As a nation it is our firm belief that only an inclusive democratic society based on equality for all citizens will ensure peace and stability, especially in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-faith country such as ours.

My fellow citizens,

I would like to take this opportunity to explain to you the circumstances giving rise to the recent violence in Meiktila and the attempts by a small number of people to spread this violence to other parts of the country. I am deeply saddened to find out that a simple private dispute led to such deadly violence and those instigators, taking advantages of the disingenuousness of the public, attempted to exploit the situation to engineer violence in other parts of the country. I would like to reflect my government’s position on what has happened.

In general, I do not endorse the use of force to solve problems. However, I will not hesitate to use force as a last resort to protect the lives and safeguard the property of general public. The police forces whose prime responsibility is the implementation of rule of law must perform their duties decisively, bravely and within the constraints of the constitution and by-laws.

Individual freedom, which we consider to be a fundamental ingredient of democracy, can only mean freedom that does not infringe on the civil liberties of others. Our Constitution guarantees the right of all citizens to worship freely any religion they choose. I would like to warn all political opportunists and religious extremists who try to exploit the noble teachings of these religions and have tried to plant hatred among people of different faiths for their own self-interest: their efforts will not be tolerated. We will take all necessary and effective action to stop their operations in accordance with our Constitution and our existing laws. All perpetrators of violence will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

We must expect these conflicts and difficulties to arise during our period of democratic transition. With a united effort, we must face and overcome these challenges together. As we rebuild our society, we must rise above decades of historical bitterness, confrontational approaches, and a zero-sum attitude in solving our differences. I want to call on all citizens to rise above the old ways of doing things and bring together our diverse backgrounds and chart a path towards a new kind of society, based on mutual respect, democratic deliberation and consensus-building, to solve the challenges we face and will continue to face during our historic transition.

We have already seen the beginning of a different approach following the violence in Meiktila. To rebuild mutual understanding and trust in the community, we have worked to bring together civil society, leadership from various religious communities and assistance from international organizations, and encouraged responsible reporting from the media. In addition, the Tatmadaw has also played a pivotal role in safeguarding property and assisting victims.

I am proud to see a concerted effort from civil society organizations, leaders of communities, government agencies and security forces to prevent the spread of conflict to other cities and towns. This indicates that citizens from different ethnic and religious groups are working together to create a peaceful society based on democratic norms and a proud nation that is based on mutual respect and understanding.

We did not resort to the use of force immediately mainly because we do not want to risk any possible endangerment of our ongoing democratic transition and reform efforts. That said, I am firmly committed to using the power vested in me by the Constitution to deploy our security forces and to use existing laws to prevent and protect the life, liberty and security of my fellow citizens. My fellow citizens, I want to urge you to cooperate with each other on the basis of compassion, tolerance, open-mindedness, and empathy.

As a nation it is our firm belief that only an inclusive democratic society based on equality for all citizens will ensure peace and stability, especially in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-faith country such as ours. Despite our differences, we must find a common ground to coexist peacefully while upholding our democratic ideals. It is my firm belief that we will be able to overcome both our immediate and future challenges if we can embrace our differences and stand united in face of adversity as one people. We must see our diversity not as a problem to be managed but as a fundamental strength of our nation. In short, we must find strength and take pride in diversity.

I would like to make a commitment to the people of Myanmar. In this time of change towards an open society, my government will share information in a truthful and transparent manner. I would also like to request a commitment from you in return. As citizens of this country, we must also distinguish fact from fiction and overcome the dangers posed by rumors in a wise and open-minded manner. If we can keep our commitments, we can overcome these challenges while building a harmonious society that safeguards human dignity.

President U Thein Sein accepts Credentials of SRV Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Mr Pham Thanh Dung, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung and Director-General U Than Zin of the Protocol Department.

President U Thein Sein and party pose for documentary photo together with newly-accredited Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Pham Thanh Dung.—MNA
New Light of Myanmar

LOCAL NEWS

Fire-fighting foam for oil fire handed over in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 28 March — A ceremony to hand over containers of fire-fighting foam to auxiliary fire brigade stations in Mandalay district took place at Ayeyawady fuel oil trading centre at the corner of 33rd and 85th streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region on 26 March. The fire-fighting foam can be used in extinguishing oil fire. The ceremony was attended by chairman of supervisory committee for Mandalay district auxiliary fire brigade U Bo Min, Secretary U Win Sein and in-charges of seven stations, and manager U Kyaw Kyaw and staff of the trading.

First, the chairman spoke words of thanks. Next, the manager handed over 40 gallons of fire-fighting foam to seven auxiliary fire brigade stations in east and west Aung Nann, east and west Thiri Haymar, east Daewun and east Thiri Marlar and west Yandanaiboma through responsible persons.

14-hour long traffic crawl in neighbourhood of Bayintnaung brokerage

YANGON, 28 March — Traffic slowed to a crawl from 9 am to 11 pm on 25 March in the neighbourhood of Bayintnaung brokerage and truck yard. Due to the 14-hour-long traffic congestion, there had also been a gridlock at Thiri Mon Plaza compound which is situated on the other side of the brokerage and Bayintnaung road.

Fireplace embers cause fire in Kengtung Township

KENGTUNG, 28 March — A fire broke out due to fireplace embers fanned by a wind under the scorching heat at Kaungkan Akhkar village in Kengtung Township at about 10.30 am on 25 March.

When the fire accident happened, only villagers and students put out the fire in cooperation with those from nearby villages as fire engines could not reach the hilly village. But fire crews, police and Red Cross Society members rushed there by motorcycle and lend their helping hands in extinguishing the fire.

In the incident, four houses and belongings including rice bags and farm equipment were gutted by the fire. The fire that displaced 27 villagers died down at about 11.30 am. It is learnt that location of the village and direction of the wind helped to lessen loss of property in the fire. Because of a water tank in the middle of the village which water transported from a spring outside the village through pipeline is kept stored, the flow of commodities faced delays, leaving brokerage owners upset.

After traffic rule enforcement actions are stepped up and more traffic police are deployed at respective townships, traffic jam that lasted nearly 14 hours at Bayintnaung brokerage reached a high record on 25 March. A businessman said that inefficient handling of traffic volume was a major cause of frequent traffic congestion. The record-high traffic congestion on 25 March was believed to have started from a prohibition against allowing small vehicles to get into an approach road under Bayintnaung flyover, he added.

Some brokerage house owners complained that roadside shops at corners and along the road and freight handling from undisciplined 22-wheeled trucks had brought the traffic in the neighbourhood of brokerage to a complete standstill on that day. Moreover, stockpiles of goods in front of brokerage houses triggered jams there, they continued.

They voiced to their concerns over hours-long traffic jams that may occur again and called for more effective and efficient traffic rule enforcement and traffic control techniques, making a change in incompetent private-run traffic clearing task and taking punitive actions against a handful of traffic rules violators for the sake of the majority.

JAPAC to search for WWII Missing Americans in Myanmar

YANGON, 28 March — It is learnt that JAPAC will conduct a search for missing Americans lost in Myanmar during World War II.

About 730 Americans lost in Myanmar during WWII and JAPCA will head to Myanmar to conduct its search for missing Americans in Myanmar. Starting on 21 February, preparations for investigation work to search for remains of missing Americans in Myanmar in World War II were made till 15 March. The JAPAC has started conducting the search of missing Americans in Myanmar eight years ago.
Moscow—Russia wants a role in keeping Afghanistan stable after the withdrawal of most NATO combat troops by maintaining government on Afghan soil, a senior military official said on Wednesday.

In a meeting with foreign military attaches in Moscow, Sergei Koshelev underscored that Russia is worried about threats to its security after the pullout of most foreign forces from Afghanistan, which borders ex-Soviet states in Central Asia.

“We cannot fail to be concerned by the danger of the restoration of a regime on Afghan territories that would foster the spread of terrorism, drug trafficking and instability,” said Koshelev, the Russian military’s point man for foreign ties.

Russia, mindful of the 1980s war of occupation that killed thousands of its soldiers and contributed to the Soviet Union’s collapse in 1991, has rule out sending troops to Afghanistan since the US-led invasion in 2001. But it has supported US and NATO operations since then by allowing transit across its territory and contributing all arms and ammunition to Afghan security forces, as well as selling helicopters and training Afghans to maintain them.

The NATO is set to wrap up its combat mission in Afghanistan and most members of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) are to withdraw by the end of 2014.

With the withdrawal of ISAF, keeping the weapons and equipment of the Afghan national security forces in repair and working condition will be of major importance,” Koshelev said.

He indicated that a conference it plans to host in late May on European security, Russia would like to discuss “the creation of repair facilities on the territory of Afghanistan to keep their military equipment in working condition.”

