlines

BELFAST, 26 March—The European Union and the United States on Thursday took “a major step forward” in aviation liberalisation, paving the way for foreign ownership of their airlines after lengthy talks, Brussels said. However the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said the results of the deal were disappointing as they did not go far enough on the sensitive issue of EU and US airlines owning controlling stakes in each other. Under the draft deal to move towards EU-US “open skies” in the airline industry, European airlines would be able to take majority stakes in US companies, and eventually, US firms would be able to reciprocate.

But the accord calls for legislative changes both in European nations and the United States, and needs to be signed off by the US Congress, an uncertain and lengthy prospect.—Internet

Draught causes thousands of wildfires in Cuba

Havana, 26 March—A thousand forest fires burnt through Cuba in the first quarter of 2010 alone, Lt Col Sergio Zubizarreta, deputy chief of the Cuban fire department, said on Wednesday.

Zubizarreta said the fires were mainly caused by draught in the dry season which usually runs from February to May.

Besides, reckless pasture burning, driving cars without spark arrestors and large amount of combustible materials and fallen trees amassed after hurricanes in 2008 were also causes of wildfires.

Areas at high risk of being affected by fires are the eastern provinces of Las Tunas and Camaguey, the western province of Pinar del Rio and the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud.

According to officials of the Cuban national forest ranger corps, some 437 fires were reported from January to May 2009, some 80 percent of which were caused by negligent behaviours.

The fire department has pledged to improve the fire emergency and rescue system at a time the country is developing a risk reduction mechanism.—Xinhua

Small plane makes emergency landing on Californian freeway

LOS ANGELES, 26 March—A small plane made an emergency landing on a freeway in Pomona, California, on Wednesday night. No injuries or destruction of property were reported.

The single-engine Citabria airplane landed at 7:01 pm on the north-bound Orange (57) Freeway and the pilot, who identified himself as John Findley of Upland, got help from a good Samaritan motorist who alerted other drivers to make room for the descending aircraft.

There’s only one person in the plane.

The plane was flying to Cable Airport in Upland when the pilot reported engine trouble to air traffic controllers after the the airplane took off from Long Beach, according to authorities. The pilot then began zigzagging across freeway lanes to stop traffic and make room for the airplane. A driver swerved to try and stop traffic for the pilot, enabling him to land the plane.

The incident caused brief closure of two lanes.

Internet

A visitor checks his mobile phone in front of posters brief closure of two lanes.
Medical helicopter crashes in Tenn; three crew killed

BROWNSVILLE, 26 March — A medical helicopter crashed in stormy weather over western Tennessee early on Thursday, killing its crew of three, around the same time another helicopter company had declined to go on a flight in the area because of the weather conditions.

No patients were on board the helicopter operated by Hospital Wing when it crashed in a field about 55 miles northeast of Memphis around 6 am, authorities said. Haywood County Sheriff Melvin Bond said nearby factory workers reported seeing a large burst of lightning, followed by an orange glow in the area of the crash.

He said the helicopter crew was communicating with its base when radio contact was lost. The pilot had given no indication of a problem, he said.

Chinese, US officials vow to promote healthy bilateral economic, trade ties

WASHINGTON, 26 March — Senior Chinese and US officials have vowed to promote healthy economic and trade relations between two countries, saying the ties are the basis of steady development of the bilateral trade relations between two countries, saying the ties are the basis of steady development of the bilateral trade relations between two countries.

Washington Special Trade and Economic Affairs Office Director Wang Shangguan said that economic and trade relations are in line with the fundamental interests of both sides.

Plastic bottle boat Plastiki departs San Francisco with pollution message

A view of the hull of the Plastiki, a 60-foot catamaran made mostly from recycled plastic in San Francisco Bay.

A sail boat made from more than 12,000 used plastic bottles has set out on a daring voyage across the Pacific to highlight the problem of ocean pollution.

The 18m (60ft) vessel Plastiki left San Francisco in the US on Saturday, bound for Sydney, Australia, 20,400km (12,600 miles) away.

It is being sailed by banking heir Tim Flannery as back-up. The route from California to Australia will take the boat past the US state of Hawaii and the nearby Line Islands.

