

UPMWC, ethnic armed groups, launch talks to complete single text document for nationwide ceasefire



Peace makers representing government and ethnic armed groups shake hands before peace talks.

MNA

YANGON, 5 April — Union Peace-Making Work Committee (UPMWC) and National Cease-

fire Coordination Team-NCCT representing ethnic armed groups launched a two-day talks, for complet-

ing a single text document for the nationwide ceasefire.

In his opening remarks

on Saturday morning, U Aung Min, the Chairman of UPMWC, has called for completing the single text

document for the nationwide ceasefire during the talks which has become a significant one in Myanmar as leaders from 21 ethnic armed groups participated in it.

NCCY is formed with 16 ethnic armed groups.

In his opening remarks at the meeting, U Thein Zaw, the Vice-Chairman of the UPMWC, said he believes that the talks would help reaching the nationwide ceasefire in order to move forward to the political dialogue.

He also quoted the speech of President U Thein Sein delivered at meeting with local people in Myitkyina, saying that the door for peace negotiation, except issues which would damage the national sovereignty and secession from the Union, has been opened.

As part of efforts for achieving the ceasefire agreement with ethnic (See page 3)

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Financial inclusion a major challenge: ASEAN Finance Ministers

By Kerstin Winter

The 18th Finance Ministers' Meeting concluded Saturday in Nay Pyi Taw, with Myanmar's Finance Minister U Win Shein saying that efforts have to be doubled in order to achieve the ASEAN Economic Community 2015, and that financial inclusion would be addressed soon during other high-profile meetings.

Speaking at a press conference following Saturday's talks, the Union minister said that "we are proceeding all mechanisms to achieve the AEC. We are preparing for financial integration, and we are trying to reduce the gap among our nations."

Elaborating on key challenges, Singapore's Finance Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam said financial inclusion was not just an important issue for

the poorest countries.

"We recognize that a significant part of people in rural areas have no access to banking services,

but we see this as an opportunity as we have stronger institutional capacity now to address these challenges. Myanmar will host activi-

ties on this important topic," he said.

Responding to a question on opening Myanmar's banking sector,

U Win Shein said that foreign banks have shown a huge interest in operating here.

"This issue is often being discussed in parliament, but until now we have not decided how many foreign banks can participate. We do want to improve our banking sector, but on the other hand

we need to improve our local banks. We have to decide to what extent we will allow them to participate in our banking sector. That's why we need proper rules and regulations."

The Union minister stressed the need for more rules as "Myanmar lacks knowledge and experience", but that in the near future "we have to explain how to open our banking sector".

As other major challenges mentioned were managing capital flows and ensuring stability of financial systems in the face of an uncertain economic environment.

The Singaporean minister said, however, there were many positive signals as "meaningful steps" are taken for the agreed trading link and that in the future more countries than the current three will join to improve liquidity. "There is good progress, so it shows we are moving forward with exchanges, and that we have moved beyond a mere trading link," he said.



Finance Ministers of ASEAN countries joining hands as they pose for documentary photo.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Union Minister discusses public administration, reform processes with Country Director of UNDP

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April—Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun met Country Director of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Myanmar Mr. Toily Kurbanov and party at the hall of the President Office in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

At the call attended by

Dr Zaw Oo from Advisory Group to the President and officials, they cordially discussed matters on public administration and reform processes being implemented by the State and UNDP and holding of Second National Level Regional Administration Forum to be organized by UNDP.—MNA

Talks on narcotic drugs held in Yangon

YANGON, 5 April—Under the programme of ASEAN-Korea cooperation in drugs and narcotics control, an educative talks on narcotic drugs took place at Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road in Yangon on Friday.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said that Myanmar has made strenuous efforts to execute the elimination of narcotic drugs for 15 years (1999-2000 to 2013-2014). At present, the country is carrying out anti-narcotic activities under five-year extended plan (2014-2015 to

2018-2019).

He urged those present on the occasion to exert efforts for anti-narcotic activities with the Governments of regional countries, saying that impact of drugs can cause political, social, economic and public health challenges and threaten Rule of Law in the country.

Chief of MPF Maj-Gen Zaw Win and Director-General Mr. Kim Hoo Kyoon made speeches.

Vocalist Dr Phyu Phyu Kyaw Thein and Actor Moe Min shared knowledge on narcotic drugs.

MNA



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe signs soccer ball at educative talks on narcotic drugs.

