President U Thein Sein felicitates Chinese counterpart, Chinese Premier of State Council

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Oct—On the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Founding Day of the People’s Republic of China, which falls on 1 October 2014, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Xi Jinping, President of the People’s Republic of China and His Excellency Mr. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China.

MNA

ASEAN’s socio-cultural pillar can help minimize the tension of regional issues, promote more ASEAN identity among member states:

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham

Bagan, 30 Sept—The 12th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Meeting was opened at the Aureum Palace Hotel in Bagan on Tuesday, with an address by Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, sources said.

Speaking at the meeting, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said:

“We have witnessed how ASEAN has endured and overcome the regional issues with resilience, and sustained its “One Vision, One Identity and One Community” since its inception 47 years ago.

For Myanmar’s first ever Chairmanship, after being a member for 17 years, we have chosen the theme: “Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community,” with the emphasis on further reinforcing collective actions, to ensure the emergence of a united and harmonious ASEAN Community, by 2015.

The challenges for ASEAN today, are huge, complex, multifaceted and transnational in nature, which can lead to more coordinated socio-cultural pillar, can help minimize the tension of the regional issues, and be able to promote more ASEAN identity among the member states.

The human, natural and cultural resources of ASEAN, not only provide the means for economic growth, but also help sustain its development. Conservation of these resources, allows the region to prosper now and into the future, enabling people to uplift their socio-economy, thereby reducing poverty and improving their overall standard of living.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham with ministers of ASEAN countries who attended the opening ceremony of 12th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Meeting in Bagan of Mandalay Region.—MNA

Myanmar students throng Japan Education Fair 2014 in Yangon

Yangon on Tuesday with advice-rich seminars presented by officials organizing the Fair and individual consultations conducted by participating institutions.

The Japan Education Fair is organized by the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar, Japan Student Services Organizations (JASSO) and Myanmar Association of Japan Alumni (MAJA). The fair, now in its tenth anniversary as Japan education seminar in Myanmar, was the first of its kind to showcase a wide panorama of Japanese higher education to an audience of students who recently passed the matriculation examinations, university (See page 2)

By Ye Myint

Yangon, 30 Sept—With as many as 18 stalls for Myanmar students planning to pursue their studies in Japan, the Japan Education Fair 2014 took place in the Aureum Palace Hotel in Bagan on Tuesday, with an address by Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham with ministers of ASEAN countries who attended the opening ceremony of 12th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Meeting in Bagan of Mandalay Region.—MNA

President U Thein Sein’s radio message to be broadcast on 1-2 Oct

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Sept—A radio message by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast on radio on 1 and 2 October. Myanmar Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamya FM, FM Bagan and Thazin Radio will broadcast the message at 7 am, 6 pm and 8 pm.—MNA

ASEAN Member states are to work even harder to build ASEAN identity through the promotion of ASEAN awareness, and a sense of community, preservation of ASEAN cultural heritage, promotion of cultural (See page 3)
Pyithu Hluttaw session held with 12th day meeting

Amyotha Hluttaw convenes its 12th day

Press Release . . . .

2. Since the above-mentioned news story of the Weekly Eleven News Journal could tarnish the image of the News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE) under the Ministry of Information and beget misunderstandings among the people, those in political and social fields and the Public Service Media Law being forwarded to the Hluttaw, a press conference on the allegation was held on 6-6-2014 and an official clarified that the statement of the journal was untrue and the tender process of the News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE) was carried out transparently under the rules and regulations set by the government with firm evidence. However, the 7-6-2014 issue of the Daily Eleven stated the wrong facts and figures again with the intention of triggering a widespread misunderstanding. Although the News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE) negotiated two times for correction of the false statement through the Myanmar Press Council (Temporary), the Eleven Media Group replied that it will by no means correct its news story and there is no reason to negotiate with the Myanmar Press Council (Temporary), adding not to send for it and write to it again as regards the statement it had mentioned. The reply of the Eleven Media Group was sent to the ministry by the Myanmar Press Council (Temporary).

3. The Eleven Media Group did not accept a better solution sought through the Myanmar Press Council (Temporary) and accused the News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE) of committing the corruption time and again. As the statement of the Eleven Media Group has tarnished the image of civil services under the ministry as well as officials from the Procurement Committee of the Ministry of Information, the News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE) has to take legal action against the media group unnecessarily in order to seek justice in the judicial pillar. In that regard, the News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE) has no intention of harming the freedom of press.

Procurement Committee Ministry of Information
ASEAN’s socio-cultural pillar...

(from page 1)

creativity and industry and engagement with the community.

It is accepted as our collective personality, norms, values and beliefs, as well as aspirations, as one ASEAN Community.

The commitment we made in 2013 in BSW Declaration, calls for moving forwards a people-centered Community and people connectivity. The Nay Pyi Taw Declaration, announced at the 24th ASEAN Summit, highlights most socio-cultural issues under ASCC, and urged constructive and meaningful engagement, with all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, the academia, parliamentarians, youth and civil society groups, with the hope of forging and becoming a people-centered ASEAN.

Myanmar, the Chair of ASEAN, has proposed a number of priorities, in the ASCC Pillar’s tasks. These include to undertake the work in progress, on the ASEAN Agreement for Protection of Rights of Grant Workers, to reconsolidate collective efforts, on climate change and disaster management, to redouble the efforts, no poverty reduction, to strengthen social safety nets, and forge a common identity, to build a caring, sharing, and harmonious society, to promote inclusiveness in sharing the region’s wealth, and to enhance the role of women and children.

We must continue to build ASEAN capacity, to advance regional peace, stability, prosperity and social harmony. For Post-2015 Vision therefore, all Working Groups under each Pillar, should come up with a comprehensive Framework too.

During this Meeting, with collaboration and coordination from each country, we will be able to undertake a meaningful deliberation and fruitful discussion, providing inputs to the ASEAN Community, for this year, and for many years to come.

As Chairman of the ASEAN Socio-Culture Council, Union Minister for Culture extended greetings.

After the opening ceremony, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received a courtesy call by ministers scheduled to attend the 12th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Meeting and the deputy secretary-general of ASEAN in Bagan on Tuesday morning.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets Kokang cultural delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Sept — Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hlutta (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann received a Kokang delegation led by U Chien Kaung Shin, Adviser to the Myanmar Kokang Cultural Organization who observed the 12th-day 11th session of the first Pyithu Hlutta, at the hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.—MNA

World Tourism Day 2014 observed in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Sept — The World Tourism Day 2014 was observed at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 September.

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Hla Htway delivered an address. UNDP Resident Coordinator Mr Edin Elgsaether read the message sent by the UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon. A video clip on message of UNWTO Secretary-General Dr Taleb Rifai was presented at the ceremony.