Nations close to deal on UN arms trade treaty

The world body’s 193 member states received the last revision of the draft treaty ahead of the final day of the drafting conference on Thursday. Reuters quoted delegates from over a dozen countries who said they were cautiously optimistic that the treaty would be adopted unanimously.

“India, Syria and Iran are countries that could still cause trouble,” a European diplomat told Reuters on condition of anonymity. “But I’ll wager the treaty will pass by consensus.”

Iran, which is under a UN arms embargo over its nuclear programme, is eager to ensure its arms imports and exports are not curtailed, diplomats say. Syria is in a two-year-old civil war and hopes Russian and Iranian arms keep flowing in, they added.

But they are under pressure to back the draft, envoys said. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a US official declined to say whether Washington would support the draft treaty.

“We are continuing to review the text with an eye toward ensuring that it accomplishes all of our goals, including that it protect the sovereign right of states to conduct legitimate arms trade and, of course, that it not infringe upon the constitutional right of our citizens to bear arms,” he said.

Several UN diplomats predicted Washington would vote yes. The National Rifle Association, a powerful U.S. pro-gun lobbying group, opposes the treaty and has vowed to fight to prevent its ratification if it reaches Washington. The NRA says the treaty would undermine domestic gun-ownership rights. The American Bar Association, an attorneys’ lobby group, has said that the treaty would not impact the right to bear arms.

Other major arms producers like Russia and China, which had initially resisted the treaty, along with France, Germany and Britain were also expected to support the draft, diplomats said.

Russia seeks to underpin Afghan security after NATO pullout

The world body’s 193 member states began meeting last week in a final push to end years of discussions and hammer out a binding international treaty to end the lack of regulation over cross-border conventional arms sales.

Russia seeks to underpin Afghan security After NATO pullout

Russia is working to underpin Afghanistan’s security after the withdrawal of most NATO forces by supporting Afghan authorities and entertaining the idea of closer military ties.

“We cannot fail to be concerned by the danger of the restoration of a regime on Afghan territories that would foster the spread of terrorism, drug trafficking and instability,” said Koshelev, the Russian military’s point man for foreign ties.

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Landslide hits Washington state’s Whidbey Island, destroys one home

A landslide thundered through a subdivision in Washington state’s Whidbey Island north of Seattle, destroying one home and threatening more than 30 others, a fire official said.

“An Afghan woman walks inside a police compound as former Afghan Taleban members hand over their weapons after joining the Afghan government’s reconciliation and reintegration programme in Herat Province on 19 March, 2013. —Reuters

He also said Russia wants closer cooperation between its security alliance with Central Asia and other ex-Soviet states on the one hand and NATO on the other in combating threats that could emerge from Afghanistan.

“I am not talking about political dialogue but about the possibility of determining concrete projects the militaries would be responsible for,” he said, without proposing any specific projects.

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Cape Canaveral, (Florida), 28 March—NASA’s Mars rover Curiosity resumed a mission of a sample of rock powder following a computer glitch that suspended operations for a week, scientists said on Monday.

Before the computer problem, results radiated back to Earth revealed that the rock, located near Curiosity’s Gale Crater landing site, contains all the chemical ingredients necessary for microbial life, the overarching goal of the planned two-year mission. Scientists are eager for additional information about the rock sample, which was drilled out from what appears to be a slab of bedrock in an area known as Yellowknife Bay. Curiosity automatically suspended its work on 17 March when it detected a problem with a computer data file. The glitch occurred as the rover was recovering from an earlier, unrelated computer problem.

The unplanned work hiatus ended over the weekend. NASA’s Deputy Project Manager Jim Erickson said, “It’s a slow recovery process, but we’re back doing science,” Erickson said. Analysis of the rock powder will continue for another week. Beginning 4 April, radio communications between Earth and Mars will be blocked by the sun for a month, suspending most of the rover’s science observations again.

When the planets realign for communications after 1 May, scientists plan to drill a second hole into the rock to verify the early results and look more closely for signs of organic carbon. The $2.5 billion rover landed on Mars on 6 August to assess if the planet most like Earth has or ever had the chemical ingredients and environments for microbial life.

Scientists eventually plan to drive the rover to a 3-mile (5-km) high mound of what appears to be layered sediment rising from the floor of Gale Crater. Reuters

Mobile ads to push Twitter ad revenue near $1 billion in 2014

San Francisco, 28 March—Twitter will generate nearly $1 billion in ad revenue next year due to a surge in mobile advertising on its Web microblogging service, according to a report released on Wednesday.

Mobile ads will account for roughly half of Twitter’s advertising revenue this year and will make up more than 60 percent of the company’s ad revenue by 2015 according to research firm eMarketer.

The increasing popularity of Twitter’s mobile ads — introduced in March 2012 — caused eMarketer to raise its 2014 ad revenue estimates for Twitter to $950 million, versus its previous estimate of roughly $800 million. Twitter’s ad revenue this year will total $582.8 million, according to the report, roughly double what it was in 2012. Twitter, which allows people to share 140-character messages on its online service, is privately held and does not disclose financial results.

With more than 200 million active users, Twitter is among the Web’s most popular social networking services, along with Facebook Inc, and is expected by analysts to float shares to the public within two years.

As consumers increasingly access the Web on smartphones, mobile ads have become increasingly important to the businesses of Web companies such as Facebook and Google Inc.

Facebook said in January that its mobile ad revenue doubled from the third quarter to the fourth quarter, representing roughly 23 percent of its $1.33 billion in fourth-quarter ad revenue.

“Twitter has ultimately benefited from the increased focus on mobile by competitors like Google and Facebook, which have both expanded their own mobile ad offerings and worked to convince advertisers to shift dollars to mobile devices,” eMarketer said on Wednesday. eMarketer said Twitter data and interviews with executives at advertising agencies, online publishers and others.

LONDON, 28 March—Rupert Murdoch’s British tabloid The Sun will start charging for access to its website in a package with highlights of Premier League soccer matches, publisher News International (NI) said on Wednesday.

“Later this year the pay model will be applied to The Sun across every platform,” said a spokesman for NI, the British newspaper arm of News Corp (NWSA.O).

“We will be offering our valued Sun readers a bigger and better experience than they have ever had before — one that in addition to FA Premier League clubs will offer a full and attractive subscription model across digital and print.”

The Sun, the country’s top-selling newspaper with print circulation of 2.28 million in February according to ABC, is the only one of Murdoch’s British titles to have content freely available online, although it does have a pay-for app.

Chief Executive Mike Darcey told reporters on Tuesday evening that charging for The Sun online would “iron out any inconsistencies” across the group’s titles.

“And those sorts of Premier League rights can really start to kick start that transition,” he said at an event at NI’s London office. NI bought the rights to show online clips of action from English Premier League soccer games from the 2013-2014 season in January.

Darcey did not specify pricing or a date for the change, beyond saying it would happen in the second half of the year, coinciding with the start of the soccer season in August.

People walk outside the Nasdaq Market site in New York’s Times Square, on 23 July, 2012.—Reuters

Nasdaq extends deadline for Facebook IPO compensation applications

New York, 28 March —Nasdaq OMX Group said on Wednesday it filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission to extend the deadline for firms to apply for compensation relating to Facebook Inc’s problematic IPO to 8 April from 29 March.

An illustration picture shows the logo of the Website Twitter on an Ipad, in Bordeaux, southwestern France, on 30 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

An ad on a billboard outside News International’s Wapping headquarters in London on 28 Jan, 2012.—Reuters

An advertisement for The Sun newspaper is seen on a billboard outside News International’s Wapping headquarters in London on 28 January, 2012.—Reuters

Reuters

Nasdaq said it extended deadline because the week of 25 March contains both the Passover and Good Friday holidays. —Reuters

An illustration picture shows the logo of the Website Twitter on an Ipad, in Bordeaux, southwestern France, on 30 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

Reuters
UK banks told to plug £25 billion capital hole

LONDON, 28 March—Britain’s banks must raise 25 billion euros of extra capital by the end of the year to absorb any future losses on loans, the central bank said, less than investors had expected.

Renewing banks’ capital buffers, decimated by the financial crisis and heavy fines for misconduct, is a crucial step for returning part state-owned lenders RBS and Lloyds to full private ownership by the 2015 general election. Bank of England Governor Mervyn King said the move announced on Wednesday to strengthen banks should also allow them to lend more and support economic growth.

He said plugging the capital shortfall was “manageable” and the banks won’t need taxpayers’ money.

But UK Business Minister Vince Cable said forcing banks to raise capital will prolong the time it takes for the economy to recover by further depressing already weak lending to small business.