MNA

Census enumerators collect data in regions with assistance of Armed Forces

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April—As part of the nationwide census taking process, the census enumerators are carrying out their tasks with the help of the Armed Forces in some regions that face some difficulties in Kachin and Northern Shan States.

The census enumerators gathered data from 2890 people from 11 vil-

lages in the townships of the two states on Saturday.

In Kachin State, altogether 279 villagers from Lwejel Township of Bhamo District in Kachin State were enumerated the data.

In Northern Shan State, a total of 2611 villagers—1366 from two villages in Mabein Township, 118 from one village in

Momauk Township and 337 from one village in Namatu Township and 790 from five villages in Momeik Township of Kyaukme District in Northern Shan State were also enumerated the data.

The census taking groups will gather the data from remaining households of those regions.

Myawady

Myanmar's "financial inclusion" system proposal draws support at 18th ASEAN Finance Ministers' meeting



Finance Ministers of ASEAN countries and parties attending 18th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

By Aye Min Soe

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April—Myanmar submitted a new proposal on Saturday to enhance a "financial inclusion" system which would help all people in the region get access to financial services, Myanmar's Union Finance Minister U Win Shein

said at the 18th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

"All participants have agreed to the proposal and we will make further discussions about the proposal at a conference level meeting," said U Win Shein, Union Minister for Finance, who chaired the meeting.

The meeting focused on developing the financial inclusion system in order for everyone to be able to access financial services as Myanmar people are "very weak in using financial services", he added.

Myanmar's economic growth is strong, with a growth rate of around 7.8 per cent. That level is expected to be continued

next year, said Naoyuki Shinohara, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund.

Myanmar opened up three years ago, but still the country has challenges ahead, with the IMF working together with authorities to overcome the challenges.

"Myanmar has huge natural resources, a very young population, a well-educated population, and this will be an advantage for the Myanmar economy to invite manufacturer-based investment here," Mr Naoyuki Shinohara said.

While Myanmar can benefit from the ASEAN Economic integration, the country also has to offer a lot for the ASEAN Eco-

nomics Integration.

"We are discussing with the authorities the macro-economic policy management," Mr Shinohara said.

The IMF, which is currently working together with the Myanmar government, is jointly monitoring the government's monetary programs and has provided policy advice to Myanmar in many areas such as flexible liberalization of foreign exchange markets, Central Bank cooperation, tasks policy and economic statistics.

The IMF has also provided capacity building in Myanmar in order to set up strong institutions related to financial services.

Pyu ancient cities to be examined to put in world heritage list at 38th Session of WHC

YANGON, 5 April—Daw Sanda Khin, Deputy Minister for Culture made a presentation on the proposed world heritage list of Pyu ancient cities for Myanmar to the ambassadors and diplomats at National Museum in Yangon on Friday.

The Deputy Minister explained that Myanmar has been implementing management and research projects on Pyu ancient

sites, maintaining and upgrading the museum to describe the world heritage list for Pyu ancient cities—Halin, Beikthanoe and Sri Kestrah since 2010.

After the officials had submitted the nomination dossier in January 2013, the experts from International Council of Monuments and Sites-ICOMOS made inspection tour to those cities in October

2013 and January 2014. Pyu ancient cities will be examined to inscribe the world heritage list in the 38th Session of World Heritage Committee to be held at Doha in Qatar in June 2014, she added.

The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and officials and the ambassadors from World Heritage Committee attended the presentation.

MNA

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein meets local authorities, towns' elders in Kyaukse Township



President U Thein Sein meets departmental officials and towns' elders in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 April—Speaker of National Parliament U Khin Aung Myint looked round regional development tasks in Yamethin and Pyawbwe Townships in Mandalay Region from 29 March to 5 April.

The speaker inspected upgrading of bridges and roads, completion of rural roads, ponds, bridges, self-reliant rural health centre, installation of water pipeline, construction of new bridge and asphalt road in the villages in Yamethin and Pyawbwe Townships.

During the tour, the speaker met with locals at Shweda Thazi Village Basic Education High School (Branch) and Kantout Village BEHS (Branch), Bomma Village monastery, Nyaungaing (South), Inngon and TadaU BEPSs, Pyasi Village BEHS (Branch), monasteries

Speaker of National Parliament looks round regional development tasks in Yamethin, Pyawbwe



Speaker of National Parliament U Khin Aung Myint looks into progress of Kyi Village Bridge in Pyawbwe Township.