It was attended by Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw Economic and Trade Development Committee U Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw Social Development Committee U Maung Maung Swe and Hluttaw representatives of U Hau Shauk Chan, U Kyaw Ni Naing and U Sai Myint Aye and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

General Hla Htway Win receives Norwegian delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Sept — Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htway Win received Special Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Brig-Gen (Ret) Jan Erik Wilhelmsen and party of Norway at the Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday morning.

They discussed sending of servicemen to the training courses of UN peace-keeping troops.

After the meeting, they had documentary photo taken.—Mynawdy

The ceremony of World Tourism Day 2014 in progress in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing tours Demilitarized Zone, War Memorial, Namsan Tower in South Korea

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing tours Demilitarized Zone, War Memorial, Namsan Tower in South Korea

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Sept — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a military salute by the Guard of Honour of South Korea’s defence service personnel at the Ministry of Defence in South Korea on Tuesday, sources said. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was welcomed by Admiral Cho Yoon-hee, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, and high-ranking officials.

Meeting with Admiral Cho Yoon-hee, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that Myanmar approves of South Korea’s measures to bring stability and peace to the Korean Peninsula, pledging further cooperation and friendly relations between the two countries through the exchange of goodwill visits.

Admiral Cho Yoon-hee said that military relations play a vital role in strengthening the diplomatic relations between the two countries, vowing to seek ways to promote military relations and offer collaboration in conducting military exercises.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a courtesy call by South Korea’s Defence Minister Mr Han Min-woo at the latter’s office. At the call, they exchanged views on bilateral cooperation.

Accompanied by Escort General of the South Korea’s army Maj-Gen Kim Yong-woo, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), where Battalion Commander Lt-Col Woo Seok-Je and officials gave briefings at the Joint Security Area, followed by a tour of Panmunjom Village there.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing went to the War Memorial, the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) and the Namsan Tower.
Health knowledge shared to trainees of SPEI (Mandalay)

Mandalay, 30 Sept—An educative talk about prevention of smallpox was held at the hall of Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) on 27 September. Health Officer U Tin Aung Myint of Chamaythazi Township gave talks on personal hygiene for prevention of smallpox, washing of hands after holding anything and receiving medical treatments at clinics.

The talk was attended by Principal U Myo Myint Aung, officials and trainees totalling 633.—Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Pyappon Township possesses large share of rice market

Pyappon, 30 Sept—Pyappon Township of Ayeyawady Region sends over 80,000 bags of rice to Yangon by ship, according to the Township Rice Merchants Association and Township Freight-handling Board. On 29 September, Chairman of Township Rice Merchants Association said that Pyappon Township has 172 small-scale rice mills that can mill 25,800 bags of rice daily. A total of 16 rice mills operate milling of 11,000 bags of rice daily.

The small rice mill can mill 20 baskets of paddy per day. The rice mills produce quality rice to be sent to Yangon and other major cities.

Secretary of Township Rice Millers Association U Thiha Aung explained about 1,700 workers are working at 172 small rice mills and 16 rice mills. As Pyappon Township has plenty of natural resources including marine products and paddy, local people hope for uplifting living standards. Aung Win (Pyappon)

Farmers hope for boosting production of Palethwe paddy

Yesagyo, 30 Sept—Palethwe hybrid paddy plantations are thriving in irrigated areas of Yesagyo Township of Magway Region.

“We are trying to share good agricultural patterns to the local farmers with the aim of doubling their income and improving their living standards. GAP can be applied for cultivation of crops in the irrigated areas. The farmers can enjoy fruits of systematic cultivation crops through GAP. At present, Palethwe paddy plantations of farmer U Htay Win can be seen with full of ears of paddy,” said Staff Officer U Sein Maung of Agriculture Department.

Local people have grown Palethwe, Manaw Thukha, Hsinthukha, Ya danate, Pakhan Shewewah and Shwepyiaye paddy strains on 30,773 acres of farmlands with the use of irrigation facilities in Yesagyo Township in 2014-15 cultivation season.

Pe Tun Zaw (Yesagyo)

Youths participate in chess tournaments in Mandalay

Mandalay, 30 Sept—The Mandalay Region Chief Minister’s Trophy Inter-Township Chess Tournament and Age-wise Youth Chess Tournament kicked off at the hall D21 of Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay on Monday, with participation of about 100 chess players.

Vice Chairmen of Mandalay Region Chess Subcommittee Dr Maung Maung, Dr Thit Lwin and U Thaung Aye (Advocate) launched the tournaments of the Myanmar traditional chess event, the international chess event and the youth chess event.

The competitions will last up to 3 October. Tin Maung (Mandalay)
**Outstanding trainees honoured at SPEI (Mandalay)**

Mandalay, 30 Sept—A ceremony to honour the best athlete of the month was held at the badminton hall of Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) on 28 September. Principal U Myo Myint Aung urged the trainees to try hard in improvement of respective sports events, take care of health condition and set aim for serving the interest of the State with victory in the sports competitions.

**Music & JBL Audio shop opens in Mandalay**

Mandalay, 30 Sept—The opening ceremony of Swee Lee Music & JBL Audio shop was held at Thiri Housing on 35th street between 70th and 71st streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay, attended by Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs Mayor U Aung Moong. Chairman of Mandalay Music Association Dr Hla Khaing spoke words of honour for opening the music instruments shop in Mandalay.

**Htilin to erect over 1,000 lamp-posts for electrification**

Htilin, 30 Sept—Township officials are making arrangements for choosing a land plot for a 66/11 KV sub-power station and designating the sites for erecting the lamp-posts for electrification for the local people in Htilin of Magway Region in 2015. At present, over 400 lamp-posts have arrived in the township. According to the officials, the Township Electricity Supply Enterprise plans to erect over 1,000 lamp-posts.

**Heat pumps introduced to reduce global warming**

Mandalay, 30 Sept—A ceremony to introduce heat pumps was held at Hotel Mandalay on 78th street in Mahaungnye Township of Mandalay on Monday.

Chairman of Mandalay Hoteliers Association U Myint Aung explained arrival of globetrotters in Mandalay, extension of hotels in Mandalay and upgrading of hotels and facilities for meeting the ASEAN standards.

U Than Win Aung of SCZ Trading Co Ltd explained modern facilities for upgrading the hotels and the market manager, use of heat pump for reducing the global warming applying the renewable energy.

The products are made in Thailand applying German technology.

**Farmers get good price in sales of bean**

Moeswe Village on 26 September.

