Japan pledges to provide 24 billion yen in fresh loans to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March — Japan has pledge to provide 24 billion yen in fresh loans to Myanmar to finance a power plant and electricity networks, according to Japanese officials. Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida made the pledge during a meeting with President U Thein Sein at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday morning.

Kishida also held a meeting with his Myanmar counterpart U Wunna Maung Lwin, signing a memorandum of understanding on six “Grant Aid” projects worth 7.7 billion yen. Three of the projects are aimed at settling ethnic minority issues and promoting national reconciliation in Myanmar. They include emergency food assistance to displaced persons in Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan States and support of ethnic minorities.

The food assistance project will be conducted in cooperation with the World Food Program with a maximum grant amount of 1 billion yen, according to a press release. UNICEF will partner with Japan in the Programme for Emergency Assistance to Displaced Children in Kachin and Rakhine States, with a maximum grant amount of 300 million yen.

Other projects include the improvement of a hospital in Loikaw and the installation of a control center system and safety equipment for main railway lines.

The foreign ministers also discussed territorial and maritime disputes that should be addressed during upcoming ASEAN meetings chaired by Myanmar, officials said.

“We have seen some intense issues in the South China Sea and East China Sea which are not acceptable and we believe those issues will be discussed among ASEAN members,” a Japanese Foreign Ministry official told NLM.

Myanmar sends Aide-Memoire to Bangladesh over article calling for a referendum in Rakhine

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent an Aide-Memoire to the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Bangladesh, in reaction to an article that was published in the 20 March issue of the Dhaka Tribune, titled “A referendum in Rakhine State?”

According to the article written by journalist Zeeshan Khan, people in Sittway and Maungtaw should be able to hold a referendum on independence from Myanmar.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the Bangladeshi ambassador to object to the article and handed over the Aide-Memoire to Maj. Gen Anup Kumar Chakma, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, on Monday.

The Aide-Memoire has been received by U Myo Myint Tha, Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh in Dhaka, and passed on to Maj. Md Abdul Jafar, the Director-General of the South-East Asia Affairs Department of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Bangladesh.

M.V Silver Whisper luxury cruise ship arrives at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa

Photo shows the article “A referendum in Rakhine State?” in 20 March issue of the Dhaka Tribune. — MNA

The M.V Silver Whisper luxury cruise ship arrived at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa (MITT) in Thanlyin Township in Yangon on Monday.

The cruise ship carrying 277 globetrotters and 292 sailors departed from Los Angeles in the United States on 6 January.

The ship travelled to New Zealand, Australia, Papua New Guinea, China, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore before laying anchor at Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa.

The tourists will visit Thanlyin, Bago, Mandalay and Bagan for three days.

The ship will depart from the MITT at 12 pm on 27 March and end its visit in Spain via India, Oman, Israel, Greece, Turkey and Italy on 30 April.

It is operated by Silversea Cruises Company.

Khin Cho Win
Halliburton CEO in Myanmar to discuss “energy sector development”

Vice-President U Nyan Tun holds talks with President and Chief Executive Officer of Halliburton Co from the United States Dave Lesar.—MNA

Union Minister at President Office discusses climate change with EU commissioners

YANGON, 24 March—Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane held talks with European Union commissioners over climate change issues and renewable energy problems during his visit to Europe from 17 to 23 March.

He also discussed issues related to aid from the European Union to Myanmar, development and humanitarian issues, progress of reforms in Myanmar, regional issues in Rakhine State and health care services provided by Médecins Sans Frontières also known as Doctors Without Borders-MSF’s activities in Myanmar.

During his visit to Paris, France, and Brussels, Belgium, the Union Minister held the talks with officials including Mrs Catherine Ashton, Mr Guenther Oettinger, EU Commissioner for Energy, Mrs Kristalina Georgieva, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, and Mr Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development.

Union Minister U Soe Thane also participated in a forum conducted by the Assistance Technique France (Adetef) along with ministers and civil leaders from Africa, Europe and middle-east region.

Union Industry Minister on inspection tour of No. 35 heavy industry, hydrogen peroxide chemical plant in Chauk

Union Industry Minister on inspection tour of No. 35 heavy industry, hydrogen peroxide chemical plant in Chauk, the first of its kind in Myanmar. The construction of the plant started on 12 February, 2005 and it was commissioned into service on 23 April, 2006.

At present, the work process was suspended as its main unit caught fire on 2 August, 2012.—MNA

Union Parliament Speaker receives Japanese FM, Deputy Chair of The Elders

Japan, Myanmar to boost good relations

Union FM felicitates Hellenic counterpart
President U Thein Sein discusses peace process with Nobel Laureate and implementation of controversial Economic Zone with Japanese FM

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March — The progress on peace with ethnic groups, stability and democratization were top on the agenda during President U Thein Sein’s talks with officials of The Elders—a group of world leaders who work for human rights and peace—and former Finnish President and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Martti Ahtisaari, among other foreign dignitaries, at the Presidential Palace on Monday.

Discussed were the provision of assistance and advice by The Elders, systematic utilization of natural resources, and the challenges of the upcoming census. The promotion of health and the development of the health sector were at the heart of the discussion with Dr. Gro Harlem, former Director-General of the World Health Organization and former Prime Minister of Norway, who now serves as the Deputy-Chairwoman of The Elders.

Following the talks about human rights protection and other humanitarian issues, was a business discussion with Japan’s Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on the implementation of the controversial Thilawa Special Economic Zone in cooperation with Japanese companies.

The Thilawa Special Economic Zone has come under scrutiny for the frequent reports on land grabs, with the U.N Special Rapporteur for Human Rights, Tomas Ojea Quintana, saying during a visit to Myanmar in February the rule of law must be obeyed and that local residents should be fairly compensated if relocated.

Aside from their strong interest in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, the Japanese are looking into a wide range of other investment projects, and have pledged financial assistance for education, and the health sector, among other areas.—NLM

MNA

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Japan’s Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida.—MNA

Myanmar Civil Aviation Development Conference-2014 at Traders Hotel

YANGON, 24 March—Myanmar Civil Aviation Development Conference-2014 was launched at the Traders Hotel in Yangon on Monday.

Chairman of Sphere Exhibits Mr. Chua Wee Phong delivered an address on the occasion.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung invited those present to make more investments saying that as parts of reforms of Myanmar’s aviation industry, not only local entrepreneurs but also foreign entrepreneurs have been allowed to make investment in the aviation industry for the sake of development of the aviation industry.

He also expressed hopes to exchange views and experiences of international aviation businessmen at today’s conference.

Sphere Exhibits Chairman Mr. Chua Wee Phong and Myanmar Airways International Chairman U Khin Maung Latt opened the conference.

The conference lasts till 25 March.

MNA

MNA
LOCAL NEWS

Thingyan Atar pots in high demand

THABEIKKYIN, 24 March — Atar Pots (Thingyan Pots of Water Festival) are entering markets as Thingyan Festival is drawing near.

The Atar pots are transported by sea to Thabeikkyin in Mandalay Region.

Earthen pots fetch more money from sales of pots especially in Tabodwe, Tabu and Kyaung.

Myeik District raises cultivation and production of rubber

MYEIK, 24 March — A meeting between Myanmar Rubber Growers Association (Central) and Myeik District Rubber Association took place at the hall of Myeik District General Administration Department in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, on Saturday.

Joint-Secretary-2 of the Myeik District association explained formation of district and township rubber growers associations. General Secretary of the association (central) U Khang Myint approved their formations.

U Zarni Zaw, technical officer of the central association discussed technological matters for development of rubber cultivation and production and replied to queries raised by those present.

Myeik District focuses on cultivation of rubber plantations in its area and tries to develop rubber production so as to export products.—Khaing Htoo (Myeik District IPRD)

Census taking process course concludes in Pyinmana Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March — The administrator of Pyinmana Township presented certificates of duty assignment to basic education teachers on Saturday.

The teachers attended the population and census taking process course at Myoma Post-Primary School in Pyinmana Township, Dekkhina District, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 22 March.—Ko Gyi Kyaw

Sports trainings given in Sagaing Region

SAGAING, 24 March — For emerging new sports generation in the country, officials from Sagaing District Sports and Physical Education Department and staff from the Education Department are giving sports training to the students in the summer holidays.

Five trainers are training to 238 students in football, tennis, aerobics and Karatedo events at the district sports ground and gymnasium as of 20 March.

The courses will run up to 8 April.—Htway Myint Naing (Sagaing)

Myanmar Economic Bank (branch) put into service in Mahlaing Tsp

MAHLAING, 24 March —Myanmar Economic Bank opened its branch in Mahlaing Township in Mandalay Region on Saturday.

Financial Minister of Mandalay Region Dr Myint Kyu and General Manager of Myanmar Economic Bank U Hla Myint Aung cut the ribbon to open the new branch.

