President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to ROK, Germany

On the occasion of the National Foundation Day of the Republic of Korea, which falls on 3 October 2014, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to Her Excellency Madam Park Geun-hye, President of the Republic of Korea and His Excellency Mr. Chung Hong-Won, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea.

The President has also sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Joachim Gauck, Federal President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Her Excellency Dr. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, on the occasion of the German Unity Day, which falls on 3 October.— MNA

President urges union ministries, state/region governments to spend budget effectively

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 Oct — President U Thein Sein, who is the chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Financial Commission, urged all union ministries and state/region governments to make concerted efforts to obtain more budget allocation and to spend it more effectively at the Meeting (3/2004) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Financial Commission on Thursday.

The president said the purpose of the meeting is to allocate more budget funds for departments and organizations for the remaining seven months of 2014-2015 fiscal year by adjusting the budget allocation, expenditure and work implemented during the 5-month period from April to August and availability of budget allocation and the possible expenditure for the remaining seven months.

The government has tried to retain the ratio of the budget deficit and GDP under 5 percent in the original budget estimate as well as in the upcoming revised budget allocation to maintain the stability of macro economy, the president added.

Then, the president pointed out that emphasis is to be placed on earning more revenues and generating more income of state-owned businesses while it is necessary to allocate more budget funds for development of the country and to spend the budget more effectively.

The president urged the union ministries and state/region governments to successfully implement the development projects.

In conclusion, the president urged the union ministries and state/region governments to implement development tasks that generate quick win for the country and the people and lay foundation for long-term sustainable development during the remaining term of the government.

After the president’s speech Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, who are vice chairmen of the commission, made speeches.

Afterwards, Secretary (See page 3)

Japanese SME firms seek local potential partners in UMFCCI business matching

By Ye Myint

Yangon, 2 Oct — Not less than 17 small and medium-sized firms from Japan conducted business matching with Myanmar counterparts at the UMFCCI Office Tower in Yangon on Thursday.

In collaboration with the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation and Japan External Trade Organization of Japan, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (RUMFCCI) and the Japan-Myanmar Association (JMA) organized the business matching for the Japanese SME business (See page 3)

Materials inside Master Sports Factory to be auctioned to raise money for payment of its workers

By Aye Min Soe

Yangon, 2 Oct — The materials inside the Master Sports Factory, which has been closed after the Korean owner of the shoe factory returned to South Korea without paying salaries and compensation to more than 750 Myanmar workers, will be auctioned, according to the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security.

“A total of 13,133 items inside the factory will be auctioned through the competitive bidding system on 9 October,” said U Win Shein, the Director-General of the Factories and General Labour Law (See page 9)
Sports ministry allocates budget funds for state/region level sports events

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Oct—The Ministry of Sports is organizing state/region chief minister’s cup sport events in 15 capitals of states and regions in order to promote sports in Myanmar, spending from K 1.63 million to K 5.28 million for each competition depending on types of sports and competitions, Deputy Minister for Sports U Zaw Win told the Pyithu Hlutaw (Lower House) on Thursday. He was responding to the question raised by a representative who asked whether the ministry has plans to allocate budget funds for sport events to promote sports in Myanmar. However, the deputy minister said district/township level sports events are held by district/township development committees and management committees and the ministry has no plan to allocate budget funds for such sports events for the time being.

Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union arrives back from ROK

YAMON, 2 Oct—Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein and party arrived back at Yangon International Airport on Wednesday after attending the Third Congress of the World Conference on Constitutional Justice 2014 in Seoul of the Republic of Korea held from 28 September to 1 October.

Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hlutaw meets official of London-based Bingham Center for the Rule of Law

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Oct—Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hlutaw (Upper House) U Mya Nyein received Director of Education and Training Ms Naina Patel and party of London-based Bingham Center for the Rule of Law Building on Thursday. They discussed rule of law and amendment of the constitution.

Japanese SME firms seeks... (from page 1)

The Japanese delegation consists of 17 companies from SME sector, including IV Product Corporation, SPEC Company Limited, Inui Steamship Co., Ltd, Sun Electrics Industry, Honda Ltd, Shiken Corporation and Quest Corporation. The SME business mission who arrived in Yangon on Wednesday night will spend three days in Yangon, doing a tour of Thilawa Special Economic Zone on Friday. The Myanmar-Japan SMEs Business Matching kicked off with the welcoming remarks of the two presidents of the RUMFCCI and MJA. They highlighted the importance of Thilawa SEZ which is envisioned as a driving force for economic development of Myanmar.

“I want to establish a plant here in cooperation with local partners”, said Miki Yasuhiro, automobile spare parts manufacturer and owner of a metal recycling plant in Japan.

“I had a successful discussion with the Japanese counterpart at the business matching, U Ye Gaung, consultant of A1 Group of Companies, welcoming more business matching events to share information and partner with foreign businesses. “No agreements were reached, but we will keep in touch in the coming days thanks to such talks between the two businesses,” he added.

Then, Deputy Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo answered the question whether there are arrangements to announce by-laws for approved laws as soon as possible.

The deputy attorney general said some by-laws have been published while others are being still examined for drafting by-laws and it is not necessary to draft by-laws for some of the approved laws. Organizations concerned are making efforts to draft by-laws for approved by-laws, he added.

Pyithu Hlutaw

YCDC did not replace existing sports grounds with housing estates: Upper House

Amyotha Hlutaw

YCDC was upgrading all sports facilities for public use in all weathers and promising continuous establishment of new sports grounds in suitable places. The Amyotha Hlutaw discussed a bill amending the Myanmar’s Mining Law, which was sent by the Pyithu Hlutaw (Lower House) with some changes to make it more complete. An MP said that more and more small-scale mining industries coming to be engaged in the mining sector would create more job opportunities for local people, thereby preventing illegal migration and bringing about more tax revenues for the country as well. He went on to say that a growth in gross domestic product in the mining sector would help the country out of the list of least developed countries. —MNA

Deputy Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo—MNA

Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein cordially greets Director of Education and Training Ms Naina Patel and party of London-based Bingham Center for the Rule of Law.—MNA

Japanese SME firms seeks... (from page 1)

Building on Thursday, they discussed rule of law and amendment of the constitution. —MNA

MNA

2 | Friday, 3 October, 2014
President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Bangladeshi, Colombian ambassadors

Mr Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw, at 11 am on Thursday.

The President also accepted the credentials of Mr Andelfo Jose Garcia Gonzalez, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the same venue at 11.30 am.

Also present on the occasions were Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and Director-General U Thurain Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.

President urges union ministries, state/region governments to spend budget funds effectively...

(from page 1)

of the commission Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein explained the additional budget bill for 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the president. In his concluding remarks, the president urged union ministers and chief ministers to spend the additional budget accountably and to uphold transparency, accountability, responsibility and accessibility in permitting investment firms and businesses to run their operations in accordance with Directive 1/2013 of the President Office. In conclusion, the president said that the losses and wastes of public funds must be prevented by auditing by the Union Auditor-General’s Office, state-level committees and departmental committees in accordance with the law.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing concludes his tours of Japan and South Korea

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited South Korea from 28 September to 1 October and discussed matters related to peace and stability, and bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries and two armed forces.

Myawady

A Myanmar military delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrived back in Yangon from Seoul on 1 October, sources said.

They were seen off at the Incheon International Airport by Maj-Gen Kim Yong-woo of South Korea’s Defence Services, Myanmar Ambassador to South Korea U Soe Lwin and officials.

On arrival at the Yangon International Airport, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was welcomed back by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung and senior military officers at Yangon International Airport.—MYAWADY

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 Oct—

A Myanmar military delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrived back in Yangon from Seoul on 1 October, sources said.

They were seen off at the Incheon International Airport by Maj-Gen Kim Yong-woo of South Korea’s Defence Services, Myanmar Ambassador to South Korea U Soe Lwin and officials.

On arrival at the Yangon International Airport, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was welcomed back by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung and senior military officers at Yangon International Airport.—MYAWADY

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 Oct—

Mr Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw, at 11 am on Thursday.

The President also accepted the credentials of Mr Andelfo Jose Garcia Gonzalez, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the same venue at 11.30 am.

Also present on the occasions were Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and Director-General U Thurain Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.

MNA

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Mr Andelfo Jose Garcia Gonzalez, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh.—MNA

MNA

Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun participate in discussions at Financial Commission Meeting 3/2014.—MNA

MNA

President U Thein Sein with Mr Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh.

MNA

MNA
Myanmar MBA graduate wins best research paper award with highest points

Mandalay Region marks MPF Day

Mandalay, 2 Oct—The Thitsa Yazar Training and Development Centre on 62nd street in Mandalay and SLU International jointly held the convocation Master of Business Administration (MBA) Batch I at Shinawatra University in Bangkok of Thailand on 19 September. President Prof Dr. Voradej Chandarasorn of Shinawatra University conferred the degree on the graduates and delivered an address.

At the convocation, Dr Mya Phone Mo Oo of Mandalay Campus won the best research paper award with the highest points.