Min Min Latt

**Nay Lin (PyinOoLwin)**

**Local growers cultivate beans on the farmland that cannot grow paddy, in Nawngkhamgyi Village of the township. The bean can be sold at K2,0000 per viss.**

**The growers buy quality bean at K12,00 per viss for cultivation. The bean plantation can produce 500 viss of bean per acre.**

**Thanks to the good weather various species of crops are thriving in PyinOoLwin Township of Mandalay Region. As a result, the growers fetch good prices in sales of crops in the market.**

**PynOoLwin, 30 Sept—**

**Staff Officer U Myint Zaw of Ottarathiri Township Immigration and National Registration Department and staff issue citizenship scrutiny cards to 87 local people in Moeswe Village on 26 September.**

Min Min Latt

**Trace the errors in the text.**

None detected.
Obama, Modi vow to boost strategic ties, create model for world

WASHINGTON, 30 Sept—President Barack Obama and new Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed on Monday to expand and deepen their countries’ strategic partnership and make it a model for the rest of the world.

In a joint “vision statement” issued after their first meeting at a White House dinner, the two leaders said they would work together “not just for the benefit of both our nations, but for the benefit of the world.” They said their countries would cooperate on security and to fight terrorism and would back a “mutual global order in which India assumes greater multilateral responsibility, including a reformed UN Security Council.”

They also vowed to work together against the threat posed by climate change to address the consequences of unchecked pollution.

“We have a vision that the United States and India will have a transformative relationship as trusted partners in the 21st century. Our partnership will be a model for the rest of the world,” they said in their statement.

The two leaders also said their countries would work to ensure that economic growth brought better livelihoods for all people and stressed the importance of open markets and fair and transparent practices to allow trade to flourish.

Washington has been keen to expand business and cultural ties with India, which it sees as a key counterbalance to an increasingly assertive China in Asia. Obama has backed New Delhi’s bid to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

However, the relationship has failed to live up to his declaration in 2010 that it would become “one of the defining partnerships of the 21st Century.”

Modi, who came to power in May, has received a warm welcome in the United States, even though he was denied a visa in 2005 over rioting in his home state three years earlier that killed more than 1,000 people, most of them Muslims. Modi denies any wrongdoing and has been exonerated by an Indian Supreme Court investigation.

He has maintained a frantic schedule since arriving in America on Friday, even though he is fasting in accordance with Hindu custom and drank only warm water at the White House.

As part of an effort to spur foreign investment, he met more than a dozen US corporate leaders early on Monday and told them he was committed to liberalizing India’s economy, which has underperformed other emerging markets recently after years of breakneck growth.

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S Korea sends condolence message over Doi’s death

SEOUL, 30 Sept—South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se on Tuesday sent a condolence message to the widow of ex-Tokako Doi, a former speaker of Japan’s House of Representatives and former chief of the Social Democratic Party, who died of pneumonia on 20 September, South Korea’s Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Doi, who served as lower house member for 12 terms from 1969 to 2005, led the predecessor of the SDP from 1986 to 1991 as the first female leader of a major political party in Japan. She again took the helm at the renewed SDP from 1996 to 2003.

In the July 1989 upper house election, Doi played a key role in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party’s loss of its majority in the House of Councillors with her tough, straight-talking ways that appealed to voters, especially women.

Doi was the first woman to become speaker of the lower house; a position she held from 1993 to 1996.

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Indonesia’s president races to save direct elections and his legacy

The “president will go through other ways within the constitutional framework to be able to find the best solution,” presidential spokesman Julian Pasha told reporters.

The mishandling of the situation has sparked only a few street protests in Jakarta and other major cities, with most of the criticism taking place on social media. Hashtags using Yudhoyono’s initials #ShameOnYouSBY and #ShamedByYouAgainSBY feature at the top of Twitter’s global trending lists.

“Yudhoyono will be known not as a reformer or a democrat but as someone who let down the people of Indonesia,” said Robert Endi Jaweng, executive director of Regional Autonomy Watch, a local non-governmental organization.

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Indonesia’s President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono addresses the 69th United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York, on 24 Sept, 2014.

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Indonesia’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, during his visit to the United States on 29 Sept, 2014.
Russia’s new S-400 air defence systems to be supplied to 12 regiments by 2020

Moscow, 30 Sept — New S-400 Triumph air defence systems will be supplied to 12 missile regiments of Russia’s Aerospace Defence Forces by 2020, its spokesman Colonel Alexei Zolotukhin said on Monday.

Until the end of this year, four S-400 regiments will be protecting Moscow and the Central Industrial District of Russia, he said.

At present, three regiments have S-400 systems and the rest are armed with S-300 systems.

Future plans call for upgrading Moscow’s missile defence to bring air defence and missile defence systems under a single command to repel all possible attacks.

The united command will cover 25 regions and three republics. Radar stations used by air defence units can detect targets as far as 600 kilometres and an altitude of up to 40 kilometres.

Another regiment in the Moscow region will adopt Russia’s newest S-400 air defence systems this autumn.

“The fourth air defence regiment will receive a new set of S-400 systems at the Kapustin Yar training range in September or October, conduct initial live fire training and, after redeployment to the Moscow region, go on combat duty,” Aerospace Defence Forces Commander-in-Chief General Andrei Demin said earlier this month.

Three regiments in the Moscow region have already been armed with the S-400 systems. The first S-400 battalion went on combat duty in Elektrostal, Moscow region, in the summer of 2007 and was joined by another one in 2009.

The second regiment armed with S-400 systems went on combat duty in 2011, followed by the third one in 2014.

S-400 Triumph air defence systems were put on combat duty in Russia’s Southern Military District in late 2012 to replace S-300PM missile systems.

Prince Akishino, Princess Kiko start trip to Mexico, Guatemala

Tokyo, 30 Sept — Prince Akishino, the younger son of Emperor Akihito, and his wife Princess Kiko on Tuesday started an official trip to Mexico and Guatemala that includes courtesy calls on the presidents of both countries.

In Guatemala, they will visit a workshop making marimba, a traditional musical instrument, and the Tikal archaeological site, the largest and oldest of the ruins from the Maya civilization.

In Mexico, the couple is scheduled to attend the opening ceremony of the Cervantino International Festival — the biggest arts fair in Latin America — in Guanajuato.

Mexico invited the couple to visit because this year marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival in what was then New Spain of a Japanese mission bound for Europe dispatched by a Japanese feudal lord. Guatemala is a goodwill visit destination.

The couple left from Narita International Airport for Guatemala via the United States. They are scheduled to travel on to Mexico on Friday.

Japanese researchers develop vibration machine for fatty liver treatment

Tokyo, 30 Sept — Researchers in Japan have developed a body vibration machine that could help patients with fatty liver disease significantly improve their conditions by transmitting vertical and horizontal vibrations throughout their bodies, local media reported on Tuesday.

The research, led by Junichi Shoda, professor of gastroenterological medicine at the University of Tsukuba, utilized a whole body vibration machine whose platform vibrates to a height of several millimetres 25-50 times per second, in addition to horizontally, which forces the muscles to contract and stretch, according to a report posted on the website of The Asahi Shimbun.