MNA

in Zegongyi and Nabugyin Villages in Yamethin Township and at Kyiwa BEPPS, Pyinzi Village BEPS, Dhammayon in Minhla Thazi Village, Khingyiya Village BEPS, Seikcho Village monas-

tery, Nyaungon (South) Village BEHS (Branch), Dhamma Yeiktha in Kyaukse Village and monasteries in Kyaukchat and Shwenyaungphu Villages in Pyawbwe Township.

In the meeting with

local people, he said that as education plays a crucial role in regional development and thus, parents are to enrol their school-age children to the school for their education. He urged local people and

townselders to constantly supervise regional development tasks being implemented with allotted fund under Union Parliament Development Fund Law, adding the development fund will fulfill requirements of local people although the State and region

governments are drawing national level projects yearly. He pledged that supply of drinking water, construction of roads and bridges in rural area and other prioritized tasks will be implemented with the participation of the people.

MNA

UPMWC, ethnic armed groups, launch talks ...

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armed groups, the bill for protecting the rights of

ethnic peoples have been drafted and the constitution is being reviewed at

the parliament to be able to guarantee rights to the ethnic people, said U Thein Zaw, the Vice-Chairman of the UPMWC.

On behalf of KIO, General Guan Maw has

pledged that he would make endeavours for reaching peace in the country.

Plans are made to extend the two-day peace talks if necessary, according to U Aung Min.—MNA

Action taken against crime offenders in Hlegu

YANGON, 5 April—A quarrel occurred between Yan Naing (a) Yan Aung Ko Ko (a) Isman and two young persons and Thet Paing Oo, son of U Aung Oo of "Chit Meikswe" Watch and Spare Parts Shop in Hlegu Township at 3.45 pm on Friday.

Yan Naing and two other young person beat Thet Paing Oo by sticks and stabbed with a pointed object.

Mother of Thet Paing Oo opened a file of lawsuit against the crime offenders under sections 324 and 326 at Hlegu Myoma Po-

lice Station.

The offenders namely Yan Naing (a) Yan Aung Ko Ko (a) Isman and two young persons of Yeiktha Ward in Hlegu Township were detained by authorities at the Insein Jail.

Thet Pain Oo was transferred to Yangon Eye Specialist Hospital (Kandawgyi) from Hlegu Township Hospital. He was injured at right edge of eyelid, not at eye. After providing treatment at the injury, he was discharged from the hospital on Saturday morning as he was not in critical condition.—MNA



Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win speaking at peace talks.
MNA



Vice-Chairman of Union Peace-making Work Group U Thein Zaw at peace talks.—MNA



General Guan Maw of NCTT Deputy Leader seen at interview.—MNA



Yebaw Than Khe participating in peace talks.—MNA

Information Team of Ministry of Information holds press conference

YANGON, 5 April—Picture Enterprise into Printing and Publishing Industry Rules (Draft) was clarified to the media including Myanmar Press Council (Interim) and the media organizations are requested to send their suggestions to the ministry not later than 11 April, said U Aung Kyaw Oo, Director of the Information and Public Relations Department at the press conference at Printing and Publishing Enterprise on Theinbyu Road in Yangon on Saturday.

The new applicants will be informed to reapply their applications in accord with new rules, he added.

Director U Thein Tun Aung of Myanmar Motion Picture Promotion Department explained reorganization of Myanmar Motion

Picture Enterprise into Myanmar Motion Picture Promotion Department with the agreement of cabinet meeting held on 20 February.

Leader of the Information Team Director of MRTV U Win Kyi said that 288,627 DVB T2 Set Top Boxes have been distributed to the people across the country and 16,317 Set Top Boxes will be distributed to the locals in Loikaw, Lashio, Myitkyina, Loimwe (Kengtung), Myeik, Tiddim and Falam.

He continued that out of extended 15 TV retransmission stations, trial broadcast was conducted at nine retransmission stations and arrangement is being made to install FM transmitters at Sittway and Myeik stations.—MNA

Winners awarded in traditional cane-ball contests

PATHEIN, 5 April—The prize presentation of the first Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister's Cup and 38th Inter-Region/State Oredoo Cup Traditional Cane-ball Contest was held at Koe Thein Gymnasium in Pathein of Ayeyawady Region on 4 April. At the prize presentation ceremony, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Maung Maung Win, on behalf of the Region Chief Minister, presented championship shields to Mandalay Region men's and women's teams and cash awards to them. Officials gave cash awards and prizes to first, second and third winning teams in the Oredoo Cup.—Region IPRD

Basic course on rules and regulations for export & import concludes in Dawei

DAWEI, 5 April—Basic course on rules and regulations for export & import (1/2014) jointly conducted by Ministry of Commerce and Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Dawei District) was concluded at Edu Park Human Resource Development Centre in Dawei, Taninthayi Region on 31 March, with officials attending.