Respects paid to the aged on International Day of Older Persons

Mandalay, 2 Oct—Organized by Mandalay Region Government, the International Day of Older Persons was observed at the city hall in Mandalay on Wednesday, attended by older persons of above-95 years old.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement donated K1 million each to two oldest persons of the nation, namely grandpa U Thwin, 111 years old and grandma Daw Mya Kyi, 122 years old from Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region.

Planning for all inclusive development course conducted

Ayadaw, 2 Oct—The grassroots level planning for all inclusive development course kicked off at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Ayadaw of Sagaing Region on 28 September.

They went to Ayeyamin strain paddy plantation in field No 1863 of the village and demonstrated surveillance of paddy germs and pests and spraying to the farmers.

“We thank officials of Agriculture Department for use of natural pesticides to be sprayed at the paddy plantations and prevention of pesticides. Use of natural pesticide will save the agricultural cost,” said a local farmer.
Traffic police donate blood at MGH

In honour of the Golden Jubilee Myanmar Police Force Day, the police led by Police Major Thein Ko Ko of No 11 Traffic Police Branch (Mandalay) donated blood at the national blood bank of Mandalay General Hospital in Mandalay on 26 September.

“We honour the anniversary day of Myanmar Police Force to save the life of patient with our blood,” said Police Major Thein Ko Ko. A total of 21 policemen participated in the blood donation.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Arms seized in Myawady

A combined team comprising the Commanding Officer Lt-Col Win Tun and party of the local battalion, service-men from No 1022 Border Guard Force and Myawady Militia troop together with witnesses, acting on a tip-off, searched Lin Aung (a) Po Tay, Zaw Htet Naing and Aung Thu (a) Chet Pu at the Dhammayan in the precinct of Shwekyuntha Nyenchanaung monastery in Ward 2 of Myawady in Kayin State on Wednesday.

The combined team seized one M-16, 39 rounds of ammunition, three magazins, one .38 bullet and one US-made M1 grenade. Action was taken against three suspects under the law.

Thuzar (Myawady Town)

KyaukPadaung Tsp people hope rainwater in late monsoon

The monsoon has withdrawn from the central Myanmar area. However, the lakes and creeks in the central Myanmar could not get adequate rainwater. In consequence, the local people may face shortage of water in the summer. Some lakes could store some volume of rainwater and some lakes did not get inflow of water.

Thanks to the tube-well sunk by the department concerned, the local people can overcome the challenge of water shortage in the coming summer, a source said.

KyaukPadaung Township got a few rainfalls in mid- and late-monsoon in 2012. Due to lack of water in the lakes, the people faced shortage of water in the 2013 summer.

In 2013, the township got 24.20 inches of rain falls in 48 raining days. However, the township stored 14.20 inches of rain falls in 34 raining days up to September 2014.

Ko Nay (KyaukPadaung)

Kyigon-Kalay road section being upgraded for better transportation

Public Works under the Ministry of Construction is taking responsibility for repaving the two miles and one furlong long section with asphalt concrete on Kyigon-Kalay Road in 2014-15 fiscal year.

The government of Sagaing Region spent K10 million from the Union fund on tarmacking the road section which is the India-Myanmar friendship road, a source said.

On Wednesday, Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo inspected the progress of repaving the road section and gave instructions on timely completion of the tasks.

The Kyigon-Kalay Road is linking Kalay-Tamu Road, Kalay-Yargyi Road, Kalay-Mahamyang Road and Kalay-Mawlaik Road for ensuring swift flow of commodities and smooth transportation of passengers.—Joe Net

Dragon fruit plantation grown on a commercial scale in Kalay

Dragon fruit plants are cultivated on a commercial scale in Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Dragon fruits plantations are thriving in some parts of the nation, especially in Shan State and Kalay Township.

A dragon fruit plantation of U Win Kyang, owner of Shweyamin Chin traditional textile shop in Kalay, is thriving beside Asia Highway near Helok Village in Kalay Township of Sagaing Region.

He grew five acres of plantations in 2008. The plants started bearing fruits in June 2011, fetching income for the owner. The fruit reduces cholesterol and relieves the asthma disease.—Ju Nine
Indonesian parliament elects speaker opposed to Jokowi

Jakarta, 2 Oct — Hopes that Indonesian president-elect Joko “Jokowi” Widodo can have a strong, effective government have been thrown into doubt after the lower house of parliament early Thursday elected a speaker and deputy speakers from parties opposing him.

Less than 24 hours after 560 members of the House of Representatives took their oaths, a coalition of six parties supporting defeated presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto reached a consensus in a plenary session to elect Setya Novanto of Golkar to be the speaker of the house.

Golkar joined the coalition of Prabowo’s Great Indonesia Movement Party, or Gerindra, along with outgoing President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono’s Democrat Party, the National Mandate Party or PAN, the United Development Party or PPP, and the Prosperous Justice Party or PKS.

Setya’s deputies include Democrat Agus Hermananto, Gerindra’s Fadli Zon, who is Prabowo’s right-hand man and a vocal critic of Jokowi, and two politicians from PAN and PKS.

The Prabowo coalition will support a PPP lawmaker to be speaker of the 692 members of the People’s Consultative Assembly, the upper house.

The decision on the house speaker and deputy speakers was taken without the presence of the coalition of four parties supporting Jokowi, which decided to walk out of the plenary session after their request to hold a vote in a new session on Thursday was rejected.

The new parliament leadership has raised concerns by many about the effectiveness of Jokowi’s administration as he may hit a wall when negotiating with his parliamentary opponents.

In the new parliament, the opposition coalition has also been eyeing to amend the country’s 1945 Constitution in a bid to scrap direct presidential elections, which were first held in 2004.

They also plan to amend a law on the Corruption Eradication Commission to reduce its power in dealing with corrupt lawmakers. Jokowi’s coalition only controls 139 seats in parliament.— Kyodo News

Japan, US to release interim report on defence guidelines next week

Tokyo, 2 Oct — Japan and the United States plan to release an interim report on a planned revision of bilateral defence cooperation guidelines next Wednesday after their senior officials meet in Tokyo to finalize it, a Japanese government source said on Thursday.

The meeting of director-general-level officials comes after Tokyo and Washington decided to delay the release planned for late September and spend more time on its wording.

The source explained that Japan “exclusively defensive” policy under the bilateral security alliance, the two allies agreed to consider to include some new scenarios such as Japan intercepting ballistic missiles and defending US ships in international waters. But details still need to be worked out, according to the source.

Following a Cabinet decision in July to reinterpret the pacifist Constitution to enable the country to use the right to collective self-defence, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has been aiming to update the defence cooperation guidelines and prepare domestic legislation to accommodate the major postwar security policy change at the same time.

But Abe has already decided to wait until next year to submit bills to revise existing laws to enable the Self-Defence Forces to come to the aid of an ally under armed attack in collective self-defence, given that the issue has proven unpopular with the public.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi yields a broom with NDMC workers to launch ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ in Valmiki Basti in New Delhi on Thursday. — PTI

Japan and Thailand will revive talks with Japan and Myanmar aimed at kick-starting the floundering multi-billion dollar Dawei Special Economic Zone in Myanmar, a junta spokesman said on Thursday.

The project is arguably Southeast Asia’s most ambitious industrial zone — a 250-sq-km (100-sq-mile) deep-sea port, petrochemical and heavy industry hub located along the slim Thai-Myanmar peninsula.

Thailand’s ruling junta pledged to step up involve- ment in the project, which has seen years of delays that were largely blamed on Italian-Thai Development Pcl, the project’s leader, which had failed to secure private investment and agree on a power source for the complex. Thai and Myanmar seized control of the strategically located complex, billed as a gateway for trade in Southeast Asia, from ITD, Thailand’s largest construction firm, in November 2013.

Japan has expressed increasing interest in Dawei — the project could be a significant boost to swelling Japanese industrial interests in the region — though talks with Tokyo have stalled.— Reuters

Modi launches Clean India campaign

New Delhi, 2 Oct — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched a massive five-year “Clean India” campaign in the national capital on the occasion of the country’s independence icon Mahatma Gandhi’s 145th birth anniversary.

Modi led a cleanliness pledge at Rajpath, Gandhi’s memorial, along with about 30 lakh government employees across the country, then went to Valmiki Basti, a housing colony in the Indian capital where sanitation workers live.

Local TV channels showed footage of Modi sweeping the streets in a symbolic start to the cleanliness drive.

The Indian prime minister has stressed the importance of sanitation in almost all his public speeches since assuming power after the general elections in May, pledging to make India clean by 2019.

Modi launches Clean India campaign

PRABOWO SUBIANTO

Japan and Thailand have stalled Dawei talks

Bangkok, 2 Oct — Thailand will revive talks with Japan and Myanmar aimed at kick-starting the floundering multi-billion dollar Dawei Special Economic Zone in Myanmar, a junta spokesman said on Thursday.