In the research, 30 men and women were asked to use the machine after their liver conditions did not improve, despite participating in regular exercise or diet therapy.

As the graying of society advances further, there will be many patients who cannot be treated with exercise therapy or other means,” Shoda said. “We hope to continue with research that can provide an effective and safe alternative to treat such people.”

Fatty liver is an ailment that creates an excess of fat around the liver, resulting from overeating and a lack of exercise. If left as is, the condition could develop into liver cirrhosis or hardening of the arteries. Patients can reduce the fat through regular exercise, such as jogging, but many fail to do so.

Afghans prepare to sign deal with US allowing troops to stay

Kabul, 30 Sept — Afghanistan’s new government led by President Ashraf Ghani was on Tuesday due to sign a long-delayed bilateral security agreement with the United States that will allow US troops to stay beyond the end of this year when their combat mission ends.

Ghani’s predecessor, Hamid Karzai, had long refused to agree to the deal, citing his anger over civilian deaths and his belief that the war was not fought in the interests of his country, souring his ties with the United States.

But all of the main candidates in presidential election this year said they supported the pact, which will also let US forces keep military bases in Afghanistan.

Ghani was declared winner of the election last week after prolonged wrangling with his main rival, former foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah. Ghani was inaugurated on Monday and did not refer explicitly to the security pact with the United States in a speech after he was sworn in, but he spoke of the need to improve relations with Western allies.

He also called on the Taliban and their militant allies to join peace talks.

“Security is a main demand of our people, and we are tired of this war,” Ghani said. — Reuters

Older persons are playing an increasingly significant role in society as they grow in number and as healthcare improves in some parts of the world.

United Nations Secretary-General’s Message on the International Day of Older Persons

1 October 2014

Older persons are playing an increasingly significant role in society as they grow in number and as healthcare improves in some parts of the world. The number of older persons is expected to more than double, globally, from 841 million people in 2013 to more than 2 billion in 2050. By that year, nearly 8 in 10 of the world’s older population will live in the less developed regions.

The steady increase in human longevity represents one of the greatest transformations and challenges of our time. However, failure to keep pace with changing demographic trends will make it difficult to achieve a sustainable, secure and fulfilling future for people of all ages.

Older persons make wide-ranging contributions to economic and social development. However, discrimination and social exclusion persist. We must overcome this bias in order to ensure a socially and economically active, secure and healthy ageing population.

The post-2015 development agenda offers a historic opportunity for the United Nations and its Member States to strengthen the rights and role of older persons in society as an integral part of our commitment to “leave no one behind”. On this International Day, I encourage governments and people everywhere to ensure the full participation of older persons in society while protecting their rights and dignity.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
Change is not only individual but also institutional

By Kyaw Thura

Critical change requires constant communication, especially in a country like Myanmar, at a time when the government has been determined to bring the country to a new era of ‘good governance and clean government’. There is a tendency for people at the top to make the mistake of believing that their subordinates understand the importance of change and see the new direction as clearly as they do. It is therefore important to reinforce core messages through regular encouragement in a practical and inspirational way.

Leaders should bear in mind that no change programme is flawless and it goes completely as planned. It is natural that different people react to change in different, sometimes unexpected, ways. That is why the effective management of change demands repetitive assessment of its impact. This commitment requires leaders to sort out their people’s willingness and readiness to take on the new phase of reform and make adjustments necessary to keep momentum and drive results as desired.

Most important of all, people in power themselves need to be in favour of change and accept responsibility and accountability in making change materialize in all areas. In this respect, they need to speak with one voice and motivate their people with incentives and rewards for those who embrace change and removal of those who stand in the way of change.

Only zealous reform-minded leaders and like-minded people will be able to see that change is both individual and institutional and that change is a shared destiny.

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.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Myanmar always opposes terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

By Kyaw Thura

We are gathered here at a time when the world is facing pressing global challenges and security threats that must be addressed collectively with urgency. The number and scale of regional or local conflicts is growing in some parts of the world. A billion people are still trapped in poverty. The world wants its still a far-away dream.

Climate change is no longer an issue for scientific argument. Myanmar will continue to work together with the international community for a meaningful, implementable and universal climate agreement in Paris in 2015.

With the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, with its unprecedented nature and scope, is alarming. All available resources and expertise should be mobilized and deployed before it becomes an economic, social, humanitarian, political and security nightmare. Myanmar welcomes the swift and timely response by the UN Secretary-General in proactively establishing the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response-UNMEER.

Terrorism cannot be condoned for any reason or under any circumstances. Ruthless killings and atrocities in the name of religion must not be tolerated. Myanmar always opposes terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Thanks to the positive challenges in Myanmar, the cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations is now better than ever. The United Nations country agencies are showing greater interest in Myanmar. The Government, on its part, is facilitating them for the effective implementation of their missions.

I would like to appraise this Assembly that Myanmar is making domestic preparations with a view to ratifying major international disarmament instruments. I am pleased to announce that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) has just approved the Myanmar’s accession to the Biological Weapons Convention (1972) today.

Winds of change have spread across Myanmar since the past three years. The scope and pace of positive changes in Myanmar have earned a remarkable recognition and encouragement by the international community.

Myanmar is advancing well on the path of peaceful democratic transition that began over 3 years ago by setting in motion the waves of political and economic reforms.

The First Wave was the peaceful transformation from the military government to a multi-party democratic system where all political forces are working together to overcome differences through dialogue at the Hluttaws (Parliaments). An all-inclusive political system has been established, bringing in all stakeholders in the process through national reconciliation. The First Wave of reform has brought about the national reconciliation, granting of a series of amnesties, creation of greater political space, freedom of media, and freedom of expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly.

It was followed by the Second Wave of reform, unleashing an array of political, economic, administrative and private sector development reforms.

Now, the Third Wave of reform has been launched, aimed at laying down a firm foundation for a new democratic state, and delivering benefit to the people by fulfilling their socio-economic needs.

We are determined to keep the reforms on track through ensuring peace, stability and national reconciliation. Since our democracy is still in its infancy, we are facing many challenges like other countries in transition. The government has a long do-do list with limited capacity. We are determined to overcome these challenges. We need understanding and continued support of the International community in our efforts for economic development and capacity building to lay a solid foundation for a democratic society.

One of the issues that attract domestic and international attention if the process of amending the present Constitution of Myanmar. In this connection, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) set up the Constitutional Amendment Implementation Committee has been formed to address the issue of Constitution amendment based on the suggestions received.

Putting democratic values into practice, we are laying foundations to successfully conduct an independent, free and fair election within a legal framework without compromising national sovereignty. In this context, Myanmar has recently received the visit of Need Assessment Mission from the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations.