The ship’s voyage can be followed via a special website at www.theplastiki.com.

Lebanon’s archaeological sites a pillager’s paradise

For three decades Abu Nayef has been digging for treasure from Lebanon’s rich archaeological past, but instead of museums his finds end up in the hands of unscrupulous traders around the globe.

In the eastern town of Baalbeck, home to some of the world’s most beautiful Roman temples, scavengers like Abu Nayef have made careers of unearthing ancient treasure for sale to the highest bidder.

“I know that these are historical artifacts, but much of the time I don’t know their exact value,” Abu Nayef admitted to AFP in his garden in Baalbeck.

“Sometimes we even move from one piece of land to another through tunnels, if we think we can find new vestiges,” he added.

But Abu Nayef, who requested his real name be concealed, says he does not believe he is doing anything wrong.

“I have a wife and six children to support, and I do so through this business,” he explained.

He is not alone in an underground profession where centuries-old gold coins and sarcophagi containing rings, earrings, bracelets, and clay lamps can be prize finds.

The artifacts often wind up in the homes and gardens of Lebanese politicians and civilians and even in private collections on other continents.

Green economy could save planet

The planet is overheated, under-resourced, and almost out of time, but technical innovation and green economics could still save the day, experts and leaders told an international conference here.

Video-linked panels from Beijing, London, Mexico City, Monaco, Nainobi and New Delhi painted an alarming picture of environmental degradation and mass poverty at on Thursday’s conference in New York.

They called on the United States and other rich countries to show leadership, for example by investing in carbon capture technology and other long-term methods of reducing greenhouse gasses.

But developing countries, where pollution is growing rapidly, can also play a big role while also lifting their populations from poverty, they said.
Laptop, TV sales help juice Best Buy’s 4Q profit

In this file photo made on 13 Nov. 2009, a display of flat screen TVs is shown on the opening day of a Best Buy store in New York. — Internet

New York, 26 March—Even in a weak economy, Americans increasingly feel that gadgets such as smart phones aren’t luxuries but necessities. The shift has helped electronics sales weather the recession better than some other categories and helped Best Buy post a strong fourth-quarter profit Thursday on a steep sales increase fueled by flat-panel TVs, notebook computers and wireless gadgets.

Best Buy’s profit rose 37 percent, and its revenue grew 12 percent to $16.55 billion. It also projected a stronger-than-expected 2010.

Even though consumers faced tough challenges in 2009 such as the housing slump, job fears and personal debt, CEO Brian Dunn said on a call with investors, they often cut back elsewhere rather than electronics.

He said unit sales of TVs, notebook computers and cell phones increased enough during the quarter to offset significant declines in prices for some of the items.

That mirrors the industry. Americans bought 34 percent more notebook computers and 22 percent more flat-panel TVs in 2009 compared with 2008, according to market research firm NPD Group Inc. — Internet

Indonesian zoo welcomes birth of 25 Komodo dragons

Jakarta, 26 March—An Indonesian zoo is welcoming the births of 25 endangered Komodo dragons, hatched after eight months in incubators.

Veterinarian Rahmat Suharta says the eggs, from three giant female lizards, hatched at the Surabaya Zoo in East Java over the past week.

He said on Thursday that the babies, weighing between 2.8 ounces (80 grammes) and 4.2 ounces (120 grammes), brought to 69 the number of the fabled lizards at the zoo, one of the largest in Southeast Asia. Eleven more eggs are expected to hatch in coming weeks.

Komodo dragons can be found in the wild primarily on the eastern Indonesian islands of Komodo, Padar and Rinca. The lizards — thought to number around 2,500 — can grow longer than 10 feet (3 metres) and weigh 150 pounds (70 kilogrammes). — Internet

Drive with care

Total, Qatar sign agreement to develop oil in Africa

Paris, 26 March—French energy giant Total announced on Thursday here that it has signed an agreement with Qatar to jointly develop oil in West Africa.

The agreement established a partnership between the French company and the Middle East country on energy investment in Africa, Total Chief Executive Christophe de Margerie said at a forum.

This was the first time Total cooperated with a Middle East country to invest abroad, Margerie said, but didn’t detail any specific project on agenda.