Speaking at the ceremony, Region Minister for Finance U Than Aung said that the course will enable the trainees to be able to operate border trade in the region by applying rules and regulations on export



An official speaking at opening of basic course on rule and regulation for export & import (1/2014) in Dawei.

& import.

Chairman of Taninthayi Region Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Ye Htut Naing made a speech and

Deputy Director U Lan San Oo of Trade Promotion Department presented completion certificates through a trainee.

Dawei District IPRD

Basic Tailoring Course opens in Mahlaing



MAHLAING, 5 April—Basic Tailoring Course was opened on 3 April in the compound of Shwe Mokhtaw Pagoda in Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Region, with the aim of reducing the poverty alleviation. “The course comprises tailoring with the use of 50

sewing machines and other domestic science works making subjects such as flower and fruit arrangements. Moreover, the officials are sharing educative knowledge to the trainees on the holidays,” an official of the course said.

Altogether 50 trainees are attending the 45-day course organized by Mahlaing Township Maternal and Child Welfare Organization and Myanmar Women's Affairs Organization.

Aung Htay (Mahlaing)

Fire engulfs houses in Wundwin, Mahlaing Townships

WUNDWIN, 5 April—A fire broke out at the house of U Win Tun, 32, in Shwebu Village in Wundwin Township on 1 April morning. A house was reduced into ashes in the fire. The local people put out the fire with the use of two fire engines from Wundwin fire station within one hour. The fire caused K 1.5 million loss of property. Shwedaung Police station of Wundwin Township filed a lawsuit against Win Tun, 32 for negligence of fire under the law.

In Ward 1 of Mahlaing Township on 3 April, outbreak of fire caused at the cattle shed of U Soe Naing.

The local authorities, members of Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade and local people put out the fire. Two goats were dead and the hut of U Soe Naing

was destroyed in the fire. Mahlaing Police Station opened a file of lawsuit

against U Soe Naing, 44, under the law.

NLM-018

Meiktila dwellers get new health branch

MEIKTILA, 5 April—Locals and health staff from Yecheo Village in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, thank the government for opening of a new building of rural health branch funded by the regional development fund.

The government allotted K 100 million to carry out the development tasks in education and health sectors, construction of road and bridges and potable water supply in Meiktila Township. Fifty-two development tasks are being undertaken in the township.



Enumerators collect census data at a residence of local people in Muse of northern Shan State.

MUSE, 5 April—Census enumerators led by Township Census Taking Supervisory Committee Chairman U Ko Ko Zaw took census data in town-

ships of Muse District, northern Shan State, on Thursday.

According to the officials, they have already taken census data of 228,745

people from 57,365 households in such townships as Muse, Namkam and Kutkai from 29 March to 3 April.

L Soe (IPRD)

UMFCCI to establish Myanmar Business Forum

YANGON, 5 April—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry plans to establish the Myanmar Business Forum (MBF).

The MBF will conduct the drawing of laws and rules, and solving the economic problems. The plenary forum will be held twice a year. MBF will be a bridge between private economic sector and the government. It will be a machinery of coordination between such two sectors.

Working groups comprising private entrepre-

neurs of the forum will cooperate with government working groups.

UMFCCI will seek technical assistance from International Finance Cooperation-IFC.

MBF Secretariat will be set up for formation of Working Groups to cooperate with private sector so as to successfully establish Myanmar Business Forum. The MBF Orientation will be held for the first phase at UMFCCI Office Tower on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township on 9 April.

Aung Thura



LOCAL NEWS



Rakhine damsels taking practice of chorus dances

SITTWAY, 5 April—Rakhine State Government will organize the Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Festival 1376 ME on a grand scale from 13 to 17 April.

Rakhine damsels take

Rakhine national damsels taking training to be able to perform chorus dances at Maha Thingyan Festival in Sittway.

practices for chorus dancing under supervisors at Cultural Museum in Sittway. They will perform entertainment to the audiences at the central pandal in front of the U Uttama Park in Sittway.

The Rakhine vocalists will present variety of songs at the central pandal. In addition, the people will enjoy water throwing festival at the traditional Rakhine pandal.