The newly-opened branch is of reinforced concrete type. The construction work started in November 2013, officials said.

The bank branch is facilitated with two buildings of staff quarters.

It is aimed at enabling the local people to enjoy banking services and loans.

Aung Htay (Mahlaing)

Briquettes production process demonstrated in Kyaukse Tsp

KYAUKSE, 24 March — To be able to reduce the environmental deterioration impacts, officials from Mandalay Region Dry Zone Greening Department demonstrated production of firewood substitute briquettes at the compound of Kyaukse District DZGD on Sunday.

During the demonstration, the entrepreneurs from five townships in Kyaukse District displayed their products such as stoves, paddy husk-stired stoves, Mercy Corps and briquettes produced by EREDA.

The locals viewed briquette making processes with the use of green wastes and other organic materials.

Thet Maung

Dwellers in Thabeikkyin earn daily income from selling earthen pots in these days.—Soe Naing Win (Thabeikkyin)

EARthen pots are high demand in these days.—U Thet Maung

Briquettes production process demonstrated in Kyaukse Tsp

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Skill demonstration of Shinji Kung Fu squad wins public attractions

Yangon, 24 March—Trainees of Shinji Kung Fu Squad performed skill demonstrations with Silat works called hand postures and with using Nanchaku and swords at Maha Bandoola Park, for the public relaxation area for the public to be able to keep the town clean. “We have demonstrated skills of Shinji Kung Fu sport comprises Myanmar martial arts events such as Bando, Banshe, Shangyi and Kandawgyi Tower Island. Later, they finally chose the Maha Bandoola Park for public access, according to Shinji group.

The squad shows off their skills weekly. In the early morning of 23 March, the trainees led by trainer U Myat Shin of Shinji Kung Fu training school of Yangon demonstrated their skills for raising sports spirit of the people young and old. “We have demonstrated skills of Shinji Kung Fu sport weekly. As of this week, we will show off Kung Fu sports of China. We replied to questions of some foreigners that we are now playing Myanmar Kung Fu sport. We explain Myanmar Kung Fu sport comprises Myanmar martial arts events such as Bando, Banshe, Shangyi, Shan-Tayoke, Ernong, Bhamo, etc events with hand postures and long sticks. As of this week, we play the martial arts with the use of Nanchaku and swords. My trainees play the arts with double Nanchaku. It is improved with plastic pipes not to cause injuries themselves in the demonstration. Their swords are made in China. We set an aim to show off the skills for public observation. The swords are made of four parts iron sheets and it becomes swords when the player use. We have a plan to play the Silat event will be demonstrated weekly,” said trainer U Myat Shin. Myanmar Kung Fu martial arts will be demonstrated at the venue from 6 am to 7 am on Sundays before the rainy season falls. Anyone may receive training at the part.

In recent months, the martial arts group chose the area of Botataung and Kandawgyi Tower Island. Later, they finally chose the Maha Bandoola Park for public access, according to Shinji group.


Hospital equipment, medicines provided to hospitals in Pantanaw Tsp

Pantnaw, 24 March—People’s Hospital in Pantanaw and station hospital in Inma, Mintau and Chaunggale village-tracts, located in deltaic area of Ayeyawady Region, are giving health care services to the local people.

Recently, U Aung Tun Dr San San Yi and family of 27th Street in Yangon donated medical equipment worth K 7.5 million to Pantanaw Township.

Aungthabye Co of the wellwisher had donated cash and medical equipment worth K 47.8 million to the fund of the hospitals in Pantanaw Township.


People wish sanitation along road in Meiktila Industrial Zone

Meiktila, 24 March—The Union government has established Meiktila Industrial Zone near the entrance to Meiktila. The industrial zone is a location for small and medium scale industries.

In recent years, Meiktila Institute of Economics was established in the east of the industrial zone. After that, boarding houses, restaurants, tea stops and salons are mushrooming near the industrial zone, and the industrial zone becomes busy place. Although Meiktila and its industrial zone are bustling and hustling with business institutions, the people do not abide by public ethics. Along the road to the town is filled with plastic bags and garbage, and small piles of garbage are home to dogs.

The inappropriate scenes in Meiktila cannot win the heart of the visitors and locals. That is why the local people wish to receive supervision of the authorities for cleaning the garbage piles of the industrial zone.


Futsal tournament attracts youths of Tatkon Tsp

Tatkon, 24 March—With the aim of developing Futsal sport among the local youth, the first futsal tournament was kicked off at the township sports ground on Saturday.

In the debut, Yuzana Team edged out Ahman Team with a wide margin 602. Before the match, departmental officials greeted the players and urged them to play fairly. The final match and prize presentation will be held on 5 April.


Pre-primary students enjoy contests

Pathin, 24 March—Pathin District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee of Ayeyawady Region organized the skills contest of pre-primary students at the hall of No 1 Basic Education High School in Pathin, Ayeyawady Region, on 22 March.

In the contest, pre-primary students at two levels representing townships participated in the various kinds of contests.

After the contest, pre-primary students of Pathin Township entertained dances and sings to the guests. The Chairperson of District WAO and officials presented prizes to winners and gave gifts to all participant students.

District IPRD


Hlinethaya Tsp’s repaved street put into service

Yangon, 24 March—As a gesture of hail ing the 69th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, repaved Minye Kyawswa 2nd Street was commissioned in service on Sunday. Hlinethaya Township, a new town established in the time of the previous government, in Yangon Region.

The street was repaved on a self-reliant basis. People’s Parliament MP of the township and officials cut the ribbon to open the repaved street.

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MHP (Hlinethaya)
Australian ship homes in on possible debris from Malaysia plane

SYDNEY/PERTH, 24 March — An Australian navy ship was close to finding possible debris from a missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner on Monday as a mounting number of sightings of floating objects raised hopes wreckage of the plane may soon be found. The HMAS Success should reach two objects spotted by Australian military aircraft on Tuesday morning at the latest, Malaysia’s government said, offering a chance of picking up suspected debris from the plane.

So far, ships in the international search effort have been unable to locate several “suspicious” objects spotted by satellites in grainy images or by fast-flying aircraft over a vast search area in the remote southern Indian Ocean.

“HMAS Success is on scene and is attempting to locate and recover these objects,” Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, who called his Malaysia counterpart Najib Razak to inform him of the sighting, said in a statement to parliament. The objects, described as a “grey or green circular object” and an “orange rectangular object”, were spotted about 2,500 km west of Perth on Monday afternoon, said Abbott, adding that three planes were also en route to the area. Neither Malaysia nor Australia gave details of the objects’ size.

“We’re not sure if Success will be able to find them tonight,” John Young, general manager of the emergency response division of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, said in a video statement. “She may need the assistance of another search aircraft on the scene tomorrow to do that.” —Reuters

Thai protesters return to streets as pro-govt forces up the ante

BANGKOK, 24 March — Anti-government demonstrators in Thailand resumed street protests on Monday after lying low for weeks, piling pressure on Yingluck Shinawatra, who is increasingly beleaguered by her own party leaders.

Yingluck, who was ousted in a new political scheme that has run for dereliction of duty, is being tried before the National Administrative Court for three years of office. She is expected to face impeachment, said the statement.

“Thaksin’s “red shirt” unrest. After months of restructuring, the Red Shirts are expected to be even more highly charged in coming days.” —Yingluck

Dutch Police check the ID of a man at the area of Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 22 March. The third Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) will be held in The Hague on 22-25 March. —Xinhua

Despite UN resolution, Syria’s war foes hinder aid access

UNITED NATIONS, 24 March — The United Nations and its allies are being accused of “wasting” humanitarian aid to Syria, with the warring sides accused of blocking deliveries.

President Bashar al-Assad. UN chief Ban Ki-moon said the government and rebels of Syria’s civil war in Syria, which has been raging for three years, was “remains extremely challenging.”

A “new approach to the implementation” of the February 22 resolution — obtained by Reuters on Sunday — is being used by governments to try to “save Syria” and at what potential cost. The big confrontation between the East and West since the Cold War, the United States and the European Union have imposed sanctions targeting some of its closest political and business allies, but it was unclear whether they were going to work.

At The Hague, the G7 will probably discuss how to exert further pressure and at what potential cost. “It will be an opportunity for us to explain to other what we are doing and where we are going, to coordinate our actions,” a senior EU official said. —Reuters

G7 leaders to hold crisis talks on Ukraine during nuclear summit

THE HAGUE, 24 March — Leaders of the G7 nations are to hold talks on the sidelines of a nuclear security summit in The Hague on Monday to consider their response to Russia annexing Crimea, amid doubts that sanctions can constrain President Vladimir Putin.

Since the emergency 1-hour meeting was announced last Tuesday, Putin has signed laws completing annexation of the peninsula on the Black Sea and his troops seized a Ukrainian airbase there. In what has become the biggest confrontation between the East and West since the Cold War, the United States and the European Union have imposed sanctions targeting some of its closest political and business allies, but it was unclear whether they would go far enough to influence Moscow.