The central bank said major lenders should achieve a core tier 1 capital ratio — a bank’s main benchmark of health — of at least 7 percent of their risk-weighted assets.

RBS and Lloyds and two other banks, HSBC and Barclays, dominate the market with 74 percent of deposits.—Reuters

UK scientists develop safer foot-and-mouth vaccine

LONDON, 28 March—British scientists have developed a new vaccine against foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) that is safer and easier to manufacture, an advance they believe should greatly increase production capacity and reduce costs.

University of Oxford, who Professor of Biology at the same facility, ironically, was traced to the technology behind the new vaccine.

The purely synthetic vaccine facilities handling extremely infectious and mouth disease (FMD) is production — an important advance they believe should make it easier to manufacture, an

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The new vaccine does not require live virus in its production — an important consideration as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is extremely infectious and vaccine facilities handling virus samples are difficult to secure.

“It spreads like wild fire,” said David Stuart, a professor of biology at the University of Oxford, who led the research.

A 2007 outbreak of FMD in southeast England, for example, was traced to a nearby vaccine site. The same facility, ironically, is home to some of the researchers behind the new vaccine.

In contrast to standard FMD livestock vaccines, the new product is made from synthetic protein shells containing no infectious viral genome, scientists reported in the journal PLOS Pathogens on Wednesday.

This means the vaccine can be produced without expensive biosecurity and does not need to be kept refrigerated.

“One of the big advantages is that since it is not derived from live virus, the production facility requires no special containment,” Stuart said.

“One could imagine local plants being set up in large parts of the world where foot and mouth is endemic and where it still remains a huge problem.”

Worldwide, between 3 billion and 4 billion doses of FMD vaccine are administered every year but there are shortages in many parts of Asia and Africa where the disease is a serious problem.

Current standard vaccines are based on 50-year-old technology, although US biotech company GenVec last year won US approval for a new one.

The purely synthetic British vaccine has so far been tested in small-scale cattle trials and found to be effective.

Stuart said the research team from the universities of Oxford and Reading and two state-funded bodies — Diamond Light Source and the Pirbright Institute — would now conduct larger tests while discussing the vaccine’s commercial development.

“We are talking to a potential commercial partner,” Stuart told Reuters, adding that it would probably take around six years to bring the new vaccine to market. He said it was too early to give an indication of how much the vaccine would cost.

He declined to name the company involved but said it was not Merial, the animal health division of Sanofi that shares Pirbright’s site in southeast England.

Stuart and his colleagues were able to produce empty protein shells to imitate the protein coat that surrounds the FMD virus using Diamond’s X-ray system to visualize images a billion times smaller than a pinhead.

The same approach could in future be used to make empty shell vaccines against related viruses such as polio and hand-foot-and-mouth, a human disease that mainly affects infants and children, the researchers said.—Reuters

Southeast Asia ready to build, but will investors come?

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 March—Indonesia is seeking European investors for $9 billion (5.9 billion pounds) worth of water, road, air and seaport projects in what will be a litmus test of Southeast Asian countries’ ability to seize on ripe financial conditions to upgrade decrepit infrastructure.

Easy global liquidity and investors’ eagerness to tap one of the world’s few fast-growing regions should create a sweet spot for the region to fill the $660 billion in infrastructure needs the Asian Development Bank identifies over the next decade.

But infrastructure experts say a shortage of projects offering compelling returns, coupled with stifling bureaucracy and regulatory uncertainty, threatens to undermine the ambitious plans of Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines.

“There’s a lot of money floating around but it’s money looking for a return,” said Bert Hofman, the World Bank chief economist for East Asia and the Pacific.

After years of chronic under spending, governments in the region of 600 million people have begun to sharply raise their infrastructure budgets to improve transport and energy networks.

Lehman plans to distribute $14.2 billion to creditors

NEW YORK, 28 March—Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc said on Wednesday it plans to distribute about $14.2 billion (9.3 billion pounds) to creditors early next month, as the company winds down following its emergence from bankruptcy protection last year.

The distribution, to be made on 4 April, will be Lehman’s third since it emerged from Chapter 11 protection on 6 March, 2012.

Lehman said the payout will increase total distributions to about $47.2 billion, with two-thirds going to third parties.

The company has said it hopes to distribute more than $65 billion, on average about 21 cents on the dollar for allowed claims. April’s payout will include about $9.4 billion to other Lehman debtors and affiliates, $4.4 billion to other Lehman debtors and affiliates, and $370 million for claims deemed valid since the second distribution on 1 October.

Following the distribution, holders of senior unsecured claims against the parent company will have received about 14.8 cents on the dollar on their claims, a court filing showed.

Lehman’s next distribution is expected around 30 September.

Separately, Lehman said it has reached a settlement with Lehman Brothers Finance AG, its former Swiss-based derivatives unit, over billions of dollars of guarantees and intercompany claims.

It said terms will be disclosed later. The settlement requires court approval, and Lehman said it expects a hearing to be held on 24 April. Lehman’s wind-down is expected to take a few years. The company is still litigating against JPMorgan Chase & Co, once its main clearing bank, and others to maximize potential payouts to creditors.

Once Wall Street’s fourth-largest investment bank, Lehman filed for bankruptcy protection on 15 September, 2008, in what was a major trigger for that year’s global financial crisis.—Reuters

Skytrain passes over vehicles on the road during rush hour in Bangkok in this 31 Aug, 2010 file photo.—Reuters

Lehman Brothers booth on the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange, is shown in this 16 Sept, 2008 file photo.—Reuters

Three small Spanish banks post multi-billion euro losses

MADRID, 28 March—Three small Spanish banks reported multi-billion euro losses on Wednesday, showing the scale of the country’s problems with its property market.

The three banks — Banco CEISS, BMN and Caja 3, which have all been rescued by the government, had to take big write-downs on bad property loans and assets.

Spain has forced its banks to recognise their property losses to try to clean up the sector after the country’s property boom collapsed in 2008.

Banks without a strong enough capital base, such as CEISS, BMN and Caja 3, turned to the state for support, forcing Spain to take 41 billion euros in European aid for its banking sector.

CEISS, formed from the merger of two former savings banks based in the north of Spain, reported a 2.5-billion-euro (2.1 billion pounds) 2012 loss after booking 3 billion euros of provisions on its real estate exposure.

The Lehman Brothers booth on the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange, is shown in this 16 Sept, 2008 file photo.—Reuters

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HONG KONG, 28 March—China is seeking renewed deliveries of advanced weapons from Russia with a $3.5 billion deal for fighters and submarines in the pipeline despite lingering resentment in Moscow over Chinese copying of its military technology.

China’s state media reported this week that Moscow had agreed to supply 24 Sukhoi Su-35 fighters and four Amur-class conventional submarines to the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), which would make it the first major arms deal between the two nations in almost 10 years.

Russia has not yet confirmed the deal and military experts there said the Chinese announcement was premature because negotiations were continuing.

The need to order some of Russia’s most advanced military hardware also indicates that shortcomings remain with some of China’s home-grown defence technologies, military analysts said.

Russia’s President Vladimir Putin (R) exchanges documents with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping during a signing ceremony at the Kremlin in Moscow in this undated file photo.— REUTRS

China eyes $3.5 billion Russian arms deal despite ire over Sukhoi copy

HOLLANDE’S POPULARITY AT A NEW LOW

PARIS, 28 March—French President Francois Hollande’s popularity rating has fallen to its lowest level since he came to power, a poll found on Wednesday, a day before he is due to address the nation to ask for patience as he attempts to revive the economy.

Ten months into his tenure, the Socialist President is struggling to reverse rising jobless claims, which are at their highest level in 15 years, and to stimulate an economy teetering near recession.

Only 27 percent of those polled in the LH2 survey, just 15 percent of respondents said they were satisfied with his efforts to fight unemployment, with 81 percent dissatisfied. His efforts to reduce the public debt fared only slightly better, garnering a 22 percent satisfaction rate.

“This assessment ... shows that his May 2012 designation as a ‘candidate of change’ now leaves people with a feeling they have been deceived, which is amplified for his measures to fight unemployment and reduce the public debt,” said pollster LH2.

Russia’s President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping meet — Reuters

Egypt could hold delayed election in October

CAIRO, 28 March—Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi said on Wednesday parliamentary elections could be delayed until October, a postponement which could give his cash-strapped administration breathing space to negotiate an IMF deal.

Mursi’s original plan was for a four-stage election that would start in late April and put a parliament in place by July.

But the schedule fell apart this month when a court canceled the Presidential decree setting the dates. “Perhaps the elections will be held in the coming October,” state news agency MENA quoted Mursi as saying.