Sittway District IPRD

Compensation presented for confiscated farmlands

MEIKTILA, 5 April—A ceremony to present compensation for confiscated land to four farmers was held at the hall of District General Administration Department in Meiktila,

Mandalay Region, on 4 April.

A total of 4.04 acres of farmlands were confiscated from them for construction of 500 KV power station by Myanma Electric

Power Enterprise in field No 583 in Leindaw Village of Meiktila Township.

Engineer U Soe Naing of Project Manager Office No 2 of Power Supply Project (North) of MEPE explained purpose of building the power station.

Deputy Commissioner U Tin Maung Soe, Township Administrator U Myo Hlaing, Staff Officer of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Than Tun Zaw and District Electrical Engineer U Soe Naing presented K 6.72 million to farmer U Sein Than, K 8.94 million to U Tha Tun, K 4.86 million to U San Mi and K 8.52 million to U Bo Yin.

The local people are pleased for supply of electricity at full capacity as a 500 KV power station will be built.

NLM-018



Indian company eyes exploring minerals in Chin State

KALAY, 5 April—India was offered to make mutual cooperation in mining in Chin State on 29 March, according to Chin State government.

According to an agreement reached at the meeting India will explore minerals in Falam and Tunzang townships of Chin State, said Chin State Minister for Forestry and Mines U Kyaw Nyein. Karam Chang Thapar (KCT) Chromites exploration company offered initiating mineral exploration. But, duration, place and areas for the works were not mentioned, he added.

If the company pays

attention to interest of the local people and abides by international standards and norms, they must clarify on their work procedures, said a member of Chin Hill natural resources watchdog. During the trial period, companies are to pay K 200,000 for gold mining, K 100,000 for chromites and nickel and K 50,000 for limestone, the state minister added.

Except Thantlang Township of Chin State, chromites, nickel, iron, copper, aluminium, limestone, coal, oil and quartz can be explored in other eight remaining townships.

NLM-005

Albanian lady observes collection of census data in Mohnyin, Kachin State



MOHNYIN, 5 April—International communities are interested in census taking process of Myanmar that is being conducted for the first time in three decades.

Ms Lantona Sado of

Albanian from Europe observed collection of data in Mayangon Village of Mohnyin Township on 1 April.

She arrived in Myanmar on 27 March to compile a research paper on

census taking process of Myanmar. She plans to live here up to 24 April.

After visiting Mohnyin Township, the Albanian lady left for Myitkyina on 3 April.

NLM-001

Literacy campaign implemented in Yedashe Tsp

YEDASHE, 5 April—The 2014 literacy campaign is being undertaken at 267 groups in villages of Yedashe Township in Toungoo District of Bago

Region as of 1 April.

A total of 200 students from Toungoo University led by 20 faculty members as supervisors and 67 led by faculty members

of Meiktila University are teaching 2588 local people from 56 village-tracts of Yedashe Township from 1 April to 5 May.

NLM-017



Medical care provided to patients of Naga nationals in Hkamti Township

MONYWA, 5 April—A medical team comprising the medical superintendent of Hkamti Township Hospital (100-bed) and specialists performed medical treatment at the monastic education school in Shwemyintmo Village in Hkamti Township on 2 April.

The medical team was comprised of 25 specialists and nurses.

They provided health care services to patients of Naga nationals free of charge in poor transport areas of the township such as Padumon, Nanpha and Shwemyintmo villages.

Region IPRD

‘Verbal altercation’ may have led to Fort Hood rampage

FORT HOOD, (Texas), 5 April—The suspected gunman at Fort Hood in Texas argued heatedly with fellow soldiers before going on a shooting spree that left three dead and 16 injured at the expansive US Army base, a military investigator said on Friday.

The suspected shooter Ivan Lopez, a 34-year-old soldier battling mental illness, then turned the gun on himself in the second mass shooting at the base in the last five years.

“We do have credible information he was involved in a verbal altercation with soldiers from his unit just prior to him allegedly opening fire,” Christopher Grey, of the US Army Criminal Investigation Command, told a news conference, without offering further details.

“At this time, we have not established a concrete motive,” Grey added.

Lopez purchased the

weapon used in the shooting, a .45 caliber Smith & Wesson handgun, on 1 March in Killeen at Guns Galore, the same shop where former Army psychiatrist Major Nidal Hasan bought the weapon used in the 2009 rampage at the base where he shot dead 13 people and wounded 32 others.