Myanmar always opposes terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The world we want its still a far-away dream. The world we want its still a far-away dream.
Myanmar always opposes terrorism in all its forms...

(from page 1)

I would like to thank all international partners in contributing to our efforts in addressing the current needs of the affected people. Myanmar has made tremendous progress over the past three and a half years since it has begun wider-ranging reforms in transition to democracy. Myanmar’s success in peaceful reform is due to the continued support and understanding of the international community. The continued support and understanding of the international community would contribute positively to Myanmar’s reform process.

Union FM felicitates Chinese, Nigerian counterparts

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Sept— The second coordination meeting on the development of the administrative sector of the government was held here on Tuesday at the President Office with attendances of senior government officials.

Union minister U Hla Tun at the President Office delivered the opening speech on the meeting, saying the meeting is intended to solve problems and difficulties presented by the regional and state governments.

He also said that the government is seeking ways to fulfill the fundamental needs of people after founding a concrete ground to ensure democratic practices in the country.

The union minister also talked about the importance of capacity building in every level of administrative sector which is reliable for the public.

The deputy ministers and officials concerned discussed the reform plans proposed by the governments of regions and states.

ADMIRAL THURA THET SWE MEETS US MILITARY ATTACHÉS

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Sept — Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Thura Thet Swe held a talk with US Military Attaché (Army) Col William C. Dickey to Myanmar and Bangkok-based US Military Attaché Captain Christopher S Chambers at the Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Headquarters in Yangon on Tuesday.

After the meeting, they exchanged gifts and posed for documentary photos.—Myawady

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Discussions made to promote administrative sector

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Admiral Thura Thet Swe receives US military attachés.—MYAWADY

Armenian Catholic Bishop arrives in Yangon

Yangon, 30 Sept— Armenian Catholic Bishop His Holiness Karaklin II and delegation arrived in Yangon by air on Tuesday evening.

The Bishop is visiting Myanmar to preserve the Armenian heritage in Myanmar and to promote friendship between the Armenian and Myanmar people.

The land for the Armenian Church of St John the Baptist at the corner of Merchant Street and Bo Aung Kyaw Street was donated by King Mindon. —MNA

Armenian Catholic Bishop arrives in Yangon

Myanmar always opposes terrorism in all its forms...

(from page 1)

I would like to thank all international partners in contributing to our efforts in addressing the current needs of the affected people. Myanmar has made tremendous progress over the past three and a half years since it has begun wider-ranging reforms in transition to democracy. Myanmar’s success in peaceful reform is due to the continued support and understanding of the international community. The continued support and understanding of the international community would contribute positively to Myanmar’s reform process.

Union FM felicitates Chinese, Nigerian counterparts

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Sept— The second coordination meeting on the development of the administrative sector of the government was held here on Tuesday at the President Office with attendances of senior government officials.

Union minister U Hla Tun at the President Office delivered the opening speech on the meeting, saying the meeting is intended to solve problems and difficulties presented by the regional and state governments.

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NEW PHASE

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Maung Swe Ngae

Media registration for ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Retreat

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Sept—The ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Retreat will be held at Aureum Palace Hotel in Bagan on 18 and 19 November.

Local and foreign correspondents who wish to cover the news can register at the homepage www. asean2014.gov.mm and fill out the Media Registration Form. The registration must be completed no later than 31 October. The media accreditation cards will be issued at the venue of the meeting in Bagan at 12 noon on 17 November.

The foreign correspondents are to apply for visas at the respective Myanmar embassies to cover the meeting. Please dial 067-404425 of the Ministry of Defence for further information.

MNA

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MNA
Congratulations!
to The Global New Light of Myanmar
Turkish tanks reinforce border as Islamic State shells Syrian town

MURSITPINAR, (Turkey) 30 Sept — Turkish tanks and armoured vehicles took up positions on hills overlooking the besieged Syrian border town of Kobani on Monday as shelling by Islamic State insurgents intensified and stray fire hit Turkish soil, a Reuters correspondent said.

At least 30 tanks and armoured vehicles, some with their guns pointed towards Syrian territory, were positioned near a Turkish military base just north-west of Kobani. Plumes of smoke rose up as shells hit the eastern and western sides of Kobani and sporadic bursts of machinegun fire rang out.

“We have taken the border under full control. We have ramped up our security measures in the Suruc region,” Interior Minister Elhan Ala told reporters in Istanbul, referring to the area on the Turkish side of the border with Kobani. A local official inside the besieged town said Islamic State continued to bombard it from the east, west and south and that the militants had 10 km (6 miles) from the outskirts.

“From the morning there have been bomb shellings into Kobani and not one rocket, but may-be about 20 rockets,” Il- ris Nassan, deputy foreign minister in the Kobani canton, said by telephone.

Rami Abdulrahman, who runs the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights which monitors Syria’s civil war, said at least 15 mortar rounds had landed on Kobani on Monday, killing at least one person. He said Islamic State fighters had advanced to within 5 km of the town.

“At least two shells hit Turkish territory on Monday. The Turkish military said earlier it had fired back on Sunday after two mortar bombs crossed the border. Ambulances shutled to and from the border, sirens blazing. Islamic State insurgents launched their attack on Kobani, a predominantly Kurdish town also known as Ayn al-Arab, more than a week ago, besieging it from three sides and sending more than 150,000 Kurds fleeing into Turkey.

“Because of the bombs everyone is running away, we’ve heard people have been killed. The YPG (Kurdish forces) have got small weapons but Islamic State has big guns and tanks,” said Xelil, a 39-year old engineer who fled Kobani on Monday.

“Most people are leaving now, it was safe before but now with these bombs, people won’t stay,” he said.

Turkish army tanks take up position on the Turkish-Syrian border near the southeastern town of Suruc in Sanliurfa Province on 29 Sept, 2014. — Reuters

Men inspect a damaged plastics factory that was targeted on Sunday by what activists said were US-led air strikes in the Islamic State’s stronghold of Raqqa on 29 Sept, 2014. — Reuters

NEW YORK, 30 Sept —Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad on Monday stressed the need for coordinating with Damascus in an international fight against Islamic State targets in his country, saying US-led airstrikes against the militant group will be ineffective without President Bashar al-Assad’s government.

Mekdad said the American-led coalition, which is acting without Syrian approval or participation, would not be as effective as the US-led coalition against Islamic State, but President Tayyip Erdogan has said Turkish troops could be used to help set up a safe haven for refugees inside Syria if there is international agreement.

Ankara’s caution stems in part from its concern about links between Syrian Kurds and the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), a militant group which has waged a three-decade armed campaign against the Turkish state for greater Kurdish rights. — Reuters

US, Kurds strike at Islamic State in Syria

Syria ineffective

Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad. KYODO NEWS

Arabia and Qatar for their support of such terrorist groups.