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Election observers pull foreign staff out of Afghanistan after hotel attack

A general view of the Serena Hotel in Kabul on 21 March, 2014, a day after it was attacked by gunmen. 

REUTERS

KABUL, 24 March—Two major foreign election observer and support missions have pulled staff out of Afghanistan after a Taliban attack on a Kabul hotel, observers said on Sunday, in a move which could undermine confidence in the outcome of the crucial vote.

The 5 April vote is less than two weeks away and could mark the country’s first democratic transfer of power. Many fear a repeat of the widespread fraud that discredited the poll in 2009 when about 20 percent of votes were thrown out.

“It’s really bad news,” said Jelisaveta Spingar, director at the Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan, the largest Afghan monitoring group.

“Having international observers in the election is really, really important... (to) give legitimacy to the process.”

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) said it had pulled its observers from the country, while a senior European diplomat said observers from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) had been pulled out to Turkey.

The European Union’s international monitoring mission will be the only major one to remain in Afghanistan after the Taliban on Thursday attacked the heavily fortified Serena Hotel in central Kabul, where most foreign observers were staying.

“We have withdrawn our staff that were staying at the Serena, and we are assessing our election monitoring activities,” said Kathy Gest, public affairs director at NDI.

NDI observer Luis Maria Duarte was among the nine people killed and many of his colleagues were in the building when four gunmen with pistols sprayed diners at the hotel’s restaurant with bullets.

Officially, the OSCE said it had yet to make a final call on whether it would cancel its international election support mission, despite sources saying foreign staff had already left for Turkey.

“Our security experts are currently assessing the security situation in Kabul for our team, who were at the Serena the night of the attack,” spokesman Thomas Rymer said.

While violence and insecurity across Afghanistan was always going to confine foreign observers mostly to compounds in major cities, their presence and expertise was to serve as a vital form of reassurance to their Afghan colleagues.

The Serena Hotel had been attacked before, but has since been increasingly fortified and considered safe enough to accommodate foreign observers during the election.

It was also one of few places foreign officials were still permitted to go after the Talabani attacked a popular Lebanese restaurant killing 21 people in January.

REUTERS

66 killed in attacks across Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 March —A total of 66 people were killed in violent attacks and battles between insurgents and Iraqi security forces in the provinces of Anbar and Diyala, security sources said.

In Iraq’s western province of Anbar, an Iraqi commando force fought fierce clash with gunmen in al-Sijar area in the northern part of the militant-seized city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, leaving 33 militants killed, a provincial police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The army’s artillery pounded the industrial district in Fallujah, killing three militants and injuring two others, the source said.

Separately, gunmen shot dead a member of a government-backed Sahwa paramilitary group in Abu Ghraib area, some 25 km west of Baghdad, the source added. Anbar Province has been the scene of fierce clashes that flared up after Iraqi police dismantled an anti-government protest site outside Ramadi in late December last year.

In the country’s eastern province of Diyala, anti-government militant groups, suspected to be linked to al-Qaeda organization, took control of three districts in the town of Buhruz near the provincial capital city of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, after fierce clashes since late on Saturday night with Iraqi security forces, the source said.

The clashes resulted in the killing of 14 militants and three policemen, wounding three policemen, the source said, adding that reinforcement troops are surrounding the districts, while dozens of families left their homes to safer areas in the town of nearby Baquba city for fear of the continuing clashes.

Xinhua

Venezuela prosecutor sees police ‘excesses’ in protest crackdown

CARACAS, 24 March—Venezuela’s top state prosecutor, during an interview broadcast on Sunday.

Since the start of the demonstrations, state prosecutors have opened 60 investigations into alleged human rights violations and imprisoned 15 officials in connection with those incidents, she said.

Three people have died from gunshot wounds in shootout linked to the protests, witnesses and local media said on Saturday.

Demonstrators have been clashing nearly every day with riot police since the demonstrations began, with security forces firing tear gas and buckshot and the demonstrators responding with rocks and Molotov cocktails.

Opposition activists have shown videos of hooded assailants attacking government offices and say improvised barricades have restricted free transit and caused deaths by preventing the ill from receiving treatment.—Xinhua

Anti-government protesters stand in front of a National Guard armoured vehicle during a protest against Nicolas Maduro’s government in San Cristobal on 22 March, 2014.—REUTERS
Serving the people with utmost intellectual and professional ability and knowledge of newsroom staff is the main purpose of the State-run daily newspapers. They are informing, entertaining and enriching the readers daily while seriously taking into account the RFS in addition to the people’s centered policy the country has adopted. “R” or the first letter of the acronym “RFS” is “reaching” meaning all the information, entertainments and enrichments must reach every corner of the country. As a step towards this goal, we have been extending sub-printing houses in some major towns of Regions and States and enlarging our distribution network till reaching the remote areas where our brethren live.

In this regard, we are in the process of changing our two Myanmar language dailies into PSM or public service media that always gives priority to the voices, concerns and needs of the grassroots everywhere around the country as well as the minorities of the far away areas. After reaching every corner of the Union the work of “feeding” or “F” follows. The first important thing in feeding is that our news reports and information on knowledge and entertainment must be accurate, interesting and beneficial without having any words or pictures in connection with hate speech or hate action. Moreover they must be totally free from substances that encourage obscurity or conflicts in any way. The final part is “S” or “seeding”. As daily newspapers are included in one of the most effective means of knowledge enrichment of the people of all walks of life, they must cover harm-free, non-bias, reader-friendly and correct information for all readers.

Here, newsroom staff on their part must also enhance their professional skills, competency and knowledge through experience, life-long learning and in-housing training for sustainable development of RFS.

Write for us
We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Hailing the 69th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

All the time I love Tatmadaw

Hailing 69th Anniversary Armed Forces Day
The Armed Forces Day has come around once again, this time as 69th Anniversary, but annually as the same, Whenever it comes, comes as auspicious day. So makes the people nearer and dearer to our beloved Tatmadaw with out delay, Thousands of soldiers marched with the military songs, Towards the Parade Ground, with patriotic songs, voices like a thunder storm. It recollects the days back to our marching songs, Never forgotten, though the days were gone, Because, we fought and drove the imperialist with the people along, Soldiers are garlanded by the people all along the marching path, This tantamounts a symbol gifts from the People’s Hearts, Soldiers are cheered and encouraged by the crowds in their marching walks, Until they came to the designation resort, The songs of the soldiers came to a halt at the parade ground, A waiting to salute and listen to C-in-C’s address all around, People enjoyed the night of Armed Forces Day, They held to see the flourishing illuminable Fire Works in the sky in happy way, Tatmadaw is loved by our citizens for ever, For, Tatmadaw is the only one saving the people lives in time of danger, Nobody can deny this fact across the nationwide, From the cradle, even a newly-born child will speak truth with all the pride, We the people love the soldiers whole hearty, Because, their kindness, deeds, and the helping hands towards the people always in generosity, But, decades of Insurgency that stunted economic development in our country, Due to lack of peace, stability, tranquility Myanmar turned into poverty, When our neighbours have gone high sky prosperity, Myanmar came into determination yearly in the nation wealth, Because, of the insurgency against the STATE should be said, Since, seven decades ago, various efforts were made by our government Tatmadaw, With all the ethnic armed groups, reconciliation and reciprocal ceasefire for, To meet on the round table, to solve the arms conflict through dialogue, Some came, some reluctant, some asked due previleges, thus made the dialogue failed records, Yet our Tatmadaw, with perseverance, tolerance, opened a warmly welcome door, all the time for any negotiation, As a symbol of love, peace, kindness, and unity, infavour of people’s aspiration, Long lost, a life long, years have wasted and dwindled away, No stability, no tranquility, gun-firing were heard every where in sorrowful way, Thus, our national brethren were forced as homeless Vagabons to remote areas for safety, Some are ruined and dwelling, in immense devastation for precautionary, Fighting each other of our own national brethren blood were the main culprit and cause in every where, Thus, were the reasons compelling our national brethren to live in poverty manner, So, now is the essential time, my dear national brethren, To spell and end our nasty long last conflict as bitter lessons,

Our beloved Union President and honourable Command-er-in-Chief have no doubt love and fraternal affection upon the national brethren in vast purity, Come forward so my dear national brethren, for a peace-ful round table political dialogue in as trustworthy, For the interest and benefit of the entire people across the nationwide, Stopping the ceasefire even SKIRMISH, sooner the better as a national pride, Let the International Community witness our UNITY and Honesty, As to how we love each other for the development of our country, So hands in hands and hearts to hearts, let us strike, For the economic development future bright, So that every corner of the nation would not be there any poverty, Obviously, by its self it would annihilate poverty allevia-tion automatically, By Nature and by GOD gifts, Myanmar possesses immense natural resources in all sectors, On the mountain, on the land, in the creeks, the rivers, in the SEA and else where, So my dear national brethren why not we lend our helping hands?