The postponement removes one source of friction between Mursi and the secular-minded opposition that had planned to boycott the vote on the grounds that the election law had been drawn up to suit Mursi’s Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamic groups.

But many tensions remain in a political landscape where divisions have deepened since Mursi was elected in June. The acrimony will complicate efforts to build the consensus that the International Monetary Fund wants to underpin a loan deal likely to require cuts in unaffordable state subsidies.

This week Mursi’s opponents accused him of instigating a crackdown on dissent when the prosecutor-general ordered the arrest of five bloggers alleged to have incited violence against the Brotherhood.

Mursi has in turn hardened his tone in response to violent protests by his opponents and Muslim Brotherhood.

After pact, much still divides the Sudans

JAU, (South Sudan), 28 March—South Sudan’s deal to sell oil to Swiss-based trader Trafigura, made public on Wednesday, shows how new detente with Sudan may revive trade, but much can yet derail a pact meant to stifle hostility along their disputed border.

Landlocked South Sudan, independent since 2011 after decades of civil war, is to resume oil exports it shut off 14 months ago in a dispute over transit fees with Sudan’s government in Khartoum.

The deal, to pump crude to Sudan’s Red Sea terminal at Port Sudan, is a mark of its intent.

But amid threats to the agreement the two Sudans signed this month to pull troops back from the frontier is a rebellion on the northern side that has long soured relations.

Khartoum accuses South Sudan leaders in Juba of backing the revolt. They deny it and in turn accuse Sudan of backing rebels in the South. And both sides also face pressure from local con-

France’s President Francois Hollande looks at a crowd in Independence Plaza in Bamako, Mali on 2 Feb, 2013. —REUTERS

France’s President Francois Hollande looks at a crowd in Independence Plaza in Bamako, Mali on 2 Feb, 2013. —REUTERS

Pockets of resistance still in Central African Republic

BANGUI, 28 March—Rebel forces and international peacekeepers mopped up pockets of resistance on Wednesday in Central African Republic after a weekend coup.

Up to 5,000 rebels swept into the riverside town on Sunday, killing at least 13 South African soldiers in intense fighting and forcing President Francois Bozize to flee the latest conflict to destabilize the landed former French colony.

A survey conducted by the World Resources Institute and the World Bank shows that increasing global demand for energy and materials is putting pressure on the environment and natural resources.

New Light of Myanmar
**Hospital equipment donated for public health care in Yangon**

YANGON, 28 March—Rotary Club of Essendon from Australia donated hospital equipment to Yangon Region government, the 14th in its series of donation to Myanmar’s hospitals, at the region government office on 25 March.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe thanked the Rotary Club of Essendon, calling on township/station hospitals to systematically use and maintain the medical equipment. Those medical equipment would help a lot in delivering health care service to the public, added the region chief minister. MNA

**ACLEDA MFI Myanmar Co Ltd holds press conference on micro financing**

YANGON, 28 March — ACLEDA MFI Myanmar Co., Ltd held a press conference on its micro financing at Hotel Chatrium, on 25 March.

As Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration had issued a licence to operate micro financing and banking service in Myanmar to ACLEDA MFI Myanmar Co., Ltd, one of branches of ACLEDA Bank Plc in Cambodia, on 8 February 2013, the company started its business with the capital of K 9 billion or US$ 10 million.

Of the company is to be a leading micro finance institution in Myanmar, providing cash assistance to SME entrepreneurs.

From 18 February to 21 March, so far an amount of K 35,749,980 has been disbursed as loans in North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa, South Dagon, Insein, Shwepyitha, Thakaya, Hlinethaya, Thingangyun, Mingala Taungnyunt, Dagon Seikkan, Dawbon, Dala, East Dagon, Mingaladon and Thanlyin Townships in Yangon Region.

The head office of the company is on Shwegondine Street in Bahan Township.

For further information, contact Ph: 01 559475 and 01 5592956. — MNA

**Buddhist culture course provided to children**

MANDALAY, 28 March—The Buddhist culture course for children was opened by Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Moung, Region Minister for Forest and Mines U Than Soe Myint, Director U Zaw Win Tun of United Pacific Co Ltd and Sale and Marketing Director Daw Aye Mi San in Mandalay on 17 March.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Khemaçara, Nine-title Sayadaw, Dhammaçakka U Maung Maung, Writers U Phone (Chemistry) and U Zaw Khang Oo and pianist Ko Htet Oo gave lectures to children from 17 to 19 March.—Myanna Alinn

**Road under construction on hilly area of Pyinmana**

NAW PYI TAW, 28 March—Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council in-charge of Pyinmana Township Col Myint Aung Than and Pyinmana Township Administrator U Kyaw Tint on 16 March inspected nine-mile Seikputaung-Boma Road and 10-mile Aungnancho-Aungkhaung-Koathphoneos Road.

With the aim of ensuring smooth transportation of local people from 58 villages of seven village-tract, the 132 miles long hilly road is being constructed with strength of five engineering groups to complete it before rainy season. Myanna Alinn

**Miththukha Bridge under construction crossing Namee Creek in Indaw**

INDAW, 28 March—Miththukha Bridge is spanning Namee Creek that flows into Ayeyawady River. Namee Creek is one of the tributaries of Mezar River.

The local people built a bridge on the creek for convenient transportation of rural people from Manhton and Mingo villages in the rainy season.

The local people had built four bridges across the bridge.

Now, the new bridge is under construction beside Miththukha Bridge. The new wooden one will be 172 feet long with 472 feet long approach road.

On 17 March, Sagaing Region Minister for Social Affairs U Tin Hlaing Myint inspected construction tasks and attended to the needs. Myanna Alinn

**Deputy Sports Minister leaves for Maldives**

YANGON, 28 March—Deputy Sports Minister leaves for Maldives on 28 March to attend the 10th Asia Oceanica Region Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting on Anti-Doping in Sport in Male’ of Maldives on 28 and 29 March, Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htike and Deputy Director of Sports and Physical Education Department Dr Mya Lay Sein left here by air yesterday afternoon. MNA

**Myanmar U-14 to play against Thai team in tune-up matches**

YANGON, 28 March—As part of efforts to achieve success in the qualifiers of the AFC U-14 Championship to be hosted by Myanmar, the Myanmar U-14 team plans to play a tune-up matches in Thailand, according to the release of the Myanmar Football Federation on 18 March. The qualifiers for the AFC U-14 Championship 2014 will be hosted by Wunna Theikdi Stadium of Zaburtih Township in Myanmar. The matches will be held from 28 May to 3 June.

**Maha Myitta Education Foundation to hold fund-raising trade fair, entertainment**

TOUNGOO, 28 March—Maha Myitta Education Foundation located at the corner of Toungoo Home for the Aged Road and Station Road of Bago Region is providing stipends to one student of University of Medicine and two students of University of Technology monthly so as to turn out outstanding students.

In 2012-2013 academic year, the foundation sponsored enrollment of 107 orphanage at basic education level, donated exercise books to students and funded teaching tables for the students.

From 31 March to 5 April, the fund-raising trade fair and entertainment will be held for the education foundation at Maingda Ground in Toungoo. Myanna Alinn
Noise pollution

Pollution is the introduction of contaminants into the natural environment that causes adverse changes. Pollution can take the form of chemical substances or energy, such as noise, heat, or light. Pollutants, the components of pollution, can be either foreign substances/energies or naturally occurring contaminants.

The major forms of pollution are air pollution, light pollution, littering, noise pollution, soil contamination, radioactive contamination, thermal pollution, visual pollution and water pollution.

Noise pollution is a major problem in countries. Noise pollution affects both health and behavior. Unwanted sound (noise) can damage psychological health. Noise pollution can cause annoyance and aggression, hypertension, high stress levels, hearing loss, sleep disturbances, and other harmful effects. Furthermore, stress and hypertension are the leading causes to health problems.

Chronic exposure to noise may cause noise-induced hearing loss. Chronic exposure to moderately high levels of environmental noise contributes to hearing loss.

Noise pollution also is a cause of annoyance. Noise can have a detrimental effect on wild animals, increasing the risk of death by changing the delicate balance in predator or prey detection and avoidance, and interfering the use of the sounds in communication, especially in relation to reproduction and in navigation.

An impact of noise on wild animal life is the reduction of usable habitat that noisy areas may cause, which in the case of endangered species may be part of the path to extinction. We all seek ways to reduce roadway noise, aircraft noise and industrial noise.

Myanmar delegation attends ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Meeting

Myanmar delegation led by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyin arrived back in Yangon today after attending the Asia-Pacific Regional Parliamentarians and CSO Forum on MDG.

Union Foreign Affairs Minister receives US guest

Secretary-General and high-ranking officials.