The only alternative to the Syrian government is ISIS,” he added.

He suggested the Unified States and other western countries “give up their dreams about changing the government of Syria for political purposes.”

“If they want now to combat terrorism the only party that is ready to do it is the Syrian government under President Assad,” he noted.

Earlier on Monday, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Al-Moallem reiterated his country’s call to “stand with any international effort” to combat terrorism while acknowledging “it is certainly possible through military strike,” but that countries must be stopped from arming, training and funding the militant groups.— Kyodo News

Syrian military aircraft attack Islamic State positions in Raqqa, northern Syria. KYODO NEWS

US congressional aides said Congress might not vote until next year on an authorization for President Barack Obama’s air strikes against Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, despite some lawmakers’ insistence that approval is already overdue.

Obama has said he does not need approval for the air strikes, despite the constitutional requirement that Congress authorize military action.

The US-led strikes have so far failed to halt an advance by Islamic State fighters in northern Syria on Kobani, a Kurdish town on the border with Turkey where fighting over the past week caused the fastest refugee flight of Syria’s three-year-old war. — Reuters

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Airstrikes against Islamic State without Syria ineffective
Body of dead miner recovered from ruins

Resavica, 30 Sept—Dead miner Željko Miletic, aged 36, was found by rescuers and miners in the Štrmosten mining pit of Rembas Coal Mine late on Sunday, after six days of search actions, Director General of the Public Company for Underground Coal Mining Resavica Vladič Milosevic told Tanjug and added that the miner’s body was recovered from the ruins and it is now up to the high public prosecutor and inspector to perform the preliminary scenario investigation. Milosevic expects the prosecutor to perform his duty, after which more details about Miletic’s death would be known.

The miner’s body will remain in the pit until that time, but it has been recovered from the ruins and relocated to a safe spot.

Miletic got cluttered over on 23 September, some time around 8.30 am as he was drilling the coal deposits and a large heap of coal, stone and soil tumbled down on him. Since the accident, there was no contact with the miner until the recovery of his body.

Miletic worked as a miner for eight years. He was the father of three children aged ten, nine and three who will remain in the care of the miner’s common-law wife.

Miletic was born in a miner’s family and his father was a retired miner. His one ear older brother works in the same pit.—Tanjug

All aboard rescued after ferry runs aground off S Korea

Seoul, 30 Sept—A passenger ferry ran aground in waters off southwestern South Korea on Tuesday but all 109 passengers and crew aboard the vessel were rescued, the country’s West Sea Coast Guard said.

The ferry Vacance was carrying 104 passengers and five crew members when it struck a rock in waters not far from Hongdo Island, South Jeolla Province, at around 9 am, it said. In April, a ferry sank off the country’s southwestern coast, killing more than 300 people, mostly high school students who were on a school excursion.—Kyodo News

Univ professor researching “pon gashi” to stress importance of peace

Matsuyama, (Japan), 30 Sept — A 51-year-old professor of business history at Ehime University in Matsuyama, Ehime Prefecture, is known as an expert on “pon gashi” — literally “popped snacks” made from grain.

Fueling his research into the old-style snacks is Toshihiro Wada’s keen interest in the efforts of a woman who sought to alleviate food shortages during World War II and who was motivated by a desire for peace.

During a recent lunch break in a far corner of the national university’s campus, Wada placed some 750 grams of rice into an iron container vessel, sealed it tight and heated it with gas for about 10 minutes. After checking that the pressure was right, he hit the vessel’s lid with a wooden hammer and broke the seal. With a tremendous boom, puffed rice poured out, in a volume many times the original amount.

Students gathered around the machine when they heard the sound and ate the pon gashi at Wada’s prodding, enjoying the taste and texture of the crispy puffed rice.

Wada was drawn to study puffed grains in 2007 when he saw a television programme about Toshihiro Yoshimura, 88, who provided by the man has been recovered from the ruins and relocated to a safe spot.

As a scholar, Wada has compiled a list. It includes “pon pardo” in Hokkaido, Miyagi and Toyama, “pakkan” in Mie and Shiga, “patto raisu” in Tokushima and Ehime, and “bachagu” in Gifu, etc.

The modern process for making puffed grains is thought to have originated from a confectionery production process invented by an American botanist, according to Wada. It is believed to have been introduced to the World’s Fair in St Louis in 1904.

Japanese man promises to visit Thailand to claim surrogate children

Bangkok, 30 Sept—A 24-year-old Japanese man who has fathered more than a dozen surrogate babies in Thailand has expressed his readiness to travel to Thailand to claim his children under Thai state protection, Thai police said on Monday.

A senior Thai police officer told Kyodo News that the man communicated his wishes through his legal representative in Thailand.

Thai police have told the Japanese man to explain about the circumstances surrounding his act of fathering surrogate babies, warning that legal action will be taken unless he gives an account personally to Thai police authorities. The Thai police official said the man’s legal representative got in touch with Thai police on 26 September and told police authorities the man will travel to Thailand by early October at the latest.

A parental test conducted by Thai authorities through DNA samples provided by the man has shown he is the biological father of the babies.

The man’s lawyer in Thailand had provided a written statement to police explaining why his client fathered the children through surrogacy.

According to Thai law, a father who wants to obtain parental rights needs to testify before a family court. Thai police have said they want to hear the man’s explanations in person.

The man had previously promised to visit Thailand to undertake the legal procedures of parenthood.

Next year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and the world’s attention is expected to focus on the importance of peace.
New-type dengue virus found in Japan

Tokyo, 30 Sept — The government said on Monday a man in Shizuoka Prefecture has been found infected with a dengue virus that has a different genetic sequence from that of the virus detected in other people in Japan since August.

The finding indicates that the new-type virus has arrived in Japan via someone other than the person carrying the virus that infected many other people through mosquitoes, mainly at Yoyogi Park in central Tokyo.

Tax hike impact keeps depressing
Japan’s household spending in August

Tokyo, 30 Sept — Japan’s average household spending in August fell an inflation-adjusted 4.7 percent from a year earlier to 282,124 yen (some $2,600) for the fifth consecutive month of decline following the April consumption tax hike, government data showed Tuesday.

The fall was smaller than July’s minus 5.9 percent for the reason released by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, showed spending by wage-earning households remains weak after the government raised the tax rate to 8 percent from 5 percent on 1 April. On a month-on-month basis, average household spending only fell a seasonally adjusted 0.3 percent from July, with the ministry sticking to its earlier basic assessment that private consumption in Japan “continues to pick up.”