Towards the State and solve the political dilemmas to meet an END, Come forward and meet higher authorities in a body manner, To eradicate and poverty alleviation in our country for ever, To develop our nation into prosperity, Utilizing the abovementioned natural resources together in reliability, Keep aside all the differences and march forward to enter dialogue, For ever lasting peaceful precious records, Had no multi armed forces in our land since independ-ence regained as an opportunity, Myanmar would have been now to a certain level rich in the regional community, But, lack of stability, security, destabilization, etc., Myanmar lacked behind in all fields, Then compare some times with other countries behind still,

As of the contents, the President stressed the defence forces in cooperation with the ethnic armed forces, Will Join hands to help to reform the peace process, The State will enjoy peaceful developed multi-party democratic nation in reality, From the bottom of his heart, we believe the President said in sincerity, Building democratic nation is on prevailing sound foun-dation he said also, We all national races keep this costly expression in our hearts therefore. Young and old of all ages, to keep the President remarks in custody, For the next generation to learn this as history, Once again, my dear brethren, let us stay together under one Union Flag in harmony, Stoppage of bellionce is MUST on our motherland, Get rid of all political differences and get together on Myanmar sand, Democratic nation is easily seen if we walk along with Tatmadaw peacefully, Especially, for all of us to stay long lives in tranquility, Being mortal, MEN may come and MEN may go, But, the existence of beloved Tatmadaw will ever stay tall as before, Bold and brave our Tatmadaw upholds the Three Main National Causes, To save guard the people and the nation in time of un-foreseen consequences, Our Tatmadaw is born with the Patriotic Spirit, There they are, for the entire nation overwhelming all the forth-coming dangers in excellance quick, In conclusion, our honourable and respected Tatmadaw as I said, will remain high sky tall as many years ago, Never down to the Earth, We will always like the SKY UP, As taller as Mount Everest, Till all the lives in the Universe laid in for final rest. Long live my beloved Tatmadaw.

Kyaw Zan Hla
Member of Myanmar Writers Association (0040)
WATER is the source of life, whether of bird, beast or man. An old adage in Myanmar says wisely “One can walk 7 days without food, but just one day without.” Very few trees and plants grow well or survive without water although there are some hardy shrubs and thorn trees that grow in deserts and dry lands. Water slakes thirst and also cleanses the body and purifies the mind. Yet we humans have taken nature to such an extent that this precious and priceless resource, especially pure water for drinking has become scarce. This is because the snow and glacial waters that provide us with drinking water have melted away into the sea. Twenty per cent of the world’s fresh water comes from Greenland ice, but it is melting and flowing into the sea. The snows and glaciers of the Himalayas which feed the Ayeyawady and other rivers as well as our underground aquifers are also disappearing; not melting seasonally as is usual but disappearing altogether. The after effects of melting snow and ice could become a threat to life on Earth. It is said by some environmentalists that five thousand people die daily from drinking unclean water and 1 billion of the world’s population have no access to safe drinking water.

Myanmar has had a long and fascinating tradition which places great value on water. It is partly a Buddhist tradition but it may also be because Myanmar is a tropical country with some areas known as the dry belt where water is scarce; drinking water especially. This combined with the Buddhist morality of ‘ahimsa’ or fulfilling the needs of others with good will and generosity gave rise to the practice of providing water for the parched and thirsty, human or otherwise. I first became aware of this tradition when I reached the age of five or so when one begins to ask the ‘why?’ of almost everything, and I questioned my grandmother about the two pots of water on a sheltered stand outside our gate — the ‘Ye-chan-sin’, that is a ‘stand of cool water’. The pots were plated on clean sand with green tufts of paddy seedlings growing around them to keep the water in the pots cool. There were also two mugs made from half coconut shells slotted on opposite sides, to slide through a slender wooden or bamboo stick for a handle. It was like a ladle with a cup at the end. One could hold the handle and dip the cup into the pot to get clear, cool water to quench thirst without contaminating the water that had been carefully filtered by my grandmother. They know why they had been placed there and why some member of the household had to clean them and refill them with water that had been properly filtered every day. My grandmother then explained that people such as hawkers and others who had to go about their business on foot under the hot tropical sun were often thirsty and that it was a good deed to provide cool, clean water for them. She went on to explain that though it cost next to nothing to provide drinking water, it automatically earned a lot of merit for the donor or donors. She also explained to me that according to Myanmar Theravada Buddhism if one provides water for those in need one gets ten blessings without supplication. The ten blessings are:

1. Power and influence
2. Worldly life
3. Retinue of attendants
4. Grace and sensitivity
5. Freedom from danger and disaster
6. Prestige
7. Courage and integrity
8. Pleasing physical appearance
9. Enduring health
10. Excellent physical and mental health

Whatever the rewards, the Myanmar is always ready to give drinking water to whoever asks. You can stop at any house to quench your thirst. There is no such thing as the caste system in Myanmar to refuse a stranger a cup or glass of mug of water. And there is always someone like my grandmother who has built a roadside ‘Ye-chan-sin’ for all and sundry. Nowadays you can still see large plastic cannisters of purified water on iron stands or placed on a rough wooden stand of planks nailed to a huge tree trunk at road sides. Needless to say the plastic cannisters are clean and plastic and they are attached with small metal chains to the jar; the chain is another sign of the times.

Myanmar is usually regarded as a country rich in natural resources and water as a resource seems inexhaustible, especially to those who live in areas where the monsoon rains are regular and there are brooks and streams and creeks and rivers at almost every turn. In every village in these regions there is at least one huge well. The men fetch water for household use with two buckets slung on a pole while they shouldered and the women come to gossip while washing their family clothes a fair distance away from the well. People, mostly men take baths at the well again some distance away not to contaminate the water in the well. Lisosome young women fetch drinking water from these wells just before dusk made up with ‘thanaka’ and hair adorned with jasmine. This is where the young maidens meet and gossip and rendezvous with young warriors after which they sway home gracefully with the water pot balanced on the head. There are also wells in cities and towns. Mandalay Taung Pagoda. But in places like Myanmar especially in isolated villages, water is so scarce that wells are rare. Most people are obliged to walk long distances under the scorching sun to fetch water for household use. They often have to dig shallow pits with their hands in dry creek beds for clear, cool drinking water. So, in many of these places people have to be careful not to waste such a scant item vital for life. But the donation of water is still a continued practice and these days tube wells are donated rather than surface wells.

There yet are signs that fresh drinking water is getting scarce. We, who live in large cities like Yangon, are obliged to buy purified water for drinking which was unheard of in days gone by. In these days of global warming pure drinking water is in very short supply across the world and even Myanmar with its bountiful water resources could face shortage of pure health-giving drinking water. Climate change is a stark reality which has not left Myanmar untouched. Weather patterns have changed; there is either too much or too little water in certain parts of the country. Pure drinking water which we took so much for granted could become a big problem (it has already replaced the loaves of crises in other parts of the world) if pollution of the air, seas and soil and damage to the environment continues unchecked and uncontrolled. Water is precious and priceless for it means life.

The life support system of all living beings on Earth includes clean air, fresh water as well as good soil. Life cannot be sustained without water or air and without water the soil will not yield food.

The United Nations Global Outlook-4 report says that, “close to 2 billion people are likely to suffer absolute water scarcity by 2025.” It is hoped that the world community will do something positive and effective so that the gloom and doom of the UN Global Outlook-4 will not come to pass.

In the meanwhile, we in Myanmar should continue to maintain our water tradition to lessen the pollution of the vast network of rivers and creeks and to prevent our underground aquifers from drying up. We fervently hope that with care there will still be the “Ye-chan-sin”, and wells and tanks of cool clear water in every city, town and village for the thirsty, in the days to come.

A fragrant paste from the bark of the “Thanaka” tree (Laniax acsidissima) was adopted by the Burmese king in the 12th century. The tradition continued with the kings and burmese nobles and the Burmese people continued the tradition to lessen the pollution of water and provide fresh cool drinking water for all.

By Kyi Kyi Hla

Daw Kyi Kyi Hla was a university teacher of philosophy in both Yangon and Mandalay universities from 1954 till she retired as professor and head of the Philosophy Department of the Arts and Science University of Yangon in 1982. She holds a BA (Honours) degree and MA degree in philosophy from the University of Rangoon. She was also a member of the board of Editors of the English magazine “The Myanmar Perspective” for the ten years of its publication and circulation. She has several published books and articles to her credit on philosophy which include the Ethics of Environmental Conservation from the Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Perspective.

She was awarded the Teacher of the Year title on World Teachers Day 2010.