The topics of the meeting focused on progress in implementation of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council road map, regional social security policies, establishment of ASEAN inter-university network, cooperation between ASEAN and UNESCO and disaster and climate change management and mid-term report to be submitted to 22nd ASEAN Summit.

Matters related to participation of volunteers and cultural troupes from members of South East Asian Games Federation in XXVII SEA Games to be hosted by Myanmar in December, 2013 were also discussed. The director-general of Historical Research Department also attended the 14th high-ranking officials meeting on ASEAN Socio-Cultural Commu-nity.—MNA

Strict security measures taken in Minhla, Moenyo

March—Security forces this morning firing warning shots at the mobs that were destroying some houses, shops and set a light truck alight in Minhla of Bago Region. Security measures were then tightened there.

Similarly, security forces dispersed the mob who were destroying two houses and one religious building in Moenyo this afternoon.

Letpadan also saw riots today in which two suspects were taken into custody by police.

Japan provides vital support for internally displaced persons

March—A total of 651,000,000 Japanese yen (approximately USD 6.9 million) was handed over by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mikio Numata at a ceremony held here in the presence of Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Major Gen Zaw Win on 22 March.

The contributions, the largest amount received by UNHCR this year, will go to hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people through the UN refugee agency in Myanmar in which more than 430,000 people are estimated to be displaced, mostly due to conflicts. Many face a multitude of challenges in their daily lives. Every day, around the world, UNHCR assists and protects some 26 million refugees and internally displaced people who have been forced to flee their homes.—NLM
Myanmar, UNDP to cooperate in legal affairs

**NAY PYI TAW,** 28 March—A delegation led by Mr Josdela Haye from Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery Mission of UNDP paid a call on Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, at the Union Attorney-General’s Office, here this morning.

Mr Josdela Haye said that UNDP wants to make cooperation in the sectors of justice, law team and constitution. The Union Attorney-General replied that Union Attorney-General’s Office is acting as a focal point in legal affairs and Myanmar constantly makes cooperation with UNDP in legal affairs.

**UNDP president** representatives Mr Toly Kurbano and Ms Ana Graca discussed cooperation programmes between Myanmar and UNDP. **MNA**

**Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin receives Mr Josdela Haye from Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery Mission of UNDP.** **MNA**

UMFCCI’s President attends Seminar on Strategies for Successful Business in ASEAN markets

**YANGON,** 28 March—A four-member Myanmar delegation led by U Win Aung, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, attended Seminar on Strategies for Successful Business in the ASEAN markets held in Seoul of the Republic of Korea from 26 to 27 March.

At the meeting with over 200 Korean entrepreneurs, the UMFCCI president said that Myanmar was striving for development of SMEs. Besides, he elaborated on opportunities for making foreign investments in the country and answered queries raised by those present. The president separately discussed potentials to cooperate in implementing development of SMEs in Myanmar with Chairman Mr. Han Duck-soo of Korea International Trade Association (KITA), Executive Vice President Mr. Bae Chang Haon of Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), Chairman of Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Mr. Sohn Kyung-shik.

The Myanmar delegation members respectively held discussions with Korean entrepreneurs on mutual cooperation in businesses. **MNA**

**Eurogate Sportswear factory commissioned into service**

**YANGON,** 28 March—Launching ceremony of Eurogate sportswear factory took place at the facility on Mogok Road in Industrial No (1), Dagon Myothit Township (South), here, on 25 March.

On the occasion, Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint delivered an opening speech.

It was learnt that the factory was built with foreign investments permitted by Myanmar Investment Commission. It has over 600 employees with the purpose of exporting finished goods to European market after converting raw materials from Europe into finished goods through CMP system. **MNA**

**First meeting of Myanmar-Japan Joint Initiative**

**NAY PYI TAW,** 28 March—The 1st meeting of “Myanmar-Japan Joint Initiative” was held today between the representatives of both public and private sectors of Japan and Myanmar, at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, here, under the Co-Chairs of Dr Kan Zaw, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development and Mr Mikio NUMATA, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar.

“Myanmar-Japan Joint Initiative” is a forum to identify and prioritize concrete measures for improving investment and trade environment in Myanmar.

Concerned parties from both public and private sectors of two countries held candid dialogue in a wide range of areas related to the business and investment, including visa issuance, trade policy, taxation and daily business climate.

The participants agreed to continue to hold meetings under this Joint Initiative in the future, as appropriate, according to the request from each party, and to make public its progress and outcome in a proactive manner.

Participants from Myanmar side are the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Yangon (JCCI), Yangon Japanese Association, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Myanmar Office and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) in Yangon.

Participants from Myanmar side are relevant ministries of the Government of Myanmar, including the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, the UMFCCI and the concerned industry associations. **NLM**
Four children killed in Afghan-coalition operation

KABUL, 28 March— Afghan and international special forces staged a night raid in the country’s restive east, with police on Wednesday saying five civilians died in the operation, four of them children.

While the defence ministry said there had been no civilian deaths in the overnight operation in Logar Province, logs from a television footage taken in the village, Sejewand, showed the bodies of at least three children.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has previously criticized special forces raids in Afghan villages, particularly those in which civilians are killed.

An Afghan boy cries during a funeral of members of his family in Logar Province, on 27 March, 2013.

An Interior Ministry statement said 23 Taliban were killed in Sejewand. The statement said 23 Taleban were killed and three were wounded,” Seddiq said, adding that those wounded had later died. Four of the dead were children, he said.

The defence ministry rejected any notion of civilian deaths. The ministry’s head of operations, Alizal Aman, told Reuters that all those killed or detained had been carrying weapons.

“We ... do not accept the claim of civilian casualties. All those killed or detained were armed, but our investigation is occurring and it will become clear if there are any civilians among the dead,” he said.

Allegations of disappearances and illegal killings in neighbouring Wardak Province prompted Karzai to halt all US special operations there last month. While he also ordered international troops out of some areas of the province, that has yet to occur.—Reuters

Small bomb explodes outside Greek ship owner’s house in Athens, no injuries

ATHENS, 28 March— A small explosive device exploded outside the house of a Greek ship owner near the Acropolis hill in central Athens on Wednesday evening, with no injuries, local media reported.

The bomb went off at the entrance of Panayiotis Tsakos’ residence, a few minutes after an unidentified person had made a warning telephone call to a Greek daily, according to police sources. The area was evacuated in time and no injuries were caused, but minor material damage occurred.

No group has claimed responsibility for the explosion yet. Two weeks ago, two local guerilla groups had claimed responsibility for a similar small bomb blast at a courier company in Athens earlier in March, warning with more violence.

Greece suffers from domestic terrorism for years and political, police and financial figures have been targeted by several groups.

In two of the most serious attacks this year, in January, unidentified assailants opened fire at the ruling party headquarters and a bomb exploded inside a shopping mall, injuring two guards.—Xinhua

Brazilian doctor charged with seven murders, may have killed 300

BRASILIA, 28 March— A Brazilian doctor who was charged with killing seven patients to free up beds at a hospital intensive care unit may have been responsible for as many as 300 deaths, according to a Health Ministry investigator.

Prosecutors said Dr Virginia Soares de Souza and her medical team administered muscle relaxing drugs to patients, then reduced their oxygen supply causing them to die of asphyxia at the Evangelical Hospital in the southern city of Curitiba.

De Souza, a 56-year-old widow, was arrested last month and charged with seven counts of aggravated first degree murder. Three other doctors, three nurses and a physiotherapist who worked under De Souza have also been charged with murder.

Prosecutors for the state of Parana said wiretaps of De Souza’s phone conversations revealed that her motive was to free up hospital beds for other patients.

“I want to clear the intensive care unit. It’s making me itch,” she said in one recording released to Brazilian media. “Unfortunately, our mission is to go-between on the springboard to the next life,” she added in the same phone call.

De Souza’s lawyer, Elias Mattar Assad, said investigators had misunderstood how an intensive care unit works and she would prove her innocence.

More cases are expected to emerge as investiga-

Russian navy conducts drills in northwest

MOSCOW, 28 March— The Russian Northern Fleet has started large-scale exercises at the Kola Peninsula in Russia’s northwestern Murmansk Oblast, the fleet’s Press service said on Wednesday.

“Crews of T-72 tanks, self-propelled howitzers, artillery sections, anti-aircraft artillery-missile systems, anti-tank missile systems as well as personnel of reconnaissance, landing, engineering units of the fleet’s coastal troops have been training day and night in trans-polar region,” the Press service said on its website.

Over 2,500 servicemen and 200 combat vehicles involved, it said.

The troops also have been mastering the skills of anti-warfare and open-space combat, orientation on landscape, countering the enemy’s airforces and searching subversive groups, said the fleet.