He said Qatar aims to diversify its oil industry by this cooperation and the agreement was based on their long relationship. — Xinhua
Adaptation to climate change, low-carbon growth crucial to UN MDGs, says UN chief

NEW YORK, 26 March — Adaptation to climate change and low-carbon growth are crucial towards the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Thursday as he stressed to the international community to deliver on their commitments.

“We live in a rapidly changing world and we live in an ever more inter-connected world,” Ban said in his remarks to a Columbia University conference of the State of the Planet 2010: Connecting Voices Globally to Meet the Challenges of Climate Change, Poverty and Economic Recovery.

Addressing the world’s most influential and innovative thinkers from academia, government, policy, media and business spheres, Ban stressed green growth as the path to meeting the climate challenge.

“It can help us to lay the foundation for lasting and widespread economic recovery,” Ban said.

Highlighting the multitude of global crises, Ban cited the financial crisis where it “showed a growing awareness that in today’s world we sink or swim together.”

On climate change, he called on the international community “to keep the momentum” and help countries deliver on the Copenhagen commitments towards the road of reaching an ambitious climate change agreement.

He referenced his latest report titled “Keeping the Promise” for September’s high-level plenary meeting on the MDGs, which reviews past successes, best practices and lessons learned in order to accelerate progress.

Top Mexican heroin trafficking suspect arrested

MEXICO CITY, 26 March — Mexican police have arrested Jose Antonio Medina Reguin, also known as “Don Pepe,” on charges of smuggling massive amounts of heroin into the United States, broadcasters reported on Thursday.

Medina, also nick-named “the King of Heroin,” was reportedly in an eastern Mexico City remand centre guarded by heavily-armed plain-clothes officers.

Federal police officer Ramon Pequeno Garcia, head of the Federal Police’s third section, told media that Medina was suspected of having trafficked 200 kilograms of heroin every month, earning 12 million dollars by doing so.

The arrest was a result of “the investigation work carried out by the federal police,” Pequeno said.

Pequeno told media that Medina, 33, operated without the support of a major cartel, allegedly shipping the drugs into the United States in secret compartments vehicles which he used to cross the border.

He allegedly shared some of his logistics with La Familia, a cartel based in the western Mexico state of Michoacan.

Mexico has begun procedures needed to extradite Medina to the United States, where he is believed to be the single largest heroin smuggler.

Mexican federal police present Jose Antonio Medina Arreguin known as “the heroin king” in a news conference at the federal police centre in Mexico City on 25 March, 2010. — XINHUA

Three Phoenix motorcycle riders killed in truck crash

PHOENIX, 26 March — A group of eight motorcycles stopped at a red light in north Phoenix were mowed down behind by a dump truck early Thursday afternoon, killing three riders and injuring six others, at least one critically, authorities said.

The most seriously injured was off-duty Phoenix Fire Capt. Ernie Lizarraga, a 22-year department veteran who was hospitalized in very critical condition Thursday evening, authorities said.

Phoenix police spokesman Detective James Holmes said the fire captain and the other motorcyclists were stopped behind a pickup and a small SUV at the red light when the truck driver rammed them from behind. The truck ran over the motorcyclists and continued into the small SUV in front of them, Holmes said.

There was no sign the truck driver was impaired, authorities said. — Internet

Indian Customs seizes 1,250 tons of toxic wheat from Australia

NEW DELHI, 26 March — The Indian Customs has seized 1, 250 tons of “toxic” wheat imported from Australia at the port in the southern state of Tamil Nadu’s capital Chennai, local daily The Times of India said on Thursday.

The consignment, contained in 50 containers, was found to contain more than permissible levels of pesticide chlorpyrifos, said the report, claiming that three clearing agents were arrested on charges of attempting to get clearance for the consignment using fake documents.

“This is the first time that such a huge quantity of imported food grain has been found to have excessive pesticide content. The consignment will not be cleared for import. It will have to be sent back to Australia,” Customs commissioner C. Rajan was quoted as saying.

Customs officials took samples of the wheat as soon as the consignment arrived 10 days ago from Melbourne and sent it to the Central Food Technology Research Institute, Mysore in southern India.

Indian government officials said the seizure was at a main centre for Taleban fighters bent on overthrowing the state.