USD 1 equivalent to

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More dentists needed: Vice-President

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo with faculty members of University of Dental Medicine (Yangon).—MNA

Yangon, 24 March—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham during a tour of Yangon Region met with faculty members of the University of Dental Medicine (Yangon) on Monday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said that more dentists are needed as only a small number of students graduate from the university.

He also went to the University of Medicine-2 (Yangon) in North Okkalapa Township, where he said in a speech that the university has been turning out a large number of outstanding medical practitioners so far. MNA

Kachin ethnic groups to be counted as Kachin national race in upcoming census: Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 March — The 27th day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Union Parliament, continued in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday, with parliamentarians submitting proposals of amendments and holding discussions on the National Planning Bill for the 2014-2015 FY and the 2014 Union Budget Bill.

Among those participating in the discussions on the two bills was Daw Khin Hmway Lwin of Mingin Constituency, who called for a review of the expenditure of the President Office and two Hluttaw Offices. She stressed the need to release lists of the number of government employees and their salaries in every fiscal year.

In his suggestion on the Union Budget Bill, U Thurein Zaw of Kawkareik Constituency said the Union government’s assistance of K 1715.430 billion to regional and state governments and K 33 billion for the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Development Fund should be put under separate headings. He expressed his support for the National Planning Bill, saying that priorities of the Bill have been given on electrification and drinking water supply programmes.

During today’s Q and A session of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Khin Zaw responded to a question about whether construction of the left channel of North Yama Dam in Pale Township of Sagaing Region will continue.

He said that the decision will be made after a work coordination meeting between the ministry and Sagaing Region Government.

He proposed that the plan should be implemented as soon as possible to ensure crop output growth.

Regarding the Bill on amending the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law, U Aung Myint Thein, member of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, gave an account of the Bill that suggests amendments ensuring relaxation of restrictions on applications process and reduction of jail terms by a half.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Union Parliament, passed Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law on 2 December, 2011 in accord with the Section 354 (b) of the Constitution for enabling the citizens to enjoy rights of a peaceful assembly and peaceful procession.

At today’s Amyotha Hluttaw session, the Association Registration Bill and Standardization Bill were approved. — MNA

Brunei Sultan arrives

Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 March—At the invitation of President U Thein Sein, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah, His Majesty King of Brunei and party arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

They were welcomed by Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, Deputy Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Myat and officials at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

The Guard of Honour saluted the Sultan of Brunei, and students waved miniature flags of the two nations along both sides of the road near the entrance to the airport.—MNA

Union Minister for Culture

visits ancient Tagaung city

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 March—Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu met with township and ward administrators and town’s elders in ancient Tagaung city of Thabeikkyin Township in PyinOoLwin District on Sunday.

The Union Minister inspected being dug pots believed to be cultural heritage of Pyu period in the compound of Tagaung Basic Education High School, construction of retaining walls to prevent the city wall and areas from river erosion, Tagaung Archaeological Museum, maintenance of city wall of the southern part of Tagaung and construction for displaying foundries under the shelters.—MNA

Yangon, 24 March—World Tuberculosis Day was celebrated at the Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin delivered an address citing that World Tuberculosis Day, falling on 24th March each year, is designated to build public awareness that tuberculosis today remains an epidemic in much of the world.

He continued that it commemorates the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch astounded the scientists by announcing that he had discovered the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus.

World TB Day has been celebrated in the world countries including Myanmar for 19 years. At present, many lives can be saved with the use of BCG vaccine.

He called for cooperation in taking measures for TB-HIV collaborative activities in the country.

The slogan of World TB Day-2014 is “TB, Reach the three million, Find, Treat, Cure TB.” Medical Officer Dr. Erwin Cooreman of World Health Organization (TB) read out the message sent by the director of WHO regional office for South-East Asia.—MNA

Health Ministry celebrates

World TB Day-2014

World TB Day-2014 was celebrated at the Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.
Boat accident death toll in western Uganda rises to 107

KAMPALA, 24 March — One hundred and seven people have died after a boat capsized in a lake along the border of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ugandan police said on Monday after recovering more bodies. The boat carrying mostly Congolese refugees tipped over early on Saturday in Lake Albert. Police say the boat was overloaded, a common factor in similar tragedies in the east African country.

The Albertine Rift region of Uganda is home to thousands of Congolese refugees who have fled strife at home over the years, particularly in Democratic Republic of Congo’s eastern region, which has been plagued by violence involving various rebel groups.

Police said that they estimate about 150 people were on the boat and that they expect no more survivors. “Since the rescue operations began on Saturday we have recovered a total of 107 bodies and we think we have roughly accounted for every one although we can’t rule out more bodies being found since our working number of those on board was an estimate,” Charles Sebanbuludde, the Albertine regional police commander told Reuters by phone.

“At this time our search is for bodies because we don’t think any more survivors are still out there.” Lake Albert is about 160 km (100 miles) long and 30 km wide and is the northernmost of a chain of lakes in the Albertine Rift, the western branch of the Nile Valley.

The boat began its journey at the northern end of the lake and was heading south to a landing site on the Ugandan shoreline when it ran into trouble around mid-morning. Popular with local traders and fishermen, boats — often flimsy and overloaded — cross the lake linking the towns and villages that dot the shoreline. Accidents are relatively common on Uganda’s lakes, which include Lake Victoria and Lake Edward, due to overloading, lack of maintenance and lax enforcement of safety standards. Reuters

US sending more forces, aircraft to seek Uganda warlord Kony

WASHINGTON, 24 March — The Obama administration is sending about 150 Special Operations troops along with military aircraft to Uganda to help in the search for warlord Joseph Kony, the Pentagon said on Sunday.

The deployments started on Sunday night after the administration began to notify Congress. The decision was first reported by The Washington Post, and later confirmed by the Defence Department. In the first deployment of US military aircraft to Uganda to help locate Kony, at least four CV-22 Osprey aircraft will arrive in the country by midweek, together with refuelling planes and Special Operations Forces airmen to fly and maintain them, the Pentagon said.

US personnel were authorized to “provide information, advice and assistance” to African Union forces tracking Kony and his Lord’s Resistance Army, the Post reported. “While combat-equipped, they are prohibited from engaging LRA forces unless in self-defence,” it said.

The Ospreys, which can take off and land vertically, are capable of ferrying 24 troops and their gear. They are expected to help African Union forces respond more quickly to tips on Kony’s whereabouts, the Pentagon said.

A 5,000-strong AU Regional Task Force, supported by about 100 US Special Forces, has been hunting Kony and his fighters. Most of them are thought to be hiding in jungles straddling the borders of Central African Republic, South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo.

LRA fighters, who emerged in northern Uganda in the late 1980s, are known for using extreme violence, including chopping off limbs as a form of punishment, as well as raping young girls and abducting them for use as sex slaves. The Post quoted administration officials as saying the deployment did not signal the White House was weakening its criticism of new anti-gay legislation in Uganda that imposes harsh penalties for homosexuality. — Reuters

Access to safe drinking water eludes Kenya’s urban poor

NAIROBI, 24 March — Kenya’s Jane Kimani was downcast on Saturday morning as she waited for a call from a water vendor who had earlier promised to deliver the precious liquid on time but later backtracked.

Kimani was in a group of elderly women whiling away at an open ground in KCC village, a densely populated Nairobi slum, as they waited patiently for a water trucker to deliver the commodity. The mother of five in her late 50s had a hereculian task of balancing morning chores and waiting in the sun for the elusive water vendor.

Talking to Xinhua at the edge of KCC village on Saturday morning, Kimani revealed that she had endured four days without running water in her tiny shack. “It became unbearable when my grandchildren visited and the taps were dry. I spent two dollars every day to buy ten jerry cans of water from vendors,” Kimani told Xinhua. Her neighbours too were PLLAOFQF, balance when the taps ran dry and a reprise was not forthcoming after presenting their grievances to Nairobi water utility. — Xinhua

Gunmen kill six in attack on Kenyan church

MOMBASA, 24 March — Gunmen shouting in a foreign language killed six worshippers in a church near the coastal city of Mombasa on Sunday, an attack of the kind that Islamist militants have been carrying out in retaliation for Kenya’s intervention in neighbouring Somalia.

Witnesses said the attackers burst into the church’s back door before shooting worshippers attending a church service at the Coast coastal town of Mombasa, on 23 March, 2014.

Reuter

Kenyan police men walk past members of the public standing behind the cordoned off area outside the church where gunmen attacked worshippers attending a church service at the Coast coastal town of Mombasa, on 23 March, 2014. Reuters
REGIONAL

19 wounded as bus overturned in N Philippine expressway

MANILA, 24 March — Nineteen passengers were wounded when the bus they were travelling over- turned along the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) in northern Philippine prov- ince of Laguna on Monday, local media reported.

The bus coming from Lipa City in northern prov- ince of Batangas lost one of its tires in Laguna prov- ince at 6:20 am on Monday and turned on one side, In- quiree quoted Chito Sibol, spokesman of SLEX, as saying.