Also on Wednesday, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu revealed plans to arm its strategic nuclear submarines with long-range precision weapons.

“This will significantly enhance the possibility of using submarines as a strategic deterrent,” Shoigu told a meeting with the Pacific Fleet’s submarine command. Russia plans to build eight Borei-class submarines to form the core of its nuclear deterrence strategy by 2020, which will replace the Project 941 (Typhoon by NATO classification) and Project 667 submarines.—Xinhua

Ukrainian PM warns of massive floods after heavy snow

KIEV, 28 March— Warm weather after the recent snowfall, the heaviest in the past 100 years, is likely to cause massive floods across Ukraine, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov warned on Wednesday.

“Soon the snow will be melting and it poses threat of substantial flooding,” Azarov told a government meeting.

Azarov urged government agencies to speed up effort to remove snow from cities and towns and adopt measures to prevent possible snow-triggered flooding.

Azarov ordered to establish spill-containment barriers near rivers, lakes and water reservoirs, prepare rescue and emergency equipment, and set up reserves of food, water and medicine in flooding-prone areas.

A record snowfall blanketed parts of Ukraine and Kievover the weekend, blocking roads and stranding thousands of motorists in the city.

A state of emergency was declared on Saturday in Kiev, Ukraine’s capital city, where as over 50 centimetres of snow covered its streets.—Xinhua
Australia pushes for Asia-Pacific carbon market

SYDNEY, 28 March—Australia looks forward to working with major emerging economies such as China and South Korea on the development of an Asia-Pacific carbon market, Australian Climate Change Minister Greg Combet said on Wednesday.

As part of the annual Australia-China Ministerial Dialogue on Climate Change, Combet and Xie Zhenhua, the Vice Chairman of China’s National Development and Reform Commission took part in the Australia China Climate Change Forum at the University of New South Wales on Wednesday.

“Australia has been working very closely with China on the development of its pilot and national emissions trading schemes over the past two years,” Combet said in statement. He says China’s national carbon market plans are comprehensive and will be a very important development for the global carbon market.

“One up and running, it will be the largest emissions trading scheme in the world,” Combet said.

He says Australia has a responsibility to reduce emissions and to play a strong role in global efforts to tackle climate change, including through bilateral initiatives with key trading partners like China.

“In the future, we would like to work towards the development of an Asia-Pacific carbon market including major emerging economies like China and South Korea,” Combet said.

Thai PM plans 10 foreign trips

BANGKOK, 28 March—Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra will pay official visits to about 10 countries this year, Bangkok Post online reported on Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Surapong Towichakchaikul said on Tuesday the premier’s travel itinerary will include visits to Mongolia, Madagascar, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, the United States, Canada, South Africa and Russia this year.

The 10 more trips will add to her tally of about 30 nations she has visited since taking office in August 2011.

The government also has plans to invite the leaders of Britain, India, and Germany to visit Thailand.

Meanwhile, Surapong said the ministry plans to open new embassies and consulates in 28 countries, including one in Papua New Guinea.

About 500 new staff would be deployed to the new diplomatic missions, he said.

Rare New Zealand birds recovering from maritime oil spill

WELLINGTON, 28 March—One of the world’s rarest birds appears to have recovered in numbers after New Zealand’s worst-ever maritime environmental disaster, experts announced on Wednesday.

Monitoring of the New Zealand dotterel population, which is endangered and estimated to number just 1,700 in the wild, showed birds captured after the oil spill from a Liberian-registered cargo ship in October 2011 had recovered well, according to the Massey University.

About 120 dotterels were in the area when the Rena grounded on the Astrolabe Reef, off the eastern North Island, and 60 were taken into captivity to keep them out of the path of the oil and kept as an “insurance population.”

Relocation of the birds and release elsewhere would have only resulted in them quickly returning to their breeding territories, said a statement from the university.

Independent shorebird ecologist Dr John Dowding, who had been monitoring the birds since they were released at the end of 2011, said more than three-quarters of the dotterels taken into captivity were alive a year later.

“There were some losses in the first month after release—probably due to the respiratory condition that killed six birds while they were captive—but after that survival has been normal,” Dowding said in the statement.

Once dotterels begin breeding, they typically remain at the same site for many years.

Sri Lankan navy arrests 97 illegal immigrants

COLOMBO, 28 March—The Sri Lankan navy on Wednesday arrested 97 Australia-bound illegal immigrants in Olivil in the eastern province.

Naval spokesman Kosala Warnakulasuriya said that among those arrested are 40 children and 18 women.

He said that all of those arrested were minority Tamils and they were brought to the Olivil harbour to be handed over to the police for further investigations.

Thousands of Sri Lankan’s had been arrested both during and after the war while attempting to flee to Australia by boat.

Most asylum seekers allege harassment in Sri Lanka as a result of the war between the Tamil Tigers and army which ended in 2009.

However, the Sri Lankan government insists that they are economic migrants and discourages any attempt in Australia to offer them asylum.

The Australian media meanwhile recently alleged that the navy is a major player in the island’s people-smuggling operations, helping asylum-seekers to leave a country in boats bound for Australia. The navy however denied the claims.

Last year the Sri Lankan navy prevented over 3,000 asylum seekers sailing to Australia although the report claims that another 6,428 made it to Australia.

During a visit to Sri Lanka recently, Australian Foreign Minister Senator Bob Carr promised financial aid over the next five years to assist Sri Lanka to boost the fight against people smuggling on boats from the island nation to Australia. —Xinhua
**NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

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**TENDER NO.** (Ref No. CCS-04-13)

Sale of an estimated (800 metric tons) of Copper Cathode from MYTCL S&K Mine site in Monywa, Myanmar.

**CLOSING DATE & TIME:** 8th April 2013 at 12:00 noon

Tender document is available at the following address or can be accessed at www.myanmaryangtse.com.mm.

Any queries can be done between 10 am to 4 pm at MYTCL Yangon Office before the Tender Closing Date.

**Myanmar Yang Tse Copper Limited**

70 (1) Bo Chein Street, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar (Tel: (95) 1-514194 to 7 / Fax: (95) 1 514208 / Email: yangtse@yangtse.com.mm)

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**Tin Ohnmar Tun**

(Advocate)

B.A (Law), LLB, LLM (UK)

Ph: 09 73150632

Email: law_chambers@seasiren.com.mm

(For Myanmar Brewery Limited, Myanmar)

Dated: 29 March 2013

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (014)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (014) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.3.2013 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 HAN JIN SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV MOROTAI VOY NO (203)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (203) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (338)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (338) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S EVER GREEN SHIPPING**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (106)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (106) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.3.2013 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921
**Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**Ministry of Information**

**News and Periodicals Enterprise**

**Invitation for Expression of Interest for Production of The New Light of Myanmar Daily**

1. The Request for Expression of Interest is invited to create joint venture with local and foreign entrepreneurs in order that The New Light of Myanmar Daily published in English version by the News and Periodicals Enterprise be transformed into a standard newspaper.

2. In submitting the Expression of Interest:
   a. The following facts are to be included in the submission of local entrepreneurs:
      i. Name of entrepreneur/company, and number of National Scrutiny Card
      ii. Curriculum Vitae of entrepreneur and brief background history of company
      iii. Documents of the company and financial statement
      iv. Bank Statement for the past two years approved by Certified Public Accountant
      v. List of members of current Board of Directors
      vi. Volume of maximum investment
      vii. Volume of desired profit
      viii. Documents to be submitted exclusively
   b. The following facts are to be included in the submission of foreign entrepreneurs:
      i. Name of entrepreneur/company, and Passport No.
      ii. Curriculum Vitae of entrepreneur and brief background history of company
      iii. Documents relating to the foreign company
      iv. Financial Statement
      v. List of members of the current Board of Directors
      vi. Volume of maximum investment
      vii. Volume of desired profit
      viii. Documents to be submitted exclusively

3. Local and foreign entrepreneurs who will submit the Expression of Interest are to send their submissions to Building No. 7, News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw not later than (25-4-2013). For further information, please contact phone numbers: 01-201192, 067-412123 and 067-412128.

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**Dress in white for Psy, rapper tells fans**

**NEW YORK TIMES**

"See this pic and let's be white on 0413," Psy tweeted on his @psy_opra Twitter feed on Wednesday, referring to the April 13 concert to be held in the South Korean capital of Seoul.

The chubby rapper, who shot to fame with over a billion YouTube hits in 2012, subsequently poses in a variety of white clothing, ranging from a spacesuit to tennis whites and even a bridal gown and skimpy figure-skating dress.