Investigators from the military, Texas Rangers and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have interviewed more than 900 people to gather details of the crime scene that played out over an area covering about two city blocks, Grey said.

The three shooting victims were also identified.

One was Army Sergeant Timothy Owens, 37, of Illinois, who served as a heavy vehicle driver and had been deployed to Iraq and Kuwait.

Another casualty was Staff Sergeant Carlos Lanzanay Rodriguez, 38, of



US Army Lieutenant General Mark Milley (2nd R) and US Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) speak at a news conference at the entrance to Fort Hood, regarding Wednesday's shooting that occurred on post, in Texas on 3 April, 2014.—REUTERS

Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, who served as a unit supply sergeant with deployments to Kuwait and Iraq.

The third victim was Sergeant First Class Daniel

Ferguson, 39, of Florida, who served as a transportation supervisor and had been deployed to Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.

His fiancée and fellow

soldier Kristen Haley told Tampa broadcaster WTSP-TV he died while trying to barricade a door to keep the shooter away. She was nearby when the shooting

started.

“If he wasn’t the one standing there holding those doors closed, that shooter would have been able to get through and shoot everyone else,” she told WTSP-TV.

The suspected shooter enlisted in 2008 and had served two tours of duty abroad, including four months in Iraq in 2011, military officials said. He had no direct involvement in combat and had not been wounded.

The Lopez family, who live in Guayanilla, Puerto Rico, said in a statement that it is “dismayed” by the tragic events.

“This is a very painful situation,” said Ivan Lopez’s father in the statement. “I ask for prayers for the affected families.”

“My son could not have been in sound mind. He was not that way,” he said.

Reuters



Members of the special police unit take part in exercises to mark the Day of Police in Banja Luka, capital of Republika Srpska (RS), an entity within Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), on 4 April, 2014. XINHUA

Britons guilty of US terror charges denied access to secret files

MILFORD, 5 April—Two British men who pleaded guilty to raising money for al-Qaeda and the Taliban were denied their bid on Friday to gain access to secret documents about a witness whose testimony could have a major impact on how long they spend in prison.

The pair, 39-year-old Babar Ahmad and 34-year-old Syed Talha Ahsan, have

argued in papers filed in US District Court in New Haven, Connecticut, that they have a right to more information on the witness, British citizen Saajid Badat.

According to US prosecutors, Badat was recruited into al Qaeda as a result of Ahmad’s work and went on to play a role in the attempt by “shoe bomber” Richard Reid, another Briton, to blow up a jetliner

over the Atlantic Ocean just three months after the 11 September, 2001, attacks. Defence attorneys for Ahmad and Ahsan argued before US District Judge Janet Hall that the government should provide transcripts of 55 taped interviews with Badat conducted in 2008 by British authorities and photos of suspected militants.

Reuters

DPRK urges cooperation in rescuing crewmen of sunken cargo ship

PYONG YANG, 5 April—The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) had urged concerning parties to rescue its sunken cargo ship and help survivors return home, the official KCNA news agency reported on Saturday.

The appeal came after the Mongolia-flagged cargo ship *Grand Fortune 1* sank

in the waters off Jeju Island at dawn on Friday, with crew members of the Kunhae Shipping Company under the DPRK’s Maritime Administration, while sailing to Shanghai, China.

Among the 16 DPRK crewmen, two were found dead, three were rescued and 11 others missing, KCNA said, adding that the cause

of the accident was under investigation.

“The DPRK hopes that the concerning parties will conduct rescue operations and help the survivors return to their families at an early date from the humanitarian point of view in accordance with the international conventions,” said the report.

Xinhua

Kenya urges S Sudan’s leaders to hold direct talks to end fighting

NAIROBI, 5 April—Kenya on Friday appealed to South Sudan’s President Salva Kiir and ex-vice President Riek Machar to engage in face to face talks to hasten the peace process aimed at ending the conflict in world’s youngest nation.

Deputy President William Ruto also expressed optimism that the next round of peace process aimed at finding a political solution to the three month long conflict will succeed “It will be difficult to realize peace in South Sudan without the President and Dr Riek Machar engaging in face to face talks,” Ruto told visiting Chinese government on African Affairs Ambassador Zhong Jianhua.

Speaking during the meeting, Ambassador Zhong Jianhua said China supports the peace process in South Sudan and would wish to see speedy conclusion to the crisis in that country.

A statement issued in Nairobi after the meeting said Ruto expressed Kenya’s commitment to the realization of peace in South Sudan and vowed to spare no efforts in making the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-sponsored peace process succeed.