Nine passengers were taken to Binal Doctors Hospital, another nine to San Jose Hospital and Trauma Centre and one was taken to Fernando Air- base Hospital.

The accident caused heavy traffic along SLEX. Investigation on the acci- dent is underway.—Xinhua

China premier says environment protection will spur growth

BEIJING, 24 March — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said on Sunday that efforts to improve the country’s environment would create new busi- ness opportunities, state news agency Xinhua re- ported. “Environmental work and economic expa- nsion shall be coordinated, because reducing produc- tion capacity creates huge business potential for new, green industries,” Xinhua cited Li as telling a meet- ing.

China will control total energy consumption with higher efficiency, while optimizing industrial infrastructure with smart power grids and clean ener- gy like wind power, nuclear power, hydropower and solar power generation, he added.

Li stressed developing the service industry, which “consumes less energy but provides job opportunities, by lowering the threshold of market access with more policy incentives”, Xinhua said.

The State Council, China’s Cabinet, will carry- out both open and secret sharing of the market with foreign companies and the domestic industry, Li added. Despite repeated pledges to clean up Chi- na’s seriously polluted en- vironment, especially in the highly industrialized east, little apparent pro- gress appears to have been achieved.—Xinhua

Japanese, Chinese planes join search for missing airliner

SYDNEY, 24 March — Japanese and Chinese planes on Monday joined the search for debris in the southern Indian Ocean that may be linked to a missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner.

The search in the so-called southern corridor, one of the two vast areas identified by authorities as being possible flight paths of Flight MH370, resumed in the morning with a total of 10 aircraft involved. Two Japanese P-3 Orion planes and two Chinese Ilyushin IL-76 aircraft are joining two Australian P-3 Orion and three civilian aircraft and one US Navy P-8 Posei- don.

A number of vessels are also assisting in the search including the Aus- tralian naval vessel HMAS Success already in the area.

An unspecified number of Chinese vessels are en route to the search area. Weather conditions continue to play a role in the search effort, with the Aus- tralian Maritime Safety Au- thority saying in a statement on Monday, “The weather forecast in the search area is expected to deteriorate with rain likely.”

Authorities have again used satellite imagery and all information available to form Monday’s search area. According to the AMSA, the search will be split into two areas cov- ering 68,500 square kilome- tres in total.

The two Chinese air- craft departed early in the morning for the search area, located approximate- ly 2,500 km southwest of the western Australian city of Perth, while the two Japa- nese P-3 Orion aircraft are scheduled to depart in the afternoon.—Reuters

S Korea denies report on MoU with US, Japan

SEOUL, 24 March — The South Korean govern- ment on Monday denied a news report that it is seeking a military intelligence deal with the United States and Japan. “Intelligence-share- ing among South Korea, the US and Japan had been considered as an idea at the working-level stage, but nothing has been pushed ahead with ever since, “ De- fence Ministry spokesman Kim Min Seok said during a press briefing.

Kim said the idea had been floated in light of the need to jointly cope with threats from North Korea such as its nuclear tests and missile launches.

As for a military deal with Japan, Kim said, “An atmosphere is very important between South Korea and Japan, and it’s our judgment such an at- mosphere has not yet been established.” Relations be- tween South Korea and Ja- pan remain strained due to a differing perception over history and a dispute over a pair of islets controlled by South Korea but claimed by Japan.

Kim’s remarks were made in response to a report by the Chosun Ilbo newspaper on Monday, which said South Korea aims to con- clude a memorandum of understanding with Wash- ington and Tokyo to protect military intelligence.

The agreement is seen as a more viable alterna- tive to a military intelligence-sharing deal with Japan that the government had to drop in 2012 after fierce opposition at home, the report said.

“We can no longer neglect the issue of trilat- eral security cooperation among Seoul, Washington and Tokyo as North Ko- rea’s nuclear and missile threats increase,” a South Korean government source was quoted as saying. — Kyodo News

Malaysia Airlines flight to Nepal hit by birds, passengers safe

KATHMANDU, 24 March — A flock of birds shat- tered the windshields of a Malaysia Airlines jet as it landed in the Nepali capi- tal, Kathmandu, but all 180 passengers and crew were safe, an airport official said.

The birds hit the Boeing 777 late on Friday, Rat- ish Chandra Lal Suman, chief of the Civil Aviation Authority Nepal, said. Birds hitting aircraft are a common problem at Kathmandu international airport, ringed by forested hills.

Suman said the aircraft returned home after the windshields were repaired. An international search for Malaysia Air- lines Flight MH370 has entered its third week, with still no confirmed trace of the Boeing 777 that van- ished on 8 March en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board.—Reuters

A resident looks for reusable materials after a fire at a slum area in Manila, the Philippines, on 23 March, 2014. The Philippine Bureau of Fire Protection estimat- ed that around 200 to 300 houses were razed by the fire, affecting more than 1,000 families in the area.—Xinhua
There is commercial dispute No. I between Myanma Economic Holding Ltd (its authorised agent Colonel Win Kyi (Red)) and TAG Co., Ltd (its authorised agent, U Than Oo, Chairman). As Colonel Win Kyi (Red) and his advocate U Hla Kyi did not appear before the legal Arbitral Tribunal (2 times) without leave, the Arbitrator U Maung Maung Ohn Myaing issued the second summons through the newspapers, the New Light of Myanmar, the Mirror and the Myanma Ahlin daily newspaper respectively in order to appear before the legal Arbitral Tribunal on adjournment (17-3-2014) at (13:00) PM.

Advocate U Hla Kyi of MEHL has objected to such second summons through the newspapers, the Mirror, the Myanma Ahlin and the Myawaddy daily newspaper respectively published on (16-3-2014). But both Colonel Win Kyi (Red), authorise agent of MEHL and his advocate U Hla Kyi did not appear before the legal Arbitral Tribunal for third time and absent.

All charges shown in U Hla Kyi's objection, targeted at Arbitrator U Maung Maung Ohn Myaing are not real events and all are created intentionally. Besides, those are against original provisions of section 11 (1) of the Arbitration Act of 1944 absolutely.

The Arbitration Act of 1944 was enacted in English language. There is no legal translation into Myanma Language until now. The original provision in section 11 (1) of such Act is "The Court may, on the application of any party to a reference, require an arbitrator or umpire who fails to use all reasonable dispatch in entering on and proceeding with the reference and making an award." Such original provision of section 11 (1) empowered to the Court only. It does not empower to any Arbitral Tribunal or arbitrator or umpire absolutely. Therefore it is very obvious that such arbitrator U Kyaw Min has no power to practise that section 11 (1) absolutely under the Arbitration Act of 1944. It is also quite clear to all jurists that the interpretation and translation of MEHL's side is incorrect due to their weakness in study of English Language and it is quite clear that they are using wrong interpretation and translation of Section 11 (1). Therefore, I do not accept U Kyaw Min's such award absolutely, because he has no power to exercise provisions of section 11 (1). My explanation is quite right. If all of you refuse it, please reprimand me under sound evidence of law.

Such Arbitral Tribunal was formed legally after appointing two Arbitrators under section 22 of the Arbitration Act of 1944 and article (17) of mutual leaned Agreement of the parties and as there was no contrary intention in arbitral agreement such Arbitral Tribunal shall require to be not taken supervision of any Court and management body. If you against it, please reprimand me with sound provision of Law.

In Chapter 2 of such Act, the original expressed provision is "Arbitration without intervention of a Court" All facts shown by MEHL's advocate are not include in the original provisions of such Act absolutely. If any party who does not satisfy the award of the Arbitral Tribunal he shall file a reference at upper Court under such Act. Why MEHL does not make a reference at upper court of MEHL does not satisfy my award? Why MEHL does not follow article (17) of mutual agreement? Why MEHL does not appoint an umpire under clause (17)? Why MEHL does not take final award of such umpire? Why MEHL avoid those rights? Please explain clearly.

My explanation is provided as "The authority of an appointed arbitrator or umpire shall not be revocable except with the leave of the Court unless a contrary intention is expressed in the arbitration agreement." In such provision includes "shall not be revocable" express. It is compulsory provision. MEHL's authorised agent Colonel Win Kyi (Red) and his advocate U Hla Kyi against such provision of Act not only, they asserted provision of section 22 and Section 5 respectively. Why they did blame and insult on me? Why did they call me as old Arbitrator? I am still a legal Arbitrator under provisions of section 22 and section 5 of such Act. They both do know it well. The existing Act does not allow their submissions. If they assume that their submissions are right, please explain under sound evidence of law. I claim you all.