The project is arguably Southeast Asia’s most ambitious industrial zone — a 250-sq-km (100-sq-mile) deep-sea port, petrochemical and heavy industry hub located along the slim Thai-Myanmar peninsula.

Thailand’s ruling junta pledged to step up involvement in the project, which has seen years of delays that were largely blamed on Italian-Thai Development Pcl, the project’s leader, which had failed to secure private investment and agree on a power source for the complex.

Thai and Myanmar seized control of the strategically located complex, billed as a gateway for trade in Southeast Asia, from ITD, Thailand’s largest construction firm, in November 2013.

Japan has expressed increasing interest in Dawei — the project could be a significant boost to swelling Japanese industrial interests in the region — though talks with Tokyo have stalled.— Reuters

Thai Development Pcl, the project’s leader, which had failed to secure private investment and agree on a power source for the complex.

Thai and Myanmar seized control of the strategically located complex, billed as a gateway for trade in Southeast Asia, from ITD, Thailand’s largest construction firm, in November 2013.

Japan has expressed increasing interest in Dawei — the project could be a significant boost to swelling Japanese industrial interests in the region — though talks with Tokyo have stalled.— Reuters

Fishing boats are seen against setting sun on Maungmagan beach near the town of Dawei in southern Myanmar on 19 Nov, 2011. Picture taken on 19 Nov, 2011. — Reuters

Thailand says will kick-start stalled Dawei talks

THAILAND'S PRIME MINISTER PRAYUTH CHAN-OCHA AND MINORU KIUCHI, JAPAN'S VICE FOREIGN MINISTER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi yields a broom with NDMC workers to launch ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ in Valmiki Basti in New Delhi on Thursday. — PTI

Prabowo Subianto speaks at a meeting of four parties supporting him and his anti-corruption mission to reduce its power in dealing with corrupt lawmakers. Jokowi’s coalition only controls 139 seats in parliament. — Kyodo News

Prabowo Subianto

A Myanmar artist performs with traditional musical instrument during the ASEAN cultural fair in Yangon, Myanmar, on 1 Oct, 2014. The cultural fair will run till Friday. — Xinhua

Modi launches Clean India campaign

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched a massive five-year “Clean India” campaign in the national capital on the occasion of the country’s independence icon Mahatma Gandhi’s 145th birth anniversary.

Modi led a cleanliness pledge at Rajpath, Gandhi’s memorial, along with about 30 lakh government employees across the country, then went to Valmiki Basti, a housing colony in the Indian capital where sanitation workers live.

Local TV channels showed footage of Modi sweeping the streets in a symbolic start to the cleanliness drive.

The Indian prime minister has stressed the importance of sanitation in almost all his public speeches since assuming power after the general elections in May, pledging to make India clean by 2019.

Xinhua

Modi launches Clean India campaign

Prime Minister Narendra Modi yields a broom with NDMC workers to launch ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ in Valmiki Basti in New Delhi on Thursday. — PTI

Fishing boats are seen against setting sun on Maungmagan beach near the town of Dawei in southern Myanmar on 19 Nov, 2011. Picture taken on 19 Nov, 2011. — Reuters

Thailand says will kick-start stalled Dawei talks

Prabowo Subianto

Prabowo Subianto

Prime Minister Narendra Modi yields a broom with NDMC workers to launch ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ in Valmiki Basti in New Delhi on Thursday. — PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi yields a broom with NDMC workers to launch ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ in Valmiki Basti in New Delhi on Thursday. — PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi yields a broom with NDMC workers to launch ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ in Valmiki Basti in New Delhi on Thursday. — PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi yields a broom with NDMC workers to launch ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ in Valmiki Basti in New Delhi on Thursday. — PTI
Russia to urge West resume investigation of MH17 crash in eastern Ukraine

Moscow, 2 Oct — Russia’s delegation to a conference of the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva will urge to resume the investigation of a Malaysian passenger plane crash in eastern Ukraine, Andrei Klimov, a member of the Russian delegation and deputy chairman of the international committee of the Federation Council upper parliament house, said in an interview published in the Thursday issue of the Izvestia daily.

“In conditions of the current situation, it is important to first find out who was responsible for not closing air space over the dangerous area in the Donetsk region and ordering the plane deviate of its original route instead,” he said. “It is high time we help our colleagues in Malaysia and make the West and Ukraine investigate that situation over the Boeing crash in deed.”

“If they say someone seized a Buk missile system, why then this sector was not closed for flights. Why this plane was guided directly to this sector. The Malaysians do not understand this, they are smart people, but they say the West is turning a deaf ear on them,” Klimov said.

The Boeing 777-200 of the Malaysia Airlines (MH17) en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur crashed on 17 July in Ukraine’s eastern Donetsk Region, some 60 kilometres (over 37 miles) from the Russian border, in the zone of combat operations between the Donetsk self-defence forces and the Ukrainian army. All the passengers and crewmembers on board the aircraft — 298 people — died.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (far L) and Cho Tae Yong (far R), South Korea’s first vice foreign minister, hold a meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo on 2 Oct, 2014.—Kyodo News

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (far L) and Cho Tae Yong (far R), South Korea’s first vice foreign minister, hold a meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo on 2 Oct, 2014.—Kyodo News

International experts at the site of the crash.

German defence crisis puts potential Merkel successor in hot seat

Berlin, 2 Oct — Ursula von der Leyen, whose ambitions of succeeding Angela Merkel are too transparent for German taste, is finding out the hard way why her job as defence minister is considered the most dangerous in the cabinet, nicknamed the ‘ejector seat’. News that Germany’s military hardware is in such a state of disrepair that it is struggling to meet NATO commitments or keep a promise to arm Iraqi Kurds against Islamic State has put the minister in the firing line.

Dubbed “the War Minister” by a magazine for wanting to put military muscle behind Germany’s growing presence in geo-political affairs, von der Leyen is one of the only contenders to succeed the popular Merkel as conservative leader.

But the defence equipment scandal, which erupted last week, is an unmitigated embarrassment for Germany which could put an end to such ambitions. Meanwhile, the sartorialists and headline-writers are having a field day.

Many German tanks are only held together by von der Leyen’s hairspray”, said one TV show after the forces acknowledged that only 70 of their 180 Boxer armoured fighting vehicles, seven of 43 navy helicopters or 42 of 109 air force Eurofighters and 38 of 89 Tornado fighters were operational. The list goes on.

As well as casting doubt on commitments on air defence for NATO allies in the Baltics if the Ukraine crisis escalates, it coincided with a spate of breakdowns of military planes taking weapons to Iraq and aid to African states hit by Ebola. “What it comes down to is that you promise your allies you will do certain things if an ally is attacked but in the end it turns out that you are not capable of doing what you promised,” said Christian Tuschhoff, a foreign policy expert at Berlin’s Free University. “So it’s serious and it’s very embarrassing.”

Reuters

Austrian Eurofighter jets affected by hull problems

Vienna, 2 Oct — The Austrian Ministry of Defence confirmed on Wednesday that the manufacturing faults in Eurofighter Typhoon jets, reported by the German Air Force, also affect those used by the Austrian Armed Forces.

The Defence Ministry is looking into the possibility of legal cancellation of its contract with manufacturer of the British aerospace group BAE Systems, as the aircraft will no longer be able to perform as stipulated in the contract agreement, the Kronen Zeitung newspaper reported.

The German Defence Ministry said recently it had detected a fault in the rear fuselage of the multi-role fighter.

Xinhua

According to the air company, passengers of the ill-fated aircraft were citizens of Malaysia, the Netherlands, Australia, Indonesia, Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, the Philippines, Canada and New Zealand.

Klimov said he was sure that the Inter-parliamentary Union is the most appropriate format to discuss this issue, since it would bring together some 2,000 lawmakers from 200 world countries.

An international organization of parliaments, the Inter-parliamentary Union is the oldest international organization founded as far back as 1889. The Union is the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue and works for peace and co-operation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracy. It members are inter-parliamentary groups from 146 states. Seven regional inter-parliamentary organizations enjoy the status of associate members. The former Soviet Union took part in IPU work from 1955. Russian lawmakers have been taking part in IPU sessions since 1992.—Itar-Tass

Andrei Klimov, a member of the Russian delegation to a conference of the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU).
In every society, teaching has long been recognized as noble and gracious and teachers have always been held in high esteem. In addition, teaching is regarded as one of the most challenging and treasured professions for the simple reason that teachers are central to the political, social, economic, educational and cultural life of our country.

It is therefore necessary to encourage teachers of today to adopt and adapt new pedagogical practices, establish a close relationship with individual students and find out their social and cultural backgrounds, interests, abilities and preferred learning styles. Students are likely to work harder when they are allowed to take responsibility for their own learning, when the curriculum relates to their lives, and when learning activities arouse their curiosity.

While playing an active role in teaching, teachers are responsible for encouraging their students to take an active role in learning. In other words, teachers should bear in mind that they are no longer the king or queen of the classroom. They must stop playing an authoritative role in teaching. Instead, they must see themselves as educational guides, facilitators and co-learners, given the fact that learning is a lifelong process. In this respect, teachers of today need to reinvent their role inside and outside the classroom in order to produce better-educated students.