The figures could affect the decision later this year by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on whether to raise the tax again in October 2015 as stipulated by a law to improve the country’s fiscal health, the worst among major developed nations. The latest numbers were largely affected by heavy rain in part of Japan, the ministry said. Many consumers refrained from going outdoors, spending less on travel, dining out and playing golf. Sales of air conditioners also shrank, given cooler weather. Meanwhile, decline in demand for some food products, such as rice, slowed noticeably. Demand had risen sharply on last-minute buying ahead of the consumption tax increase before dropping off. The decline in household spending triggered by the tax rise “has become more moderate,” the official said at a Press briefing.

Water treatment facility at
Fukushima plant suspended again

Tokyo, 30 Sept — The operator of the crippled Fukushima Daichi nuclear power plant said on Monday its trouble-plagued radioactive water treatment system at the complex has been partially suspended again.

One of three treatment lines of the multinueclide removal facility was halted last week after Tokyo Electric Power Co., the operator of the plant, found water passing through it was getting cloudy.

The line was hit by similar trouble in March due to filter gasket corrosion. TEPCO later changed the filters and resumed its test run in May.

The company said it does not know whether the latest problem has again been caused by the filters, and has yet to investigate.

On Monday, TEPCO also said the Nuclear Regulation Authority approved the utility’s plan to build another radioactive water treatment system with higher performance, which is expected to be capable of processing 500 tons of toxic water per day.

The company aims to finish processing around 400,000 tons of toxic water at the Fukushima complex by the end of March next year, but whether it can achieve that goal is unclear as the existing facility has continued to face problems.

Kyodo News
Rihanna to do cameo in next ‘James Bond’ film?

London, 30 Sept — Singer Rihanna is reportedly set to make a special appearance in the 24th ‘James Bond’ film. The 26-year-old ‘We Found Love’ hitmaker has been approached by the film’s producers and is really excited to appear on the big screen, reported the Daily Mirror. “Rihanna is a big fan of the Bond films and has always loved the idea of appearing in one. She didn’t even need to think about it, she knows she wants to do it. She’s really excited, a source said. Filming for the new Bond film, which is code-named ‘Bond 24’, is expected to start later this year with director Sam Mendes at the helm. The film is due for release in November 2015.

PTI

Katie Holmes compares filming ‘Days and Nights’ to camping

New York, 30 Sept — Hollywood actress Katie Holmes has compared filming her upcoming movie ‘Days and Nights’ to camping.

‘Days and Nights’, an American independent drama film, has been directed and written by Christian Camargo. The film is inspired by ‘The Seagull’ by Anton Chekhov, reported New York Post.

“It was a lot like camp,” the 35-year-old actress said of filming ‘Days and Nights’. “We were in Kent, Connecticut. There was this tiny little town with one chocolate store and a little tiny bookshop; I have to show up early, act responsible and can’t be a brat,” she said.

Love is also currently working on her upcoming autobiography, but admits she has to make a lot of edits, as some of the contents are too shocking to publish. “Fixing it now to make it less salacious. It was too rock n’ roll,” she added.

PTI

Courtney Love likes acting routine

London, 30 Sept — Courtney Love, who is playing a kindergarten teacher on the final season of ‘Sons of Anarchy’, believes acting helps her stay in control of her life because the regular routine suits her.

The 50-year-old rocker said her life is a lot calmer these days and she has no plans to get back into the recording studio at present, reported Contactmusic. “I’ll never outgrow it (music), but acting offers a better lifestyle at my age. I have to show up early, act responsible and can’t be a brat,” she said.

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PTI

Madonna opens school in Karachi

Karachi, 30 Sept — Queen of Pop Madonna’s school in Karachi has opened its gates to students. The 56-year-old ‘Material Girl’ singer took to Twitter to announce that the Dream Model Street School has so far admitted 1200 kids.

“The revolution of love continues in Pakistan! The Dream School is finally finished. 1200 kids attending. Knowledge…,” Madonna posted alongside a picture of the school building in Karachi.

Madonna announced last year that she was raising money to expand a school located in the outskirts of Karachi.

The pop star also shared a photograph of girls studying in the classroom equipped with laptops. “Girls learning at the Dream School,” she captioned the picture.—PTI

Shanghai, 30 Sept — The Shanghai Vancouver Film School opened on Monday as the joint-venture school seeks to breed international talent for the world’s second largest film market. The SH-VFS, a partnership between the Vancouver Film School and Shanghai University, will offer four one-year-long programmes in film production, sound design for visual media, animation and visual effects, and makeup design for film and television. The programmes are vocational without a diploma.

Shanghai, the cradle of the Chinese film industry, is trying to develop the kind of skills needed for a film industry so they can grab a larger share of the domestic market. China’s domestic film box office is divided almost equally between movies made in China and international films, mainly American blockbusters. Its total box office was near 22 billion yuan (3.6 billion US dollars) in 2013 and expected to reach 28 billion yuan this year.—Xinhua

PTI

The 32nd Hundred Flowers Award unveiled on 27 Sept, 2014 in Lanzhou, capital city of China’s Gansu Province. Photo shows that Chinese actress Zhang Ziyi attends the ceremony. Zhang awarded Best Actress of the 32nd Hundred Flowers Award.—Xinhua
Nishikori receives hero’s welcome, advances in doubles

Tokyo, 30 Sept — Kei Nishikori made a triumphant return on Tuesday as the US Open finalist and new Malaysian Open champion teamed with Yastasuka Uchijama in a first-round doubles victory at the Japan Open before a raucous center court crowd.

Despite an 11 am week-day start, Nishikori was on hand to welcome Nishikori and see the Japanese pair defeat Poland’s Mariusz Fyrstenberg and Treat Huey of the Philippines in a 10,000 person crowd.

Roughly 500 fans were lined up at 9:30 am when the gates opened for the second day of action at Ariake Tennis Forest Park. One and half hours later on center court, Nishikori and Uchijama entered to a huge ovation and responded with a solid victory.

“It was good that we were able to play well from our first match,” said Nishikori.

“For me it was my first day and to be able to play before so many fans is an honor. Even though it’s doubles, I’m happy people could come and watch. I will do my best in singles as well.”

Nishikori, whose world ranking rose to a career-high No 7 on Monday, will play his first-round singles match as the tournament’s fourth seed on Tuesday against Croatia’s Ivan Dodig.

In Tuesday’s singles, Japan’s Go Soeda lost to American Donald Young 6-4, 6-2, while Germany’s Benjamin Becker defeated Finland’s Jarkko Nieminen. Becker won the first set 7-5 and was 4-1 up when Nieminen retired.

Sixth seed Roberto Bautista Agut retired to hand France’s Gilles Simon a 6-4, 7-6(7), 2-1 victory.

The Spaniard became the third seeded player to crash out in Tokyo, following Monday’s exit of second-seeded countryman David Ferrer and eighth seed Alexandr Dolgopolov of Ukraine.