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**Dido is “Girl Who Got Away” in first album in five years**

**LOS ANGELES, 28 March** —Acoustic pop singer Dido shot to fame a decade ago as the songwriter on US rapper Eminem’s hit song, “Stan.” After what she calls “disappearing” for while, she is back this week with her first album in five years—with a more electronic sound.

The London-based singer, 41, has sold more than 29 million albums since her debut album “No Angel” in 1999, when she released “Girl Who Got Away” in the United States on Tuesday.

“It’s a little comment on the fact that I disappeared a bit. That’s what everyone else was pointing out to me that ‘it’s a perfect title for you,'” Dido told Reuters.

The song is about so many things for me. It’s about that restlessness and having a dream of another life that you can’t quite get to,” she added.

“Girl Who Got Away” features an updated sound from the singer with heavier bassline beats, folk and electronic influences, which Dido attributed to her brother and producer, Rollo Armstrong.

“A great producer is someone that can facilitate the artist and make them the best that they can be,” the singer said.

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**Actress Ashley Judd opts not to enter Kentucky Senate race**

**WASHINGTON, 28 March** —Actress Ashley Judd's next role will not be as a Democratic candidate for the US Senate in Kentucky.

Judd said on Wednesday she has decided not to run in 2014 to try to unseat Republican Mitch McConnell, the Senate minority leader, after considering such a candidacy for months.

"After serious and thorough contemplation, I realize that my responsibilities & energy at this time need to be focused on my family," she wrote on Twitter.

Judd and her husband, three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Dario Franchitti, announced in January that they had decided to end their 11-year marriage.

Judd, 44, considers Kentucky her home state but actually lives in neighbouring Tennessee. She would have had to move to Kentucky in order to qualify as a candidate. McConnell’s re-election team in Kentucky already produced a campaign video criticizing Judd that made light of the fact that she did not live in Kentucky.—Reuters

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**South Korean singer Psy (C) is escorted by airport security upon arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila on 16 Feb, 2013. Reuters**

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**Dress in white for Psy, rapper tells fans**

**NEW YORK TIMES**

Dress in white for Psy, rapper tells fans
Last bullet in chamber for Augusta-chasing Europeans

**LONDON**, 28 March — Spain’s Rafael Cabrera-Bello leads a host of top European names hoping to qualify for the first major of the year at the US Masters next month when the European Tour travels to Morocco for the Hassan II Trophy starting on Thursday.

Cabrera-Bello put the theft of his personal possessions behind him en route to last week’s weather-hit Malaysian Open to finish tied-22nd and with a ranking of 65 he is closing in on a Masters’ debut with a place in the top 50.

“The main reason I am here is to try to win this tournament and get into The Masters,” the Spaniard told the European Tour website (www.europeantour.com), with the 11-14 April Masters looming large on the horizon.

“This is my last chance to do it this year, the last bullet in the chamber if you like, and I am going to give it my best shot,” added the twice European Tour winner.

“Hopefully, I can continue to play well and if the door opens a little bit on Sunday afternoon here then I can take my chance.”

The other four names who can book their Masters place with victory in Morocco are Scots Stephen Gallacher (64), Richie Ramsay (73) and Scott Jamieson (74) plus German Marcel Siem (72).

Webber’s future not decided, say Red Bull

**LONDON**, 28 March— Red Bull have dismissed reports that Australian Mark Webber is certain to leave the Formula One world champions at the end of the season after Sunday’s Malaysian Grand prix team orders furore.

“It’s pure speculation that Mark will not drive with the team in 2014,” Red Bull said when asked about comments by Webber’s manager Flavio Briatore that he was sure the current lineup would not continue.

“Mark’s contract has been renewed for the last few years on an annual basis—he has continued to choose to drive for the team each year and the team has similarly wanted to continue working with him as he is an excellent driver and a competitive racer.

“We are two races into the current season and it’s far too early to be talking about 2014.”

Webber’s future at a team who have won the last three championships has been called into question after Sunday’s race led to a breakdown in trust between the drivers. World cham-

Sunderland lose Fletcher, Cattermole for survival fight

**LONDON**, 28 March— Sunderland’s hopes of avoiding relegation trouble were dealt a double blow on Wednesday when skipper Lee Cattermole and top scorer Steven Fletcher were ruled out for the remainder of the season with injuries.

Midfielder Cattermole has knee surgery on Wednesday while Fletcher damaged ankle ligaments playing for Scotland.

The Premier League club’s website (www.safc.com) said it was not known whether Fletcher, who has scored 11 league goals this season, would require surgery.

Sunderland are four points above the bottom three in 15th place and host runaway leaders Manchester United on Saturday.

Van Persie ponders staying at United for good

**LONDON**, 28 March— Robin van Persie feels he could stay at Manchester United for the rest of his career after enjoying a superb first season at Old Trafford.

The Netherlands striker has netted 19 Premier League goals since joining from Arsenal in August, inspiring United to the brink of a 20th top-flight title.

“For the next few years I will be at Man United — maybe longer,” the 29-year-old was quoted as saying by the BBC on Wednesday. “United could be my last club.”

Van Persie has been enthused by the new challenge after eight years at Arsenal where he only won the 2005 FA Cup.

United manager Alex Ferguson’s attitude towards older players, with 39-year-old Ryan Giggs and 38-year-old Paul Scholes still on the books, has also led the Dutchman to ponder whether he is better off staying for good.

“You have a number of clubs in Europe where older players can find it good, where they are valued. You used to have that at Juventus and AC Milan, Manchester United today is a good example. So who knows how long I will stay at the club,” he said.

“There is a new challenge for me every day at United. My development is an ongoing process. That gets an extra boost when you are surrounded by new coaches and team mates, all with their own ideas, in a totally new environment.”

Ferguson himself is part of that refreshing change, with Van Persie seeing a fun side to the 71-year-old.

“Here is one of the funniest people I have ever come across in my life. Of course Ferguson has another side, when he is in the game mode. Then he is a warrior just like us, the players on the field,” he added.

“Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal is the same. People base their opinions on what they see on TV of him. That is 20 percent of the reality. I get it, it is human to judge that way, but for good judgment you need more information.”

Saina Nehwal nominated for BWF Female Player of the Year Award

**KUALA LUMPUR**, 28 March — The announcement of the winners and the presentation of prizes will take place in Kuala Lumpur on 18 May following the BWF Annual General Meeting.

India’s Saina Nehwal was on Wednesday nominated for the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Female Player of the Year Award for 2012.

Along with Saina in the reckoning are World No 1 Li Xuerui of China, who copped eight titles in 2012 including the Olympic and year-ending crowns.

Li’s compatriot Wang Yihan, who won the Olympic silver in London, has also been nominated besides the winning Olympic women’s doubles pair of Tian Qing and Zhao Yunlei (China). Should a pair win, they will share the annual award.

The World No 2 Indian, in 2012, won the Indonesia Open Super Series Premier, Denmark Open Super Series Premier, Swiss Open Grand Prix Gold, and the Thailand Open Grand Prix Gold to add to the bronze medal she won at the London Olympics.

Otherwise Chinese shuttlers dominated the nominations of the best badminton players of 2012.

In the list of the Male Player of the Year are two-time Olympic gold medallist Lin Dan of China and his perennial rival Malaysia’s Lee Chong Wei, the current World No 1 and a two-time Olympic silver medallist.—PTI
**General**

**Veteran Haas ends Djokovic dominance in Miami**

Key Biscayne, (Florida), 28 March—Germany’s Tommy Haas recorded the upset of the tournament when he stunned two-time defending champion Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-4 in the fourth round of the Sony Open at Miami on Tuesday.

Haas, who turns 35 next week, needed just 80 minutes to end Djokovic’s 14-match winning streak at the tournament and consign the world number one Serb to just his second loss of the season.

"Playing against someone like Novak and coming out on top at this time of my career, it’s unbelievable," Haas told reporters.

"These are the moments I appreciate the most, going on those big stadiaums, big stages, playing against the best people in the world."

Haas’s win was his second over a world number one, some 14 years after felling Andre Agassi in the quarter-finals of the 1999 Grand Slam Cup.

"All the credit to him. He played a great match and he was the better player, no question about it," said Djokovic, who won a third successive Australian Open title in January.

"As far as I'm concerned, it definitely is the worst match I have played in a long time."

The victory carried Haas into his first quarter-final at Miami while improving his head-to-head record against Djokovic to 3-3.

The German next plays Gilles Simon after the 118th-seeded Frenchman rallied past another Serbian in Janko Tipsarevic, 5-7, 6-2, 6-2. Djokovic’s defeat opens the door for second seed Andy Murray, who eased into the last eight with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Italy’s Andreas Seppi, to replace Roger Federer as world number two should be win the Miami title.—Reuters

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**Asleep in Jesus**

Captain Labhanteegu (Rtd.)