Nostalgia for Venerable Sayadaw Kosalla

By Dr. Saw Ma Aung

(In commemoration of the World Teachers’ Day)

(Venerable Kosalla served as Dean of the Faculty of Pariyatti at the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University (ITBMU) up to 2008 when he passed away. The author studied Buddhist literature under his tutelage at the ITBMU for seven years. He wrote this article in memory of his gratitude at the time of his passing-away)

It was at about 9 o’clock on the night of 27th November, 2008. After a hard day’s work, I, as usual, returned home on a jam-packed bus. Having made pauses at many bus-stops, it came to the stop where I had to get off. Although night advanced, I was able to see through the windows of the bus the pedestrians who were all in a fluster. Tiredness and hunger quickened my slow, weary steps as I approached my house. Once I stepped into the downstairs of my house, one of my sisters came running towards me and told me in an urgent air, “Brother, this afternoon, a student from the ITBMU telephoned you that Ven. Kosalla passed away yesterday.” “What?” I exclaimed in a panic. I thought I had heard her. I, therefore, asked her again out of breath, “Can you repeat what happened to my Sayadaw yesterday?” She hesitantly answered that the Sayadaw had died suddenly the previous day at Mawlamyine Railway Station. Alas! This bad news was a bolt from the blue to me. Out of surprise and sorrow, I stood rooted for a few moments where I was. I found no word to express how sad I felt at this unexpected news. At the same time, I was filled with a fit of remorse, for I had not visited the Sayadaw for over a year. And I realized that the Sayadaw’s untimely death was a severe blow to the university but also to the Buddhist literary circle. Really, a brilliant star shining undiminished in the sky of Buddhism, is no longer with us. His passing away is a great loss to the whole of Buddhism.

The Sayadaw was born on 22nd July, 1900 in Nyaungshwe, in the Shan State. His father was a maulvi named Mahamuni Moinuddin and his mother was a Buddhist. From the young age, he was initiated as a Buddhist. He began his vinaya training at a young age. After he completed his training, he was consecrated as a Buddhist monk. He started his teaching career at the Pyin U Lwin University. He went on to teach Buddhist literature at the ITBMU.

The Sayadaw was a person who was an excellent teacher. He was a person who not only taught the students in the classroom but also taught them in the streets. He was a person who always gave his students a lot of love and care. He was a person who always gave his students a lot of freedom and space to develop their own ideas. He was a person who always gave his students a lot of respect and dignity. He was a person who always gave his students a lot of encouragement and support.

The Sayadaw was a person who was a great teacher. He was a person who was a great writer. He was a person who was a great thinker. He was a person who was a great scholar. He was a person who was a great yogi. He was a person who was a great artist. He was a person who was a great poet. He was a person who was a great philosopher. He was a person who was a great mystic. He was a person who was a great sage. He was a person who was a great saint. He was a person who was a great savior. He was a person who was a great hero. He was a person who was a great king. He was a person who was a great emperor. He was a person who was a great statesman. He was a person who was a great diplomat.

The Sayadaw was a person who was a great master of the five collections of discourses. He was a person who was a great master of the abhidhamma. He was a person who was a great master of the vinaya. He was a person who was a great master of the suttanta. He was a person who was a great master of the pali grammar rules. He was a person who was a great master of the pali pronunciation.

The Sayadaw was a person who was a great master of the pali grammar rules. He was a person who was a great master of the pali pronunciation. He was a person who was a great master of the pali spelling. He was a person who was a great master of the pali punctuation. He was a person who was a great master of the pali grammar. He was a person who was a great master of the pali syntax. He was a person who was a great master of the pali vocabulary. He was a person who was a great master of the pali semantics. He was a person who was a great master of the pali pragmatics.

The Sayadaw was a person who was a great master of the pali grammar rules. He was a person who was a great master of the pali pronunciation. He was a person who was a great master of the pali spelling. He was a person who was a great master of the pali punctuation. He was a person who was a great master of the pali grammar. He was a person who was a great master of the pali syntax. He was a person who was a great master of the pali vocabulary. He was a person who was a great master of the pali semantics. He was a person who was a great master of the pali pragmatics.

The Sayadaw was a person who was a great master of the pali grammar rules. He was a person who was a great master of the pali pronunciation. He was a person who was a great master of the pali spelling. He was a person who was a great master of the pali punctuation. He was a person who was a great master of the pali grammar. He was a person who was a great master of the pali syntax. He was a person who was a great master of the pali vocabulary. He was a person who was a great master of the pali semantics. He was a person who was a great master of the pali pragmatics.

The Sayadaw was a person who was a great master of the pali grammar rules. He was a person who was a great master of the pali pronunciation. He was a person who was a great master of the pali spelling. He was a person who was a great master of the pali punctuation. He was a person who was a great master of the pali grammar. He was a person who was a great master of the pali syntax. He was a person who was a great master of the pali vocabulary. He was a person who was a great master of the pali semantics. He was a person who was a great master of the pali pragmatics.

The Sayadaw was a person who was a great master of the pali grammar rules. He was a person who was a great master of the pali pronunciation. He was a person who was a great master of the pali spelling. He was a person who was a great master of the pali punctuation. He was a person who was a great master of the pali grammar. He was a person who was a great master of the pali syntax. He was a person who was a great master of the pali vocabulary. He was a person who was a great master of the pali semantics. He was a person who was a great master of the pali pragmatics.

The Sayadaw was a person who was a great master of the pali grammar rules. He was a person who was a great master of the pali pronunciation. He was a person who was a great master of the pali spelling. He was a person who was a great master of the pali punctuation. He was a person who was a great master of the pali grammar. He was a person who was a great master of the pali syntax. He was a person who was a great master of the pali vocabulary. He was a person who was a great master of the pali semantics. He was a person who was a great master of the pali pragmatics.
Students of political leadership visit Union Election Commission office

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Oct—Students doing a course on political leadership run by the Innovative Group, a private school, went on a study tour of the office of the Union Election Commission here on Thursday, with the UEC chairman meeting them at his office, sources said. UEC officials briefed students on the organizational structure and functions of the commission, measures to ensure a free and fair general election, pilot projects of registering eligible voters, and rules and regulations of the commission. The UEC chairman responded to queries raised by students. Their queries included postal votes, advance voting, electoneering, the possible practice of PR (proportional representatives), and promotional campaigns on how to vote.—MNA

Armenian archbishop visits Shwedagon Pagoda

YANGON, 2 Oct—Armenian archbishop Karekin II and party offered flowers and lights to Shwedagon Pagoda and donated $US200,000 and K230,000 to the fund of the pagoda through members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees Dr Tin Thein Lwin and officials. The archbishop also visited Jade Buddha Image, the museum and archive photo booth on the platform of the pagoda. After beating the bell of King Thayawady, they visited the pagoda.—MNA

Manufacturing Myanmar 2014 event launched

YANGON, 2 Oct—Manufacturing Myanmar 2014 event jointly organized by the Ministry of Industry and Singapore Exhibition Services Pte., Ltd., was opened on Thursday at Myanmar Convention Centre here, as the owner of the factory failed to settle the issue in accordance with the decision of the tribunal board within 30 days. The committee clarified rules for the auction to owners and managers of 27 shoe factories in Bago and Yangon regions on Wednesday and Thursday at the Hlinetha Industrial Zone. Those who are interested in the auction are allowed with addresses by Union Minister U Maung Myint and the company’s Deputy Chief Executive Ms Lindy Wee.

Enthusiastic may observe machinery as well as technologies and its problem solving methods to evaluate the materials inside the factory from 1st to 3rd October, according to the announcement of the Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department.

The materials which would be auctioned include 472 items of machinery parts, 16 items related to generators, 10,764 items of raw materials and finished products and other materials.

Yangon Region Labour Tribunal Board made the decision last month that the factory owner must pay the salary for June to 757 workers as well as compensation stipulated by labour laws for the workers after closing the factory without giving prior notice.

The Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department urged the South Korean embassy last month to bring the factory owner Jeong Hae Un to settle the issue. The ministry filed a lawsuit against Master Sports Factory on July 25 as it failed to pay the salaries for June and compensation to the workers after closing the facility on June 26, failing to comply with the regulations of the law.

Regarding the closure of the factory, which opened a year ago in the Hlinetha Industrial Zone, Master Sports Myanmar Co Ltd issued an announcement at the beginning of July, saying the factory was experiencing financial problems due to the production of low-quality products that were not marketable, adding that agreements with potential buyers had to be revoked.—GNLM

Myanmar and Thailand meets to go on with Dawei economic zone project

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Oct—Myanmar and Thailand met at the Ministry of Transport here on 1 October to discuss matters related to the continued implementation of the Dawei special economic zone and related projects, sources said.

The zone’s initial projects cover the construction of two-way roads, a small jetty, power and water supplies, housing estates and communications infrastructure.