Ruto noted that the IGAD-mediated peace process in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia had slowed down noting that other than the ceasefire and allowing of the IGAD peace monitoring group in South Sudan, there were still unresolved issues that were holding realization of peace in that troubled country.

Xinhua

Tiger smuggler jailed in China

HANGZHOU, 5 April—A Siberian tiger smuggler has been sentenced to seven and a half years in prison for illegally purchasing an endangered species, by a court in east China.

Wang, 31, a native of Jiangxi Province, was fined 50,000 yuan (8,000 US dollars) by Lucheng District People’s Court in Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province.

Wang and another man, Yang, were caught with the dead tiger on Jan. 8 in downtown Wenzhou. Wang was captured by police but Yang fled.

Yang bought the tiger in Anhui Province on 5 January for 190,000 yuan and transported it to Wenzhou, where he planned to sell it to Wang for 250,000 yuan.—Xinhua

Egyptians take photos of brides and grooms attending a group wedding in the City of 6th October, western Cairo, Egypt, on 4 April, 2014. The group wedding ceremony dedicated to 50 orphans and their beloved was held on Friday by an Egyptian charity institution on the occasion of the 11th Arab Orphan Day. XINHUA



Festivals & Events

The following is the reproduction of the Myanmar Hotel and Tourism Guide 2013. Please visit www.tourismguide.com.mm for further information.—Ed



May

Ritual of pouring water on the Bodhi Tree

Dates: Full moon Day of Kason

Locations: Pagodas throughout the country.

Duration: 10 days

June

Pakokku Thiho Shin Pagoda Festival

Dates: 8th waxing Moon Day of Nayon

Location: Pakokku, central Myanmar

Duration: 15 days

July

Waso Festival

Date: Centered around the Full Moon Day of Waso

Location: Throughout the country

August

Taung Pyone Spirit Festival

Dates: 10th waxing Moon Day of Wagaung

Location: Taung Pyone Village, near Mandalay

Duration: 12 Days

Pakistani Taleban extend ceasefire for 10 days

ISLAMABAD, 5 April — Pakistani Taleban on Friday announced they are extending their month-long ceasefire for ten more days to push the ongoing fragile peace process forward.

The Taleban's month-long ceasefire expired on 31 March during their peace talks with the government.

The government had also suspended airstrikes against the Taleban in Waziristan tribal region following the ceasefire.

The Taleban decision came after the government freed over a dozen Taleban non-combatant prisoners as a goodwill gesture.

"The political council of the Tehreek-i-Taleban Pakistan (TTP) has decided to extend the ceasefire until 10 April," the group's spokesman Shahidullah Shahid said in a statement. He said the council will again meet later to decide whether or not to extend the ceasefire further.

Shahid said the TTP had ordered its fighters not to carry out any attacks against the government and law-enforcement agencies until further orders.

"We want to tell the

people that the Taleban are serious in dialogue and now the government should positively respond to our demands," he said.

A government committee had held talks with the Taleban leaders last month to keep itself abreast of the Taleban demands. The government negotiators had also apprised the Taliban of their demands.

"The government's peace committee had met the Taleban leadership and we had shared our demands but we are still waiting for any government action on our demands," the TTP spokesman said.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Friday presided over a high-level meeting and reviewed security situation and talks with the Taleban, state radio reported.

Army Chief General Raheel Sharif, Director General of the intelligence agency Lieutenant General Zaheer-ul-Islam, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan and Prime Minister's Special Assistant on National Affairs Tariq Fatemi attended the meeting.

Xinhua

Baby girl becomes 7th victim of Chile quake

SANTIAGO, 5 April — A baby girl died in northern Chile on Friday, putting the death toll of a massive 8.2-magnitude earthquake this week to seven, authorities said.

The six-day-old newborn died of heart failure after sleeping in a tent with her mother since Tuesday in Alto Hospicio near Iquique.

Life was gradually returning to normal in the worst-hit region on Friday as water and electricity supplies were restored to most homes. But soldiers were guarding supermarkets and gas stations to prevent looting as people lined up for water, food and gasoline.

The 8.2-magnitude quake destroyed houses and buildings and cut off electricity in Chile's northern towns late Tuesday, sparking tsunami warnings along its northern Pacific coast.

Chilean President Michelle Bachelet has said her country would seek "a safe return to normalcy" after the powerful quake.