All charges upon the Arbitrator U Maung Maung Ohn Myaing, shown in subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) of advocate U Hla Kyi, are wrong and created facts absolutely. Because the Arbitrator U Maung Maung Ohn Myaing pronounced his award in respect of the charges shown in subparagraph (a) as "according to the real issue of law and facts appear in the proceedings I do believe deeply that I should pronounce award only after getting depositions and documentary evidences submitted by both parties so that dismiss interim application of the applicant". But MEHL's authorised agent Colonel Win Kyi and his advocate accused on the Arbitrator U Maung Maung Ohn Myaing that he dismissed their interim application without sound evidence. Such charge is wrong because the Arbitrator U Maung Maung Ohn Myaing viewed all documentary evidences submitted by both parties well. MEHL submitted (8) documents and TAG Co., Ltd submitted (30) documents respectively to the Arbitral Tribunal. MEHL produced list of (15) witnesses and only two witnesses among them were still examining and TAG Co., Ltd's side cannot get right of defence at such stage so that I pronounced my award fairly. Now, I inform to any person who wants to study my award in order to occur the truth, I will allow to read it.

In respect of the charges shown in subparagraph (b) of their objection and explanation, such matter is not concern with me. There is no mutual Agreement between TAG Co., Ltd and Myawaddy Trading Limited that any judgment does not between them and TAG Co., Ltd. instituted Civil Regular Suit No. 82/2013 at Yangon Region High Court for recovery of debt of sale proceeds of Padoma soaps from Myawaddy Trading Limited. TAG Co., Ltd exercises its right in accordance with provisions of law.

Therefore, it is very obvious that MEHL's authorised agent Colonel Win Kyi (Red) and his advocate U Hla Kyi created wrong and unfair charges on me.

Also in respect of the charges shown in subparagraph (c) it is not my fault and they created wrong charge. Because, both U Kyaw Min and U Maung Maung Ohn Myaing, two Arbitrators, have examined two witnesses of MEHL well within the (6) months with effect from 5-7-1944. But both Arbitrators examined only on those witnesses. In respect of such charge why do they not blame and charge on MEHL's appointed Arbitrator, U Kyaw Min. U Kyaw Min is a retired Divisional Judge. Is he a toy? Can I examine on such two witnesses unfairly before him? The right of question on witnesses is right of both side's lawyers. May I show the event really? The two witnesses of MEHL gave depositions for long time without direct answers by means of recording many pages. The authorised agent of Colonel Win Kyi (Retd) and witness Brigadier Aye Thike took lone adjournment frequently due to their departmental duties. It was not my fault. If any body want to know and study about such delay of adjournment, please contract with me and I shall allow to study it.

In addition to such event, I am willing to describe that authorised agent of MEHL, Colonel Win Kyi (Red) had submitted interim applications to Arbitral Tribunal during arbitration so that TAG Co., Ltd's side submitted objection to it giving arguments by both sides and two arbitrators have pronounced respective award. Such performances were created by their side in order to delayed the arbitration matter. I would like to question you that are those performances truly? Should you use such tactful methods by means of breaching laws?

As Arbitral Tribunal was at step of examining two witnesses of MEHL, why did you breach article (17) of mutual Agreement? At present time, the Pyidaungu Huttaw is carrying out rule of law deeply and all of you ought to pay respect to it.

I hereby invite all of you respectfully that we all should settle this commercial dispute by means of using dignity manner and following article (17) of mutual Agreement and existing laws instead of trying tactful ways including using personal attack on me intentionally. I do invite all of you respectfully. All of you ought to settle the dispute in accordance with provisions of law.

I am an old Jurist bearing good character. I have also good integrity, sincerity and qualification. I pay respect of the truth. I never do unfair performance to any other throughout my life. I also pay respect to the judiciary system. Such performance is not conform to judiciary system. As you do not like such facts, you try to affect my dignity and my good character by means of creating false charges on me. By mean of intervening sincere Judiciary system you can not settle such dispute between two companies completely. There is no space between I and all of you always absolutely. So why did you attack on me personally. Do not pretend to be unknown that you all of you have known all real events well.

If all of you do not exercise in accordance with provisions of existing laws naturally and respectfully, by mean of interpreting you as such, it seemed to be forced the youths of next generation towards wrong way so that those youths may take false manners. If all of you are united in wrong manner, may not get the truth.

The Arbitration Act of 1944 is a special Act. In section 45 provided as “S-45 The provisions of this Act shall be binding on the Government.”

The provisions of this Act shall not allow absolutely to cancel this legal Arbitral Tribunal on one sided declaration based on created charges illegally. Therefore I hereby inform that the legally formed Arbitral Tribunal is not void and is still existing legally.

Therefore Colonel Win Kyi (Red) and his advocate U Hla Kyi should be appeared before such existing Arbitral Tribunal dutifully under law respectively.

It was true fact that the Arbitrator U Kyaw Min had resigned from his post as per his free consent after declaration of his resignation (13-1-2014) and the Arbitral Tribunal was at step of examining two witnesses of MEHL. In such event, the advocate described wrongly. Irrevoc decided it one sidedly. I have audio file of U Kyaw Min's declaration of his resignation. If you want to hear it will on such audio file. This Arbitral Tribunal instructed MEHL's authorised agent in order to appoint new Arbitrator at vacant post instead of U Kyaw Min. But MEHL does not appoint new Arbitrator under section 22 (2) of the Arbitration Act of 1944. Now MEHL breaches provisions of such section intentionally.

The existing such legal Arbitral Tribunal formed under Article (17) of mutual Agreement and Section 22 of the 1944 Act may not be void due to one sided declaration based on created charges illegally. Therefore I hereby invite all of you respectfully that we all should settle this commercial dispute by mean of using dignity manners absolutely.
Tender invitation for the transfer of the activities related to waste collection and transportation of the collected waste to final disposal site currently performed by Yangon City Development Committee to private company

1. Within 33 townships of the area of Yangon City Development Committee, there are 4 districts of East, West, South and North and the activities for waste management have already been established. In order to do so, there are 3 sectors: collection, transportation of the collected waste and disposing of the waste at final disposal site. Among them, the Committee has implemented Waste to Energy Project in relation to the final sector. It is now planning to transfer the following sectors to private company:
   (a) Collection of the waste
   (b) Transportation of the collected waste

2. Local companies, the joint ventures of local and foreign companies and foreign countries which are willing to operate the above mentioned schemes have to submit tender proposals to Pollution Control and Cleansing Department at No. 267, Storey Building, 3rd Floor, Seikkan Thar Street (Upper Block), Kyauktada Township by 30.4.2014, fully mentioned the following facts:
   (a) Require companies' letterheads in tender proposals.
   (b) Describe the proposed area such as the whole area of YCDC (or one district (or) two districts. (not permit only for township)
   (c) Describe the address of company in details
   (d) Submit the tender proposal in both English and Myanmar

The basic facts for tender proposal are as follows:
(a) The period for the transfer of the activities to private company is 10 years.
(b) No need taping fees for disposal of the waste at specified final disposal site.
(c) Not consider the proposals submitted after the due date of 30.4.2014.
(d) Pollution Control and Cleansing Department will invite the proposed companies within 2nd week of May, 2014 in order to explain detailed facts and give necessary facts for final full proposal. The companies will have to do feasibility study from 2nd week of May, 2014 to 30th September 2014. Then they will have to submit final full proposal by 3.10.2014.
(e) The period for the transfer of the project is 1.4.2015.
(f) Detailed information regarding to the tender are available at Pollution Control and Cleansing Department before the due date of 30-4-2014.
(g) The companies will have to pay 50 lakh of Insurance Premium for tender to the Yangon City Development Bank by 30.4.2014 and the company which fails to submit final full proposal by 3.10.2014 will not be able to take out the Insurance Premium.
(h) Contact and query to the following phone numbers of PCCD, YCDC for detailed information before the due date of 30.4.2014.
01-246570, 01-246571, 01-384824

Pollution Control and Cleansing Department
Yangon City Development Committee

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Did Deepika Padukone turn down Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Karan Johar’s next film?

Sanjay Leela Bhansali wanted to cast Deepika in Bajirao Mastani. But the film never really took off. “Now there is buzz that Ajay Devgn may play Bajirao in the film and Kareena has apparently expressed her desire to play Mastani. Priyanka Chopra will play Bajirao’s wife, Kashubai,” says the source. Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Deepika Padukone were not available for comment.—PTI

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Bank Holiday
All Banks will be closed on 27th March (Thursday) 2014, Armed Forces day, being public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act.
Central Bank of Myanmar
Messi hat-trick seals Clasico, Chelsea hit six

London, 24 March — Lionel Messi’s hat-trick blew the Spanish title race wide open as Sunday’s Clásico produced a stunning conclusion to a remarkable weekend of action across the continent.

Barcelona’s 4-3 victory over Real Madrid in the Bernabeu left the La Liga headline for a three-way fight to the finish with Atletico Madrid ending the weekend top of the table. Over 50 metres was one of 42 goals scored in England’s top flight.