The meeting focused on coordination of concession agreements and due diligence assessments, following reports on the invitation of the terms of reference (TOR) to the Italian-Thai company and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan by Roland Berger

The zone's initial projects were to go on with the Dawei special economic zone and related projects.—MNA

Nostalgia for Venerable . . .

(from page 8)

His room was not installed with modern facilities but full of books of various sizes. He often went outside on his mission by his old Mazada Jeep. When his car did not work well, he used to return to Bago by bus. He walked barefoot back from his lecture-room to his quarter in the intense sun with the piece of robe over his head.

He was such a soft-minded person that I never found any trace of anger and resentment on his face, no matter how much he was offended.

When I was eligible for the Ph.D Class, I did not need to attend any lecture. Besides, the Sayadaw did not serve as my supervisor either. Yet, I went to him to acquaint him with the title of my dissertation and he gladly gave me invaluable suggestions. From then on, I was so busy with my research that I had lost contact with him for over a year. Although I often thought of visiting him, I was prevented by some reason from doing so. I, therefore, hearing the unexpected news of the Sayadaw’s death, could not help but put the blame on myself. Anyhow, it was the Sayadaw who invested me with the priceless gem of the Dhamma and higher academic knowledge. Therefore, I will go on remembering the gratitude of the Sayadaw nostalgically for life. As a student of the Sayadaw, I, at the same time, have resolved to be a model teacher, following in his footsteps to my every possible extent.

Students of political leadership visit Union Election Commission office

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Oct—Students doing a course on political leadership run by the Innovative Group, a private school, went on a study tour of the office of the Union Election Commission here on Thursday, with the UEC chairman meeting them at his office, sources said. UEC officials briefed students on the organizational structure and functions of the commission, measures to ensure a free and fair general election, pilot projects of registering eligible voters, and rules and regulations of the commission. The UEC chairman responded to queries raised by students. Their queries included postal votes, advance voting, electoneering, the possible practice of PR (proportional representatives), and promotional campaigns on how to vote.—MNA

Company, which is acting as Project Management Office (PMO).

The meeting was attended by Chairman of Dawei Special Economic Zone Construction Special Work Committee Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint and party.—MNA

Manufacturing Myanmar 2014 event launched

YANGON, 2 Oct—Manufacturing Myanmar 2014 event jointly organized by the Ministry of Industry and Singapore Exhibition Services Pte., Ltd., was opened on Thursday at Myanmar Convention Centre here, as the owner of the factory failed to settle the issue in accordance with the decision of the tribunal board within 30 days. The committee clarified rules for the auction to owners and managers of 27 shoe factories in Bago and Yangon regions on Wednesday and Thursday at the Hlinetha Industrial Zone. Those who are interested in the auction are allowed with addresses by Union Minister U Maung Myint and the company’s Deputy Chief Executive Ms Lindy Wee.

Enthusiastic may observe machinery as well as technologies and its problem solving methods to evaluate the materials inside the factory from 1st to 3rd October, according to the announcement of the Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department.

The materials which would be auctioned include 472 items of machinery parts, 16 items related to generators, 10,764 items of raw materials and finished products and other materials.

Yangon Region Labour Tribunal Board made the decision last month that the factory owner must pay the salary for June to 757 workers as well as compensation stipulated by labour laws for the workers after closing the factory without giving prior notice.

The Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department urged the South Korean embassy last month to bring the factory owner Jeong Hae Un to settle the issue. The ministry filed a lawsuit against Master Sports Factory on July 25 as it failed to pay the salaries for June and compensation to the workers after closing the facility on June 26, failing to comply with the regulations of the law.

Regarding the closure of the factory, which opened a year ago in the Hlinetha Industrial Zone, Master Sports Myanmar Co Ltd issued an announcement at the beginning of July, saying the factory was experiencing financial problems due to the production of low-quality products that were not marketable, adding that agreements with potential buyers had to be revoked.—GNLM
Syria, but estimates put that the Islamic State of Iraq and presently among the ranks of terrorism have been shut down or are under investigation,” he explained.

In Benghazi, special army forces allied to brigades of former general Khalifa Haftar have been fighting Islamist brigades including Ansar al-Sharia, blamed by Washington for an attack on the US consulate in September 2012 in which the US ambassador was killed. Two cars loaded with explosives drove into an army checkpoint near Benghazi’s civilian and military airport, killing three soldiers, Wasis Bokhamada, commander of army special forces in Benghazi, told Reuters. Four soldiers were killed in clashes with Islamic militants in the same area, he said. “The Majlis al-Shoura forces suffered big losses,” Bokhamada said, referring to a group of Islamicists which has been trying to take the airport for weeks. The Islamicists have already overrun army bases in the port city, making the airport one of the last large government bases.

The clashes were continuing at noon (1000 GMT), while air strikes could be heard. No more details were immediately available but Haftar’s forces have used helicopters and war planes against the Islamicists.

Western powers worry Libya will become a failed state as a weak central government cannot control the competing armed groups in a country awash with arms.

The elected parliament has relocated to the remote eastern city of Tobruk after effectively losing control of the capital Tripoli, where an alliance of armed groups rules after expelling a rival force.—Reuters

People from Kosovo who fight for ISIS are serious issue

BELGRADE, 2 Oct—Kosovo’s Deputy Minister of Interior Sasa Rasic has said that the situation with Kosovo citizens going off to fight for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria was very dangerous.

“The situation is critical, and the action we recently took shows that each are dealing with it seriously. A large number of people involved in recruitment, going off to fight in Syria and Iraq and indoctrination related to Islamic extremism were arrested,” he told Tanjug at the 4th Belgrade Security Forum.

“The situation is serious and a large number of people, around 100, are still under investigation,” he explained.

At the same time, the organizations that funded terrorism have been broken down or are under investigation, he stated.

There is no accurate information about the number of people from Kosovo currently among the ranks of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, but estimates put that figure at around 200, and around 15 have died there, he pointed out.

The rise of Islamic radicalization and willingness to join a jihad is present in Kosovo, but also throughout the region and in Europe, and it is the result of events from the past 15 years, he said.

Certain elements used the instability that followed NATO’s bombing campaign against Serbia, but there are also some social and economic factors that have played a roll, he remarked.

Although Kosovo is a secular country according to its Constitution, it still poses fertile ground for such activities, since most of the population is Islamic, Rasic said. Most people in Kosovo are ethnic Albanians, who are predominantly Muslims. The overall security situation in Kosovo is much better than before, he believes.

“It is also indicated by the number of ethically motivated incidents, which are dropping in frequency and are mostly no longer serious crimes. The talks between Belgrade and Pristina have helped, as well as some of the agreements signed in Brussels,” he noted. There are efforts to make the security situation in Kosovo even better, he said.—Tanjug

Seven Libyan soldiers killed in Benghazi bombs and clashes: army commander

BENGHAZI, (Libya), 2 Oct — Seven Libyan soldiers were killed and 50 wounded in a double suicide bombing and clashes in the eastern city of Benghazi on Thursday, an army commander said. Libya is being racked by violence as the armed groups which helped topple Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 turn their guns on each other in a struggle to dominate politics and the country’s vast oil resources.

In Benghazi, special army forces allied to brigades of former general Khalifa Haftar have been fighting Islamist brigades including Ansar al-Sharia, blamed by Washington for an attack on the US consulate in September 2012 in which the US ambassador was killed. Two cars loaded with explosives drove into an army checkpoint near Benghazi’s civilian and military airport, killing three soldiers, Wasis Bokhamada, commander of army special forces in Benghazi, told Reuters. Four soldiers were killed in clashes with Islamic militants in the same area, he said. “The Majlis al-Shoura forces suffered big losses,” Bokhamada said, referring to a group of Islamicists which has been trying to take the airport for weeks. The Islamicists have already overrun army bases in the port city, making the airport one of the last large government bases.

The clashes were continuing at noon (1000 GMT), while air strikes could be heard. No more details were immediately available but Haftar’s forces have used helicopters and war planes against the Islamicists.

Western powers worry Libya will become a failed state as a weak central government cannot control the competing armed groups in a country awash with arms.

The elected parliament has relocated to the remote eastern city of Tobruk after effectively losing control of the capital Tripoli, where an alliance of armed groups rules after expelling a rival force.—Reuters

Kenya sentences two Iranians for using fake Israeli passports

NAIROBI, 2 Oct — A Kenyan court on Wednesday ordered two Iranians held under anti-terrorism laws to serve two years in jail or pay a hefty fine after they pleaded guilty to using fake Israeli passports to enter the East African country last month. Kenyan anti-terrorism police arrested the two on suspicion of plotting an attack in Kenya as they prepared to board a flight at Nairobi airport on 18 September bound for Belgium. It was not immediately clear whether officials’ concerns about a possible attack had been put to rest. It was also not clear whether the two, a man and a woman, would avoid jail by paying the fine of 2 million shillings ($22,422) each instead. Kenyan security agencies have been on alert after several gun and grenade attacks which followed the killing of 67 people in an attack by Islamist gunmen on Nairobi’s Westgate shopping mall in September last year.