Local government official Samiullah Orakzai said the fighting occurred after dawn Friday when militants attacked a checkpoint. He said at least 27 militants died. But an army statement said 21 militants were killed, and the clashes occurred when security forces were trying to recap-ture a checkpoint taken Thursday night by militants in the Kalaya area of Orakzai. The two accounts could not immediately be reconciled. Access to the remote, dangerous region is heavily restricted, making it nearly impossible to verify the accounts independently.

On Thursday, jet fire rained down in the Mumuzai area of Orakzai, targeting a religious seminary, a mosque and a school, local official Samiullah Orakzai said.

Two intelligence officials said the seminary was a main centre for Taleebighi Jamaat, a non-violent Islamic missionary group. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters.

Five Pakistani soldiers, 21 alleged militants killed

PARACHINAR, 26 March — Five Pakistani soldiers and at least 21 suspected militants were killed in clashes in a region near the Afghan border where the military is pursuing Taleban militants fleecing a US backed offensive, authorities said on Friday.

The reports came a day after officials said 61 suspected militants died in airstrikes in the same region, Orakzai, and underscored the challenge facing Pakistan as it tries to wipe out Pakistani Taleban fighters bent on overthrowing the state.

People register for touring parties at the Guanzhoun international tourism exhibition in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province, on 25 March, 2010. 2010 Guangzhou international tourism exhibition kicked off on Thursday.— XINHUA

Thai Airways flight makes emergency landing in eastern Indian city

KOLKATA, 26 March — A Thai Airways flight to Bangkok made an emergency landing at Kolkata international airport here on Thursday, following what is suspected to be fuel leakage, sources said.

“The plane, TG-318, with 248 passengers on board, made the emergency landing after the technical snag was detected. All passengers were off-loaded before the aircraft was taken to an isolated bay for repair work. The flight was coming from Mumbai when it sought the permission from the air traffic controllers to land,” the sources said.

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Takashi becomes 1st Japanese male figure skater to win worlds

He was also the first Asian men’s figure skater to take the victory at the 100-year-old world-class competition.

‘Four years ago, I got difficult time here,’ said Takashi, reminding his eighth finish at the Turin Olympic Games. “Today, I performed my best here. I’m so happy. I enjoyed a lot.”

Takashi, 24, led the men’s competitions after Wednesday’s short program and completed a flawless free skating as the last competitor on Thursday, winning the gold medal with an overall score of 257.70 points.

“I enjoyed the competition a lot. The audience helped me and I didn’t make any mistake. It’s very good,” said the 24-year-old.

Daisuke Takahashi

Napoli pile on misery for Juve, boost Champions League hopes

They also condemned Juve to an 11th Serie A defeat of the season and hit the Turin giants’ own hopes of a top four finish.

Goals from Marek Hamšík, Fabio Quagliarella and Ezequiel Lavezzi rendered Giorgio Chiellini’s early opener meaningless.

Napoli dominated the game, particularly after the break and could easily have won by more goals.

But the victory, their second over Juve this season, was enough to move them up to sixth, ahead of Alberto Zaccheroni’s team on head-to-head records and within three points of four-placed Palermo. Quagliarella believes they can close that gap.

International

Ronaldo, Higuain fire Real back to top of Spanish league

Ronaldo opened the scoring in the 13th minute, curling in a superb free-kick from close range before Argentine striker Higuain marked a century of games with a double inside three minutes to take his season’s tally to 22.

Portuguese star Ronaldo grabbed his second, and 17th of the season, on 37 minutes to make it 4-0 before Real old boy Daniel Parejo pulled a goal back for the hosts in a goal-packed first period.

The Coliseum had been a difficult venue for Real over the years, losing 3-1 there last season.

But there was no chance of a repeat horror show when Real surged into a four-goal first half lead. “It was a good result at a ground that had not been good to us in the past and we are now back at the top,” said Real coach Manuel Pellegrini.

Former Spain coach Luis Aragones

Aragones rejects Sevilla offer

Thursday. It said an assistant to Jimenez, Antonio Alvarez, will take charge of the team for Sunday’s match at Villareal.