BC 5376

Aged 90 years

Beloved husband of Pi Zomningthang @ Minnie, father of Pi Zomnumu + Rev. R.L.Darkim, Bishop Zothammawia (Methodist Church-Lower Myanmar)+ Dr Caroline Hla Hla Aye (Assistant Representative, UNFPA), Pi Chhuam @ San San Lwin + U Sein Aung, (Pa Zarliana) + Dr. Hinung Sawi Thangi (DSA) and Pa Khwinthanga @ Thangpuia, loving grandfather of (Madimi), Dina, Hilary, Christ, Theodore, Phung Minu, and Malsawma, passed away at 12:35 pm on 28.3.2013 (Thursday).

The funeral service will be held at the Methodist English Church, No. 63 Alahpya Pagoda Road, at 10 am on 30.3.2013 (Saturday), followed by burial at Yayaw Laycuemical Garden Christian Cemetery.

"And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

The Bereaved family

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**Asleep in Jesus**

Professor Dr Daw Khin Si

(Age 97)

Professor Dr Daw Khin Si, youngest daughter of U Thar Nyo and Daw Aye; beloved wife of Dr U Ne Win; youngest sister of U Nyi, Sayamayi Daw Htwi Yi and Sayama Daw Than Kyi; beloved mother of Claudia Darling and Winston Nyo Win, U Ye Gaung and Daw Marlar Khin Phyu Win; grandmother of Sandy and Nancy was asleep in Jesus on 26 March, 2013 at 8:30 am at her residence. The funeral service was held at the Yewly Christian Ecumenical Church on 28 March, 2013, at 2:00 pm. A Memorial Service for Professor Dr Daw Khin Si will be held at her residence, 35A, Baho Lan, Ahlon, Yangon on 31 March, 2013 (Sunday) at 10:30 am.

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**Clashes erupt at Syrian refugee camp in Turkey**

Ankara, 28 March—A strife broke out in Turkey’s Akcakale Syrian refugee camp on Wednesday when a group of Syrian refugees began attacking Turkish security forces after a fire erupted at the camp, local media reported.

The Syrian refugees threw stones at Turkish police, who responded with tear gas and pressurized water to diffuse the situation. Local security forces have then blocked the camp.

Earlier Wednesday, there was a fire caused by an electrical fault in the camp, killing one child and injuring three persons. Events escalated when the protesting refugees attacked the police, one man injured and one vehicle damaged in the clash.—Xinhua

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**New Light of Myanmar**

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

29-3-2013 07:30 am — 30-3-2013 09:30 am (MST)

- News
- Rural Electrification in Myanmar
- News
- Music
- News
- Reunion of Scout Association
- Textiles of the Two Lands
- News
- Aesthetic Chinlone
- News
- Vanishing Treasure of Myanmar
- News
- “Flying without Wing” My Great Limitless Adventurer (Pakokku)
- News
- Reunion of Scout Association
- Textiles of the Two Lands
- News
- Bangladesh-Myanmar Mutually Beneficial Cooperation
- A Village of Pa-O

Myanmar TV

7:00 am
1. Parita By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise
7:30 am
3. “President Speech”
7:40 am
4. Morning News
7:50 am
5. International News
8:00 am
6. Nice & Sweet Song
8:12 am
7. One Village & One Product
8:25 am
8. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies
8:35 am
9. Road to 27th SEA Games (Judo)
8:50 am
10. Musical Programme
9:00 pm
11. Opening Song
9:02 pm
12. Song For Upholding National Spirit
9:20 pm
13. Song of National Races
4:25 pm
14. Teleplay (Forest)

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**Theatre night takes stage in Madrid amidst crisis**

Madrid, 28 March—A total of 68 theatres in the Community of Madrid will open their doors with over a 100 different activities for a new edition of "Theatre Night" (La Noche de los Teatros) here on Wednesday to mark the World Theatre Day.

Theatregoers who had been dissuaded away by the sales tax on theatre and cinema tickets raised in the third quarter of 2012, will be able to enjoy discounts of up to 40 percent on their tickets.

The sales tax, which was lifted from 8 percent up to 21 percent, has plunged the theatre incomes, with takings in the third quarter of 2012 falling by 19.44 percent year on year. The number of theatre-goers also saw a 20 percent drop in the period, according to a report published by the State Federation of Associations of Theatre and Dance Companies.

"It is a dead weight for the producers and also for the public," said Ignacio Gonzalez, President of the Community of Madrid.
EU to assist in electoral tasks in 2015

**Nay Pyi Taw, 28 March—**Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye received a delegation led by Mr. Robert Cooper, Special Advisor to High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Ms. Catherine Ashton, at his office, here, this afternoon.

The meeting focused on exchange of visits between representatives of the UEC and the EU for development of electoral processes, EU’s assistance to Myanmar to successfully hold free and fair elections in 2015, and bilateral cooperation in the tasks of the UEC.

Also present at the call were UEC members U Myint Naing, U Aung Myint, Dr Daw Myint Kyi, U Win Kyi, U Nyunt Tin, U Win Ko, Secretary U Tin Tun, officials concerned of the commission and Mr. Vikdor Buttler and Mr. Xavier Noc from the EU, who are currently working together with the UEC. The delegation was accompanied by Mr. Andreas, Chief of the EU Office in Yangon.

**New ODA Loans by Japan for national development**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 28 March—**Mr. NUMATA, Ambassador of Japan announced to Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development that the Government of Japan officially decided to provide ODA Loans for three projects amounting to 51,052 million Japanese Yens (approximately 337 million US Dollars).

According to the press release of the Japanese Embassy, the three projects include Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction Phase-I that covers construction and renovation of basic local infrastructures, such as roads and bridges, electricity, water supply; Urgent Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project Phase-I that covers output enhancement and streamlining of electricity through renovation of thermal power plants and substations around Yangon urban area; and Infrastructure Development Project in Thilawa Area Phase-I that covers upgrading basic infrastructures such as power plants and harbor facilities, related to Thilawa SEZ development.

These ODA Loans will be provided particularly in concessional condition with interest rate at 0.01% per annum and 40 years repayment period (including 30 years grace period).

The Government of Japan will make continuous efforts to redouble its ODA for Myanmar’s social and economic development as well as its poverty reduction.—NLM

**Wellwishers continue contribution for riot victims**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 28 March—**Meiktila, thanks to 24-hour security measures of security forces, Tatmadawmen and duty-conscious locals, has restored normalcy, quelling the fear of local residents. Wellwishers have been donating cash and kind for riot victims taking shelter at relief camps. Relief supplies are being accepted at contribution acceptance center. Wellwishers are also reported to be visiting relief camps and monasteries to provide relief aids to sufferers. The donation of wellwishers has amounted to K 18,739,000 so far.—MNA

**There should be no forced recruitment of new soldiers**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 28 March—**The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission issued a statement No 2/2013 on conflict in Kachin State today. The full text of statement is as follows:—

**Statement No. (2/2013) of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission regarding the conflict in Kachin State**

1. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission is gratified that the Union Peace-Making Committee and KIO delegation were able to issue a joint statement at the peace talks held at Shweli (Ruili) of the Peoples’ Republic of China on 11-12 March 2013 and that positive developments were achieved. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission also whole-heartedly welcomes the statement that the Union Government will accelerate development and rehabilitation tasks in the Kachin State as the process to achieve cease-fire has commenced under the said joint statement.

2. The MNHRC has constantly followed the developments on the conflict in the Kachin State. It was regrettably found that the displaced persons suffer from more miseries as the said conflict lasts longer. The Commission visited the Kachin State twice, one in December 2011 and the other in July 2012 and coordinated with the concerned parties and contributed to the distribution of humanitarian supplies to the displaced persons. In addition, in its statements issued in connection with the conflict in the Kachin State, the Commission had strongly recommended that:

   - demining is essential before rehabilitation tasks to enable the displaced persons to return to their home;
   - armed groups, relevant domestic and foreign organizations should cooperate when demining is undertaken;
   - villagers should be educated on landmines;
   - armed groups should not under any circumstances commit human rights violations on the local populace;
   - there should be no forced recruitment of new soldiers; and
   - the issue of humanitarian access and safe passage for humanitarian supplies should be addressed.

3. In order to alleviate the sufferings of the displaced persons and also to contribute more to the peace talks, it is argued again that while the peace talks are being held with the objective of ultimately achieving peace in the Kachin State, the above-mentioned recommendations of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission should be implemented as a priority.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

Date, 28 March, 2013

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**Staff and USDP members participate in sanitation tasks in Meiktila.**—MNA