In her ruling, Nairobi Resident Magistrate Hanah Kaguru also ordered the two accused be handed over to Kenya’s department of refugees once they have completed their sentences.—Reuters

Philippine Islamist militants threaten to behead German on 17 October

MANILA, 2 Oct — Al-Qaeda-linked Islamist militants in the Philippines said on Thursday they will kill one of two German captives on 17 October unless their demands are met.

Rebels from the Abu Sayyaf group captured the two Germans sailing on a yacht from the western island of Palawan island to the eastern Malaysian state of Sabah in April.

The militants are demanding a 250 million pesos ($5.6 million) ransom and for Germany to stop supporting US-led air strikes against Islamic State militants in Syria.

“Today, we are going to tell you about the ultimatum,” a Muslim rebel who identified himself as Abu Rami, and said he was a spokesman for Abu Sayyaf, said in a telephone call to reporters based in Zamboanga City in the south. “After 17 October, Friday, at 3 pm, you will not see one of them alive. It will be seen by the public so that we can show that we are not playing games.”

Philippine security officials say the Germans are being held in the jungles of Jolo, a remote southern island and hotspot of Islamist militants in the mainly Catholic country.

The Abu Sayyaf group has a record of kidnapings, killings and bombings. The militants are known to be holding several other foreigners. It is not clear if the militants have contacts with Islamic State fighters in the Middle East. Germany has ruled out taking part in air strikes against Islamic State targets in the Middle East but it did break a post-World War Two taboo on sending weapons to active conflict zones by agreeing to arm Kurdish fighters battling the militants in Iraq.—Reuters

Militants take control of western Iraqi town of Hit

BAGHDAD, 2 Oct — Militants took control of most of the western Iraqi town of Hit in Anbar province early on Thursday, security sources and local officials said.

“Ninety percent of the town of Hit has been overrun by militants,” said Adnan al-Fahdawi, a provincial council member.—Reuters

Soldiers ride in a truck as they patrol a road in Jolo, Sulu, in southern Philippines on 25 Sept, 2014.—Reuters

Aged people demonstrate for their rights on the International Day of Older Persons in Bhopal, India, on 1 Oct, 2014. Activists demand for increase in the social security pensions and better medical facilities. 1st October is marked as the International Day of Older Persons to promote the awareness and protection for older persons.—Xinhua

RT

RT
**World**

**Islamic State presses assault on Syrian border town, Kurds warn Turkey**

SUKUR, 2 Oct — Islamic State insurgents pushed on with their assault on a Syrian border town on Thursday despite coalition air strikes meant to weaken them, sending thousands more Kurdish refugees into Turkey and dragging Ankara deeper into the conflict.

Kurdish militants warned that peace talks with the Turkish state would come to an end if the Islamist insurgents were allowed to carry out a massacre in the predominantly Kurdish town of Kobani, pressuring Ankara to act.

Islamic State fighters have taken control of hundreds of villages around Kobani, beheading civilians in a bid to terrorise villagers into submission, and have advanced to within kilometres of the town on three sides.

In neighbouring Iraq, the insurgents have carried out mass executions, abducted women and girls as sex slaves, and used children as fighters in systematic violations that may amount to war crimes, the United Nations said.

US-led forces, which have been bombing Islamic State targets elsewhere in Syria since last week as well as in Iraq, hit a village near Kobani on Wednesday and strikes were reported further south overnight, Kurdish sources in the town said.

But they seemed to do little to stop the Islamists' advance.

"We left because we realised it was only going to get worse," said Leyla, a 37-year-old Syrian arriving in Iraq in early June, the report said. Islamic State forces have committed gross human rights violations and violence of an "increasing sectarian nature" against groups including Christians and Yazidis in a widening conflict that has forced 1.8 million Iraqis to flee their homes, according to the 29-page report by the UN Human Rights Office and the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

These include attacks directly targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, executions and other targeted killings of civilians, abductions, rape and other forms of sexual and physical violence perpetrated against women and children, forced recruitment of children, destruction or desecration of places of religious or cultural significance, wanton destruction and looting of property, and denial of fundamental freedoms.

In a single massacre on 12 June, the report said, 1,500 Iraqi soldiers and security officers from the former Camp Speicher military base in Salahuddin were captured and killed by Islamic State fighters.

**Islamic State committing ‘staggering’ violations in Iraq**

GENEVA, 2 Oct — Islamic State insurgents in Iraq have carried out mass executions, abducted women and girls as sex slaves, and used children as fighters in systematic violations that may amount to war crimes, the United Nations said on Thursday. In a report based on 500 interviews, it also said Iraqi government air strikes on the Sunni Muslim militants had caused "significant civilian deaths" by hitting villages, a school and hospitals in violation of international law.

At least 9,347 civilians had been killed and 17,386 wounded so far through September, well over half of them since the Islamic insurgents also known as ISIL and ISIS began seizing large parts of northern Iraq in early June, the report said. Islamic State has committed gross human rights violations and violence of an "increasing sectarian nature" against groups including Christians and Yazidis in a widening conflict that has forced 1.8 million Iraqis to flee their homes, according to the 29-page report by the UN Human Rights Office and the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

These include attacks directly targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, executions and other targeted killings of civilians, abductions, rape and other forms of sexual and physical violence perpetrated against women and children, forced recruitment of children, destruction or desecration of places of religious or cultural significance, wanton destruction and looting of property, and denial of fundamental freedoms.

In a single massacre on 12 June, the report said, 1,500 Iraqi soldiers and security officers from the former Camp Speicher military base in Salahuddin were captured and killed by Islamic State fighters.

It has carried out just two air strikes in Iraq since launching operations in mid-September. France has also delivered 140 tonnes of military equipment to regional Kurdish peshmerga forces confronting Islamic State in the north of Iraq, as well as provided training for them.

"We (the coalition) are still in the initial phase," the defence ministry source said. "The objective through these air strikes ... is to break (Islamic State's) momentum and try to stop them taking the offensive and to start suffering defeats."

**China willing to jointly counter terror threat with US: Chinese FM**

WASHINGTON, 2 Oct — China opposes any form of terrorism and is willing to work together with the United States to counter the threat of terrorism, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Wednesday.

Both sides should make efforts to realize positive interaction and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, Wang said when he met US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel at the Pentagon.

China respects the US traditional influence and realistic interests in the Asia-Pacific region and supports it in playing a constructive role in the Asia-Pacific affairs, while the United States should respect China’s status and influence in the region, its need for reasonable development space and its legitimate rights, he said.

China hopes the United States will properly handle those issues that hinder the development of China-US ties, such as its sales of weapons to China’s Taiwan, and its warships and military aircraft’s approaches to China for surveillance, Wang said.

The Chinese foreign minister expressed appreciation for Hagel’s constructive role in pushing ahead the relations between the two countries and militaries.

The new-type relations between Chinese and US militaries are indispensable for the new-type major-country relations between them, Wang said.

China and the United States should build strategic mutual trust, very importantly the mutual trust between their militaries, and reduce mistrust, he said.

Expressing congratulations on the 65th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, Hagel said the United States and China were partners, not rivals, and there are far more common interests than differences between the two countries.

**France boosts military response to Islamic State, eyes next phase**

PARIS, 2 Oct — France is sending more fighter jets and a warship to strike Islamic State militants in Iraq and will discuss with the United States long-term coalition strategy to tackle the insurgency, including in Syria, officials said on Wednesday.

France was the first country to join the US-led coalition in air strikes on IS insurgents in Iraq, who have also taken control of large parts of neighbouring Syria during the course of the three-year-old civil war there. However, France has raised concerns that air action in Syria could leave a terrorist vacuum in Iraq, raised concerns that air action in Syria could leave a terrorist vacuum in Iraq, as well as provided training for them.

France is sending fighter jets, and a warship to strike Islamic State militants in Iraq. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors Syria’s war, said heavy clashes between Islamic State and Kurdish YPG fighters had been continuing on Kobani’s eastern and southeastern outskirts for the last 36 hours.

The sound of a large explosion was heard around midnight at the same time as coalition planes were flying over head, it said. About 20 explosions were also heard in the areas of the Tishrin dam and town of Manbij roughly 50 km (31 miles) south of Kobani, resulting from missile strikes believed to be carried out by the coalition, the Observatory said.
Serbia is ready to open Chapter 32 talks

Belgrade, 2 Oct — Head of Serbia’s EU accession negotiations team Tanga Mischevic said on Wednesday that she could not give an exact date for the holding of the second intergovernmental conference, but Belgrade was ready to begin negotiations on Chapter 32 (Financial control) with the EU.

Serbia is ready, and whenever the EU member states decide to open the Intergovernmental Conference, they can do so, Mischevic told Tanjug.

Some Belgrade media outlets have said that the conference will take place on 19 October, and Mischevic said that with the start of October, Serbia was ready to open talks on the financial control chapter.