Sevilla fired Jimenez on Tuesday following a string of poor results.

Aragones met with Sevilla chairman Jose Maria del Nido for three hours on Wednesday to discuss whether he might take the job. But Sevilla said there was “no agreement.”

International

Mourinho to continue self-imposed silence

Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho

Mourinho will continue to boycott pre-match press conferences ahead of this weekend’s crunch clash with AS Roma, his team said Thursday.

Mourinho has skipped his press appointments before and after matches for the last five Serie A encounters since he was hit with a three-game touchline ban for making a handclaps gesture to television cameras.

The former Chelsea boss made the sign during his team’s 0-0 draw at home to Sampdoria last month, after Inter had been reduced to nine men before the break.

The Portuguese’s only public comments have come before and after Champions League matches. Mourinho has been vilified in the Italian press this season and a relationship of mutual animosity has developed between him and the media corps.

International

Svetlana Kuznetsova

Kuznetsova talks herself out of trouble in Miami win

Double grand slam winner Kuznetsova admitted she badly needed a chat — in her native Russian — as Peng pulled out the second set after dropping the first.

It eventually took a solid effort from the top seed to move through to the third round.

“When you get frustrated you get very mad and sometimes you don’t have to let yourself get mad. I think I gave her chance to play well,” said the 2006 Miami winner.

Kuznetsova’s harsh advice to herself appeared to work in the end.

“The first set was very easy, and I just get frustrated a little bit. I stopped moving my feet in the second set and just lost one game and everything went wrong.”

International

Elaine Thompson

Min’s 66 good for lead at La Costa

Carlsbad, 26 March—The first LPGA Tour event of the year on US soil opened with a decidedly South Korean feel.

Na On Min shot a bogey-free 6-under 66 on Thursday to take a one-shot lead after the first round of the inaugural Kia Classic at La Costa.

Teeing off in the morning before the wind picked up, she led three other South Koreans atop the leaderboard. Na Yeon Choi was one stroke back while Seon Hwa Lee and Inbee Park were two back, tied with Catriona Matthew of Scotland.
**After Growth Spurt, Supermassive Black Holes Spend Half Their Lives Veiled in Dust**

**ScienceDaily, 26 March** — Supermassive black holes found at the centers of distant galaxies undergo huge growth spurts as a result of galactic collisions, according to a new study by astronomers at Yale University and the University of Hawaii.

Their findings appear in the March 25 edition of *Science Express.*

As massive, gas-rich galaxies in the distant universe collide, the central black hole feeds on gas that is funneled to the center of the merger. “As a result of the violent, messy collision, the black hole also remains obscured behind a ‘veil’ of dust for between 10 million and 100 million years,” said Priyamvada Natarajan, professor of astronomy at Yale and one of the paper’s authors. After that time the dust is blown away to reveal a brightly shining quasar — the central region of a galaxy with an extremely energetic, supermassive black hole at its center — that lasts for another 100 million years, the team found.

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**WEATHER**

**Friday, 26th March, 2010**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, light rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin, Mon States, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (7°C) above March average temperatures in Kachin State, (5°C) to (6°C) above March average temperatures in Shan, Chin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Tanintharyi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine States, lower Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Myingyan, Chauk and Magway (4°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Putao (0.12 inch) and Machtanbwe (0.08 inch).

Maximum temperature on 25-3-2010 was 102°F. Minimum temperature on 26-3-2010 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 26-3-2010 was 67%. Total sun shine hours on 25-3-2010 was (6.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 26-3-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (1.001) inches approx. Rainfall on 26-3-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southwest at (21:30 hours) MST on 25-3-2010.

**Bay inference:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 27th March 2010:**

Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin, Chin, Shan, Mon States, upper Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the Rakhine State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**State of the sea:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Likelihood of continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 27-3-2010:** Generally fair weather.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-3-2010:** Generally fair weather.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-3-2010:** Partly cloudy weather outlook for last weekend of March 2010: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HONOUR 65TH ANNIVERSARY ARMED FORCES DAY

Supplement
Four supplementary colour pages honouring the 65th Anniversary Armed Forces Day are inserted in today’s issue of The New Light of Myanmar daily.

Development of Cyclone-hit Ayeyawady Division