Arsene Wenger’s 1,000th game as manager was ruined by a ruthless Chelsea performance at Stamford Bridge in a game also notable for a bizarre refereeing decision which led to the wrong Arsenal player being sent off. Luis Suarez bagged a hat-trick as Liverpool came from behind to crush Cardiff City 6-3 and Manchester City’s Yaya Toure struck three times to inspire his side to a 5-0 rout of Fulham.

Chelsea lead the table by four points from Liverpool, who have a game in hand, with Man City two points further back but with three matches in hand on the leaders.

Manchester United striker Rooney opened the scoring against West Ham with an audacious looping shot from near the halfway line to help the champions to a 2-0 win which will put them in good heart for the derby against City on Tuesday.

Bayern Munich are a win away from securing their 24th German league title after beating Augsburg 2-0 on Saturday to stay 23 points clear with a maximum 24 still available from the remaining eight games. Late goals from Bastian Schweinsteiger and Mario Gotze secured a league record 18th successive win to maintain their huge lead at the top, having also stretched their league unbeaten run to 51 games.

They can set a record for the fastest title if they beat Hertha Berlin by Tuesday and clinch the trophy with seven games left. Fellow Champions League quarter-finalists Borussia Dortmund stayed second after a 3-0 win at Hannover 96, one point ahead of Schalke 04, 3-1 winners over Eintracht Braunschweig.

Italy

Juventus stayed 14 points clear of Roma and on course for a third successive Serie A title after both sides won away from home. Serie A leading scorer Carlos Tevez gave Juven- tus a 1-0 win at bottom club Catania with his 16th goal of the season while the Si- cilians had striker Gonzalo Bergessio sent off for elbowing Giorgio Chiellini.

Roma won 2-1 at Chievo with first-half goals from Gervinho and Mattia Destro. Napoli’s grip on third place, the Champi- ons League playoff spot, was loosened when they lost 1-0 at home to fourth-placed Fiorentina after Joaquín Sanchez headed an 87th minute winner.

Greek

Nelson Valdez scored a hat-trick before half-time as Olympiakos bounced back from Champions League elimination by Manchester United with a resounding 4-1 away win over Ergotelis in Crete on Sunday.

Defender Michel’s team, who wrapped up their 41st league title last weekend but slipped to a 3-0 defeat in the second leg of their last 16 tie in Euro- pe’s elite competition, were 3-0 up by the 13th minute after Valdez netted the fastest triple in Super League history.

The top five all recorded wins, with At- romania and PAOK Salonica maintaining second and third place respectively, 18 points behind the champions.

Lionel Messi’s hat-trick gave Barcelona a 4-3 comeback win against 10-man Real Madrid in a breathtaking Clasico to leave the title race on a knife edge.

Barca took a seventh-minute lead against the Bernabeu through Andres Iniesta before a Karim Benzema double and Mes- si’s first of the night made it 2-2 at the break.

Cristiano Ronaldo put Real ahead from the penalty spot 10 minutes after half- time after he was tripped by Daniel Alves but the match turned when Real skipper Sergio Ramos was sent off for clipping the Ball. When Ronaldo went down.

Messi, the all-time top scorer in ‘Clásicos’ with 21 goals, took full advantage of the resulting penalty and struck the winner from the spot minutes from time after Iniesta was bundled down.

With nine games left, Real have 70 points, level with city neighbours Atle- tico Madrid who won 2-0 at bottom side Real Betis, and one ahead of third-placed Barca.

England

Leaders Chelsea hum- bled 10-man Arsenal 6-0, Liverpool and Manchester City also notched up big wins and Wayne Rooney’s spectacular strike from over 50 metres was one of 42 goals scored in England’s top flight.

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The top five all recorded wins, with At- romania and PAOK Salonica maintaining second and third place respectively, 18 points behind the champions.
**United go into Manchester derby with new confidence**

**London, 24 March** — Tuesday’s Manchester derby is the highlight of five midweek matches as the Premier League continues almost without pausing for breath following another eventful weekend’s football in England.

Manchester United, 18 points behind leaders Chelsea, have no chance of retaining their title but are keen to stop third-placed Manchester City succeeding them as champions.

Badly beaten 4-1 by their local rivals in September, United have home advantage this time and go into the game buoyed by successive victories over Olympiakos, to reach the Champions League quarter-final, and West Ham.

Saturday’s 2-0 win at Upton Park, where acting captain Wayne Rooney scored one of the goals of the season from more than 30 metres, helped ease the pressure on manager David Moyes, who has struggled in his first season after taking over from Alex Ferguson.

“You get three points for winning any game but there is an added importance of winning the big games,” Moyes told reporters.

“It’s not been some- thing we have done well enough this season, so it would be nice if we could get it in this game.”

Their ability to score goals would be in anybody’s mind because if you look at the record this year they have been terrific.”

City trail Chelsea by six points but have three games in hand with a superior goal difference would go top by winning two of them. They will again be without their leading scorer, Argentinian striker Sergio Aguero, who has a hamstring injury but captain Vincent Kompany is available after suspension.

City have been solid in defence, not conceding in the last three league games, but despite scoring five times without reply against bottom-of-the-table Fulham on Saturday, their total of 76 goals is now six fewer than rampant Liverpool.

Brendan Rodgers’ side have joined the title chase with six successive victories, scoring 24 goals in the process. Having won 6-3 at Cardiff at the weekend, they will be expected to defeat another of the relegation-threatened sides, Sunderland, at Anfield on Wednesday. —Reuters

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**Li finds Keys to victory, reaches Miami fourth round**

**Miami, 24 March** — World number two Li Na finally made her first appearance at the Sony Open on Sunday, taming Madison Keys in an unsteady effort while three-time champion Venus Williams was also made to work under a blazing Florida sun for her spot in the fourth round.

Li displayed some signs of rust in her first match of the tournament after receiving an opening round bye and a walkover when Alisa Kleybanova withdrew from their second round meeting with illness.

She had to fight off three set points and an early break in the second set before clinching a 7-6 (7-3), 6-3 win over her Australian opponent. Williams, seeded 29th at the tournament she considers her home event, battled Casey Dellacqua for almost two and a half hours before subduing the determined Australian wild card 6-4, 6-4. Third seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland continued to confirm she is over the knee problem that plagued her in the final in Indian Wells last Sunday, registering a 7-5, 6-3 victory over Russian Elena Vesnina.

Keys, who lives in nearby Boca Raton, had her Chinese opponent on the ropes several times but allowed the experienced Li to escape time-and-time again. “She’s number two in the world for a reason,” said Keys. “She’s a great player.

“I played well at times and she just played the bigger points really, really well.”

Murray sizzles under Miami sun at Sony Open

**Miami, 24 March** — Wimbledon champion Andy Murray appeared to be adjusting just fine to life without coach Ivan Lendl, storming into the fourth round of the Sony Open on Sunday with 6-4, 6-1 win over Spain’s Feliciano Lopez.

After getting the defence of his Sony Open title off to a shaky start with a three-set win over Matthew Ebden on Friday, the sixth seeded Scot needed just 73 minutes on a sweltering centre court to claim a convincing decision over the 32nd

**Sigurdsson winner caps superb Spurs fightback, Stoke crush Villa**

**London, 24 March** — Gylfi Sigurdsson scored a stoppage-time winner after Christian Eriksen’s double as Tottenham Hotspur hit back from 2-0 down to beat Southampton 3-2 in the Premier League on Sunday.

Sigurdsson converted Denmark midfielder Eriksen’s layoff to keep alive Spurs lingering hopes of a top-four finish.

They are fifth on 56 points, six behind fourth-placed Arsenal having played one more match.

“You have to find a way to win, it wasn’t flowing, it wasn’t fantastic football but at the end of the day you have to find a way to win,” Spurs manager Tim Sherwood told reporters.

“We have come back and on the back of two or three really poor results, we have shown character and that’s what I am looking for.”

In Sunday’s other match, Stoke City came from behind to beat Aston Villa 4-1 at Villa Park to climb to 10th in the table on 37 points from 31 matches, one place and three points above their opponents.

The 10 goals scored on Sunday took the weekend’s tally to 42, the most in the Premier League since December 2012.

Southampton, boasting several young players vying for spots in World Cup squad, dominated the opening period with delightfully one-touch football and mistakes from Spurs right back Kyle Naughton enabled them to take a 2-0 lead after 28 minutes. Jay Rodriguez pounced on a loose ball after Naughton missed a clearance and forcing the set to a tie-break with two in the world for a hopefuls with interest.

“Some stuff I need to work on,” said Keys. “I got off to a strong start, grabbing the early break and a 3-1 lead, but the big hitting Keys answered with two breaks of her own, surging in front 5-3. Keys however could not convert any of her three set points, Li wiggling free with a break and forcing the set to a tie-break which she easily won 7-3.”

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