Japanese ace Kei Nishikori signs an autograph for a fan after practice at the Ariake venue in Tokyo on 29 Sept, 2014, prior to the Japan Open. He has reached his highest world ranking of No 7 after his victory at the Malaysian Open the previous day.

KYODO NEWS

Atletico out to prove they have teeth in attack

Madrid, 30 Sept — Atletico Madrid’s Champions League game at home to Juventus on Wednesday will be a chance for the Spanish champions to prove they have the firepower to challenge in Europe again this season.

Diego Costa, top scorer for Atletico last term when they reached the final and will be the continent’s elite club competition, has departed for Chelsea and a lack of recent goals had prompted murmurs that the side will struggle without the Brazilian-born Spain striker.

Saturday’s thumping 4-0 La Liga win at home to Sevilla appeared to suggest otherwise, although the Juve defence, which has yet to concede a goal in five Serie A games this season, will be a far tougher test than the Andalusians’ more porous back line. —Reuters

Li named ambassador for WTA Finals in Singapore

Singapore, 30 Sept — Recently retired Chinese tennis trailblazer Li Na, Asia’s only grand slam singles winner, has been appointed as an ambassador for next month’s season-ending WTA Tour Finals in Singapore.

The 32-year-old was in position to qualify for the lucrative 17-26 October tournament before announcing she was quitting a fortnight ago after being worn down by the effects of long-term knee injuries.

This year’s Australian Open winner and the 2011 WTA Open champion will take on her new role for the first two editions of the event, which is switching to Singapore next month for the start of a five-year term.

“This will be a great opportunity for the fans from around the world over to get close to a tennis legend who has inspired a nation and done so much for the game in Asia Pacific,” WTA Chairman & CEO Stacey Allaster said in a statement.

“She has inspired a generation of young girls throughout Asia-Pacific with hopes that, they too, can achieve the dream of playing in the WTA Finals,” Reuters

Bouchard, Radwanska beaten in China; Sharapova, Halep win

Beijing, 30 Sept — WTA Finals qualifiers Maria Sharapova and Simona Halep recorded straight sets victories at the China Open on Thursday, but Singapore hopeful Eugenie Bouchard and Agnieszka Radwanska were dumped out in second round upsets.

Bouchard, who lost in the final of last week’s Wuhan Open, was beaten by unseeded German Sabine Lisicki 6-2, 6-4, while Italian Roberta Vinci knocked out 2011 winner Radwanska 6-4, 6-4.

The defeat left the Polish world number six and seventh ranked Bouchard waiting to book a qualifying spot at next month’s WTA’s season-ending championships in Singapore.

French Open champion Sharapova and Halep, runner up at Roland Garros, are already assured of places in the eight-woman field at the WTA Finals and they added further wins to their strong tallies in 2014 on Tuesday.

Russian Sharapova produced some bruising groundstrokes as she crushed Ukrainian Elina Svitolina 6-2, 6-2, while Romanian Halep encountered some issues before overcoming Chinese wildcard Zhu Lin 7-5, 6-4.

World number four Sharapova went for her shots throughout the contest on the Beijing hard courts, smashing some eye-catching winners but also coughing up five double faults among some wild errors.

She sealed victory when Svitolina could only hit a backhand long to put Sharapova through to a third round meeting with Spain’s Carla Suarez Navarro.

“Happy with the way I’ve started the tournament. Hopefully I’ll continue that in the next match,” the Russian said.

World number 167 Zhu followed Sharapova’s aggressive tactics as she led 5-4 in the first set against second ranked Halep, only to lose her composure and the match.

The Chinese produced 28 unforced errors as Halep’s counter punching approach helped her claim a win that sets up a third round clash with 15th seed Andrea Petkovic, the German having little trouble in ousting American Madison Keys 6-2, 6-3.

Former world number one Ana Ivanovic was another second round winner as she beat Swiss Romina Oprandi 6-4, 6-2 on the Moon Court. —Reuters

Maria Sharapova of Russia returns a shot to Elina Svitolina of Ukraine during their women’s singles match at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing on 30 Sept, 2014. —Reuters
Asian Games: Nishioka captures men’s tennis singles gold

Incheon, 30 Sept—Japan’s Yoshihito Nishioka cruised to a straight-sets victory over Lu Yen-hsun of Taiwan to claim the gold medal in the men’s singles tournament at the 17th Asian Games on Tuesday.

Nishioka, the 60th seed here, beat No. 1 seed Lu 6-2, 6-2 to become the first Japanese player in 40 years to win an Asian Games championship. Toshiro Sakai was the last to accomplish the feat at the 1974 Teheran Asian Games.

“I was aiming for the gold medal and through everyone’s support I could repay my gratitude,” Nishioka said after his victory. “I didn’t know (that it was the first time in 40 years). In Japan, tennis is becoming more and more popular, and hopefully this will make it even more a topic of conversation.”

With Kei Nishikori all the rage back in Japan after reaching the US Open final earlier this month and winning the Malaysia Open for his third title of the season on Sunday, it seemed only fitting that another man from the Land of the Rising Sun whose name begins in “Ni-sha” triumph in the regional Olympics for Asia.

“If even a little, I hope I can get closer to the way he plays,” Nishioka said when asked about his idol Nishikori. “I feel like I’ve moved a little closer to him. I’d like to play on the ATP tour more to get higher in rank and closer to where he is.”

Nishioka, whose first order of business is to be reach the top 150 in the ATP rankings, said second break in the eighth game of the second set before serving out the match in 1 hour, 11 minutes.

“If I knew that was the higher ranked player but I was much higher ranked so I really have to fight harder to move up,” he said.

Earlier, China’s Wang Zhen held off Luksika Kumkhum of Thailand 6-3, 7-6 (5) to win the gold medal in the women’s singles. Japan’s Eri Hozumi and Misa Eguchi, who lost to Luksika and Wang, respectively, in the semi-finals won bronze medals.—Kyodo News

Medals table of the Asian Games
30 September, 2014

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With baseline play reminiscent of the speedy world No 7 Nishikori, Nishioka battled back from 0-4 for three deuces, facing his second break in the eighth game of the second set before serving out the match in 1 hour, 11 minutes.

“Every time I play with him, I get closer to the way he plays,” Nishioka said when asked about his idol Nishikori, who is ranked 168th in the world. “I was a little surprised to get off to such a flying start and it helped me relax. I kept focused and took advantage when my opponent made some errors. I was glad I could win in straight sets,” he said.

Nishioka, whose first order of business is to reach the US Open final of the season before the Japanese retirement age, replied, “I am very happy to be compared to him but when he was my age, he was much higher ranked so I really have to fight harder to move up.”

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