Mischevic said everybody knew how much opening Chapter 32 was conditional on implementing all agreements from the dialogue on normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina.

We are keeping the pace of successful agreements in the talks over the past few weeks solid and we hope that it will help us make things go our way when it comes to opening the first chapter, she said.

Commenting on EU’s neighbourhood and enlargement negotiations commissioner-designate Johannes Hahn’s stating that Serbia needs to carefully consider its refusal to support EU sanctions against Russia if Belgrade hopes to join the European Union, Mischevic said that the statement was made during a hearing before the European Parliament where the new commissioner had presented the policy he would be in charge of pursuing during his term in office.

“There is nothing else I can tell you at this moment. We will see how things will develop. We understand quite well that by the time we become an EU member, we must strive to align with the positions taken by the EU in this segment of its foreign affairs,” Mischevic said.

She said a bilateral screening meeting for Chapter 31 (Foreign, security and defence policy), would take place the following week.

Hahn comes from Austria, which strongly supports expansion of the EU to the Western Balkans, but he does not represent the official position taken by the government in Vienna, but rather a view taken by the entire EU, she said, adding that all member states had a positive attitude towards one of the most successful EU policies.

It is time they showed the positive attitude in the case of the remaining candidate countries, primarily those from the Western Balkans, including Serbia, she added. I have no reason to doubt that the support will be there, Mischevic said.—Tanjug

University of Tokyo remains No 1 in Asia, Singapore closes in: survey

London, 2 Oct — The University of Tokyo has again maintained its crown as Asia’s leading higher education institution but with a gap further narrowed by the runner-up National University of Singapore, while other top Japanese universities lost ground in a global ranking list released on Wednesday.

The California Institute of Technology remained in the number one spot in the world for the fourth consecutive year, ahead of Harvard University in second and the University of Oxford in third, according to the latest edition of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

The Tokyo university retained the 23rd slot, the highest among Asian institutions in 2014, while the Singapore institution inched up one place to 25th.

Japan was also judged to be Asia’s top nation for world-class institutions, with five of the top 200 universities. However, four of those lost ground from the previous year, according to the rankings.

Phil Baty, the editor of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, said, “There is a real question as to whether Japan can sustain its traditional lead,” adding that the University of Tokyo’s lead is “strongly threatened by the continued rise” of the National University of Singapore.

The remaining top four Japanese institutions are Kyoto University at 59th (52nd in 2013), the Tokyo Institute of Technology at 141st (125th), Osaka University at 157th (144th) and Tohoku University at 165th (150th).

The rankings use 13 separate performance indicators to examine a university’s strengths such as citations of research papers and staff-to-student ratio.

“There is an encouraging commitment in Japan to improve Japanese universities’ international outlook, which can be a real driver of improvement, but as nations like China and South Korea continue to make strong progress, it is not clear whether such reforms will be enough,” Baty said.—Kyodo News

Rain halts search efforts at Mt Ontake after fatal volcanic eruption

Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows rescue workers standing near a helicopter following search and rescue operations for missing climbers on Mt Ontake in central Japan on 1 Oct, 2014. The death toll from 27 Sept eruption has reached 48, making it the worst postwar high

Tokyo, 2 Oct — Rain halted search efforts at Mt Ontake in central Japan on Thursday, the sixth day after the country’s worst postwar volcanic disaster killed at least 47 people.

Around 1,000 police officers, firefighters and Ground Self-Defence Force troops resumed operations in the early morning to search for survivors and retrieve bodies, especially near the summit.

They were forced, however, to halt their efforts around 11:30 am due to the weather conditions. As part of the day’s search efforts, the searchers went down the slopes of mountain ridges by ropes to find climbers who may have fallen.

When the operations will resume depends on the weather given there is also a risk of possible mudslides from a mix of accumulated volcanic ash and soil.

Search and rescue efforts over past days had been suspended from time to time due to continued volcanic activity and toxic gas.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said it predicts rain on Thursday afternoon in and around Ontake, with an hourly rainfall of up to 15 millimetres. Rain is expected to continue through Friday.

The death toll stands at 47, already exceeding the previous postwar high of 43 killed by the huge pyroclastic flow from Fugen Peak of Mt Unzen in Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan, in 1991.

Saturday’s eruption of Mt Ontake occurred near the 3,067-metre peak without warning shortly before noon last Saturday when many hikers were having lunch at the summit, or making their way up or down the trails in the high season. By Wednesday, police and other authorities transported all the bodies found near the ash-covered peak to the foot of the mountain. Some of the victims appear to have been killed by flying rocks.

Authorities are also looking into the whereabouts of 24 people unaccounted for as of Thursday, according to Nagano’s Kiso town located at the foot of the mountain.

Straddling Nagano and Gifu prefectures, the volcano popular with hikers during the fall due to autumn leaves last experienced a major eruption in 1979, a minor eruption in 1991 and multiple volcanic earthquakes in 2007.

Volcanic smoke rise from Mt Ontake, which straddles Nagano and Gifu prefectures, central Japan, on 13 Sept, 2014.—Kyodo News
Taleban bomber in Afghan capital targets army bus, kills three

KABUL, 2 Oct — A Taleban suicide bomber targeted an Afghan army bus in Kabul on Thursday, killing three people and wounding 10, the interior ministry said, the fourth high-profile attack in the capital since Monday when the new president was sworn in.

The militant Islamist group claimed responsibility and its reclusive leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, urged Afghans to wage jihad to establish a Islamic rule in Afghanistan, calling the election a “publicity stunt”. “You would have, by now, come around to know what sort of unqualified figures, being loyal to foreigners’ interests, have been imposed on you by the Americans,” the Taleban’s one-eyed leader said in his yearly Eid Al-Adha message. President Ashraf Ghani was inaugurated on Monday after months of deadlock over who won the election that threatened to rekindle outbreaks of violence along ethnic lines.

Under the terms of a US-brokered deal ending the stand-off, the new president and his former rival, Abdullah Abdullah, will share power.

During Ghani’s first three days of rule, he has signed long-delayed security deals with NATO and the United States allowing troops to stay beyond 2014. Seven people were killed when the international airport was attacked on Monday, while two bombs detonating in the east and west of the city on Wednesday killed at least seven people. The Taleban claimed responsibility for the earlier attacks, vowing to fight the new “stooge regime.”

Afghan security forces inspect the site of a suicide bomb attack in Kabul on 2 Oct, 2014.—Reuters
Nicki Minaj to host MTV Europe Music Awards

LOS ANGELES, 2 Oct — Rapper Nicki Minaj will host the MTV Europe Music Awards for the ceremony’s 20th anniversary this year. The ‘Super Bass’ hitmaker announced the news in a post on her Instagram page, revealing she will be hosting and performing at the event in Glasgow, Scotland on 9 November.

“So excited to announce that I will not only perform, but I have the honourable task of hosting this year’s MTV European Music Awards (sic)!! Aaahhh!! (sic) “The show will shoot in Glasgow, Scotland for its 20th Anniversary on 9 November,” she captioned a picture showing her sitting on a throne, wearing a crown and clutching an EMA trophy.

The rapper is up for a number of prizes at show including best Female and Best Hip-Hop. Katy Perry leads the charge with seven nominations, while Ariana Grande is a close second with six.—PTI

Family makes me feel rich: Brad Pitt

LONDON, 2 Oct — Hollywood star Brad Pitt’s family make him feel like the ‘richest man alive’ and he says becoming a parent changed him completely.

The 50-year-old actor – who raises six kids, Maddox, 13, Pax, 10, Zahara, nine, Shiloh, eight, and six-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne, with wife Angelina Jolie — said he loves helping his children grow up, reported Contactmusic. “You learn to value the basic beauty of family, of watching your children grow and evolve. It’s the most beautiful thing you can experience,” Pitt said.

“Being a father has changed me on so many levels and made me more generous and alive. I see my children as an essential part of my life, and it means so much to be able to educate them and help them make their way in the world as they grow up.—PTI

Jennifer Lopez scared for kids after drunk drive crash

LOS ANGELES, 2 Oct — Pop star Jennifer Lopez was ‘super scared’ for her kids when the car they were travelling in was hit by a drunk driver.

Lopez was test driving a new car in California with friend Leah Remini and their three children when the incident happened, reported E! online.

Lopez’s twins Max and Emme and Leah’s daughter Sofia were sitting in the back seat of the vehicle when it was rear-ended by a drunk driver.

“Everybody’s fine… just a little shook up. You know you get hit from behind like that, it felt like a boulder fell on top of the car,” Lopez said.

“I was super scared that something that happened to the kids… They say in situations like that you fight, flight, freeze. I didn’t freeze, I fought, and I didn’t leave, I fought… I was like, ‘They were kids in the car! There were three kids in the car, what’s wrong with you!’” she added.—PTI

Anne Hathaway found dealing with fame difficult

LOS ANGELES, 2 Oct — Anne Hathaway has opened up about her struggles in adjusting to Hollywood fame and stardom. The actress, who was at the receiving end of criticism during her Oscar campaign for ‘Les Miserables’, says the whole thing messed her up for a long time. The Oscar-winner even took a break to get away from the ridicule that followed her at that time. “I didn’t know how to do it; I didn’t know how to engage with it; it stressed me out. And people would say, ‘You just have to be yourself,’ and I was like, ‘But I don’t know who that is yet’,” Hathaway told Elle magazine.

The 31-year-old actress, who got married to Adam Shulman, says she understands now that she does not need to please everyone. “I’ve realized that don’t need validation from anybody. At all. I’m not sitting here now worrying, ‘What do you think of me?’ With all due respect, you seem like a lovely lady, but I don’t need you, or anyone else, to like me. And that’s so liberating. It’s a big reveal, man,” she said.—PTI
Nishikori rolls into Japan Open quarterfinals

Tokyo, 2 Oct — Kei Nishikori defeated American Donald Young 6-4, 7-6(6) on Thursday in their second-round match at the Japan Open.

Nishikori, the fourth seed and world No 7, forced a tie break by holding serve after fending off one set point with the left-handed American leading 6-5. Young, currently ranked 57th in the world, fell to 0-3 in his career against Nishikori.

“I’ve known my opponent since we were playing in juniors,” Nishikori said. “We each know what the opponent is like. We each know what the opponent is capable of.”

This will be Nishikori’s third straight trip to the Japan Open quarterfinals, where he will face France’s Jeremy Chardy, a 6-4, 6-4 winner over seventh seed Kevin Anderson of South Africa.

Nishikori, who has struggled with injury for the bulk of his pro career, complained of pain in his right glutes after his singles match and withdrew from the doubles competition.

Earlier in the day, third seed Milos Raonic of Canada, ranked eighth in the world, also advanced to the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Austria’s Jurgen Melzer, while Kazakhstan’s Denis Istomin got past Polish qualifier Michal Przysiezny 6-4, 7-6(5).

Nishikori and Raonic are the only two seeded players to reach the final eight at Ariake Tennis Forest Park. —Kyodo News

Fabregas, Pochettino ready to battle old friends

London, 2 Oct — Cesc Fabregas will play against his old club Arsenal for table-topping Chelsea while Tottenham Hotspur boss Mauricio Pochettino will try to halt the progress of his former club Southampton, who are second, in the Premier League this weekend.

Harry Redknapp will also be renewing acquaintances with his first club West Ham United when he takes his struggling Queens Park Rangers side to Upton Park, needing a win to get them out of the bottom three.

But one reunion that has been put on hold, on the pitch at least, is Wayne Rooney’s with Everton.

It will be 10 years and two days on Sunday since Rooney, who was then 18, scored against the German qualifier Peter Gojowczyk in the Champions League on Tuesday, leading the standings on 16 points, three ahead of Southampton, five clear of champions Manchester City and six clear of fourth-placed Arsenal.

In March, Chelsea crushed Arsenal 6-0 in manager Arsene Wenger’s 1,000th match in charge of the Gunners and he goes back to Stamford Bridge, a few days after his 18th anniversary as the Arsenal boss, determined to avoid a repeat of that humiliation.

The only league points Chelsea have dropped this season were in their 1-1 draw at Manchester City on 21 September when their former player Frank Lampard scored against them.—Reuters

Kagawa sparks in Dortmund's Champions League win

Brussels, 2 Oct — Japan midfielder Shinji Kagawa had a hand in all three goals as Borussia Dortmund beat Anderlecht 3-0 away on Wednesday to stay top of Champions League Group D.

Kagawa created the opener after just three minutes, scooping a lovely ball into the box for Ciro Immobile to steer into the bottom left hand corner.

“I was dreaming about shooting but saw Ciro,” said Kagawa, who is finding his feet again in his second stint at Dortmund after failing to make a significant impact at Manchester United.

“It was a flash of inspiration,” added the 25-year-old, who was involved in Dortmund’s 69th-minute second goal, Kagawa’s pass found Lukasz Piszczek, who whipped a cross in for Adrian Ramos to score his first of the night.

Kagawa completed a solid all-round shift when Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang collected his clever pass and cut the ball back for Ramos to seal victory 11 minutes from time. Despite his performance, Kagawa admitted it would be a while before he was back to his best.

“It was heavy going over the course of 90 minutes and it will still take some time,” he said.—Kyodo News

Nadal into Beijing quarters, Berdych boosts London hopes

Beijing, 2 Oct — World number two Rafael Nadal sailed into the quarter-finals of the China Open, his first tournament in 13 weeks, with a 6-3, 6-4 win over German qualifier Peter Gojowczyk on Thursday.

The Spaniard, returning from a wrist injury, won 85 per cent of his first service points against the German and took an hour and 45 minutes to seal victory and set up a last eight clash with Martin Klizan at the ATP 500 event.

Slovak Klizan was leading 6-2, 3-0 when seventh seed Ernest Gulbis retired due to a right shoulder injury.

Third seed Tomas Berdych moved up a place to seventh in the race to the season-ending ATP World Tour Finals in London after his 6-3, 6-4 victory against wildcard Viktor Troicki despite a poor serving display.

The Czech only managed to make 32 percent of his first serves and now meets eighth seed and big server John Isner in the quarter-finals.

Elsewhere on Beijing’s blue hard courts, Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov beat Spaniard Pablo Andujar 6-4, 6-4 to set up a quarter-final clash with world number one Novak Djokovic, while sixth seed Andy Murray beat Pablo Cuevas 6-2, 6-2.

In the women’s section, Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova upset seventh seed Angelique Kerber in three sets, while Petra Kvitova also reached the quarter-finals without hitting a ball after American Venus Williams withdrew with a viral illness.—Reuters

Chelsea's Cesc Fabregas celebrates after scoring a goal against Schalke 04 during their Champions League soccer match against at Stamford Bridge in London on 17 Sept, 2014.—Reuters

Rafael Nadal of Spain serves to Peter Gojowczyk of Germany during their men's singles match at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing on 2 Oct, 2014. —Reuters

Borussia Dortmund's Adrian Ramos (C) celebrates his goal with team mates Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (L) and Shinji Kagawa during their Champions League group D soccer match against Anderlecht at Constant Vanden Stock stadium in Brussels on 1 Oct, 2014. —Reuters
Asian Games: Nadeshiko Japan fall to N Korea in final

INCHEON, 2 Oct — Nadeshiko Japan failed to retain the Asian Games title as Norio Sasaki’s side were beaten 3-1 by a tenacious North Korean team in the final on Wednesday.

Kim Yun Mi, Ra Un Sim and Ho Un Byol struck for North Korea, who out-hustled and outmuscled the world and Asian champions over the 90 minutes. Captain Aya Miyama pulled one back for Japan in the second half.

Hosts South Korea defeated Vietnam 3-0 earlier for bronze.

Looking ahead to next year’s Women’s World Cup in Canada, Sasaki left out the over-30 veterans and could not pick the Europe-based players for this competition, seeking to transfuse new blood into the squad.

But the manager refused to use that as an excuse, saying Japan deservedly lost.

“North Korea were stronger attacking the ball and this is a lesson for us,” Sasaki said. “I’m sorry we could not win the title for the second time in a row but we must learn from this and increase our efforts.”

“They played to their strengths and won with their style of football. We couldn’t get into a rhythm of any kind, and our experienced players had an off night and didn’t play to their usual capabilities.”

“The 3-1 scoreline accurately reflected the performance. We were reminded once again that when you make mistakes, the high quality teams will punish you,” Miyama echoed Sasaki’s sentiments.

“It would’ve been nice had we played proper football,” she said. “I know North Korea are strong and fast, and so do a few others on the team. But if you ask me if everyone understood that, I’m not so sure.”

“As you all saw, their counterattacking game is incredibly good. Their No 10 (Ra) isn’t the quickest of players, but she executes the break really well. It was perfect.”

“It’s disappointing we’re not going home with a gold because that’s what we were aiming for. I feel pathetic.”

North Korea are banned from the Women’s World Cup because of a doping infraction, and were deterred to use that as an excuse.

“Japan conceded for the first time this tournament in the 12th minute, when Kim Yun Mi’s deflected shot from a free kick wrong-footed Ayumi Kaihori, the goalkeeper at the near post.

North Korea sat back and this is a lesson for us,” coach Kim Kwang Min said. “The reason for our victory is because of our dear and respected Kim Jong Un taking care of our players,” coach Kim Kwang Min said. “The reason for our victory is because of our dear and respected Kim Jong Un taking care of our players.”

“We won the final against Japan and this inevitable result is because of our dear and respected Kim Jong Un taking care of our players,” coach Kim Kwang Min said. “The reason for our victory is because of our dear and respected Kim Jong Un taking care of our players.”

“Because we had this championship streak going, I wanted to win, no matter what it took.”

KyoBo News

Medals table of the Asian Games

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>G</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>S Korea</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>DPR Korea</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Chinese Taipei</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Macau</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Laos</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>