Xinhua



Demonstrators, emergency personnel and policemen evacuate a wounded man during a demonstration by tens of thousands people coming from some 20 European countries to denounce the austerity measures in Europe, in Brussels, capital of Belgium, on 4 April, 2014.—XINHUA

Japan ordered SDF to destroy any N Korean missiles launched

TOKYO, 5 April — Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera issued on Thursday an order without disclosing it for the Self-Defence Forces to destroy North Korean ballistic missiles if any are launched, a government source said on Saturday.

In line with the order, the SDF deployed to the Sea of Japan the Aegis-equipped destroyer *Kirishima* carrying long-range SM-3 interceptor missiles, the source said. The order was kept secret to avoid revealing Japan's missile detection capabilities, they said.

The Japanese government may also have wanted to minimize negative effects on government-level talks with Pyongyang which were held for the first time in 16 months in late March.

The order was issued based on the assumption that North Korea, which launched Rodong medium-range ballistic missiles on 26 March toward the Sea of Japan, might fire more missiles.

It will likely stay in effect until 25 April, the anniversary of the founding of the Korean People's Army.

Of Japan's two-tier missile defence system comprising the SM-3 and the ground-based Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missiles, the Patriot system was not subject to the order in order to keep a low posture, according to the source. The latest order brings to five the number of similar directives issued since 2009, when North Korea fired a missile under the pretense of a satellite launch.

All the orders were to deal with North Korean missiles, but no missiles have so far been intercepted.—Kyodo News

US will not stand in way of Scottish independence

NEW YORK, 5 April — The leader of Scotland's separatist movement predicted on Friday that the United States would not try to stand in the way of the breakup of Britain, Washington's staunchest ally for decades, if Scots vote for independence at a referendum this year.

Instead, the Obama administration could use the reasonably orderly debate in Britain about Scotland's future as an example to other countries facing constitutional crises, said Alex Salmond, the separatist leader who heads the Scottish National Party and who is Scotland's first minister.

"I don't foresee pressure. I don't think that is what the United States would want to do," Salmond told Reuters. "There



Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond smiles as he attends the opening day of salmon fishing season on the river Tay at Dunkeld in Scotland on 15 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

are certain principles involved here. One is the principle of self-determination. Secondly, the principle of a consented and peaceful process."

Pro-independence campaigners have long lagged in opinion polls behind supporters of maintaining Scotland's 307-year-old union with England. But Salmond's nationalists have closed the poll gap slightly ahead of

the vote in September.

A 20 March poll showed that around 40 percent of Scots plan to vote for independence in this year's referendum while 45 percent intended to vote against it.

Such surveys have begun to be noticed by US policymakers, who had previously presumed the unionists would win easily, said Heather Conley, of the Centre for Strategic and

International Studies think tank in Washington.

Salmond said US government officials had made public comments holding up the Scottish referendum process as an example of how to air separatist sentiment, as opposed to the abruptness of the recent Crimean referendum held in the shadow of Russian troops.

Russia's annexation of Crimea has not been recognized by the United States.

"The referendum in Scotland is an agreed, consensual, democratic, consented process," said Salmond, who was visiting New York to promote Scottish business and culture. "Who knows? It might become a template for how the world should conduct these matters."

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 6 April, 2014

Education reforms and brilliant future of State

As Myanmar is in the process of democratic reforms, it is going through variety of challenges including educational modification amidst international exposures in term of human resources.

The term education covers the mental, physical and moral training of an individual. The education should create the potentials for the art of utilizing knowledge gained.

In the aspect of Myanmar education sector,

reforms are being made to focus on 'student-centered teaching' method. However, many teachers at various levels still lack of this type of teaching methodology. Many primary school children have to largely rely on their memory for examinations, with rare practice of classroom activities at schools.

Many children were not used to school libraries although they passed matriculation exams. Most of the schools in the cities do not have enough space of playgrounds or indoor stadiums. With the increasing number of pupils, the playgrounds have been taken place by the construction of more classrooms.

The young generations are, in fact, the future of a country. They should therefore have a fair amount of knowledge and strength to serve their country, and they need to look at things critically.

Education promotion programmes require

continuous turning out brilliant new generation intellectuals and intelligentsia who are enthusiastic about the development of their own nation.

Only if the educated are nurtured systematically, can they surely become stalwart persons on whom the state can rely.

Therefore, education sector should be fulfilled with all the essentials from physical supports to mental encouragement. In a democratic country, the government should lead the citizens utilizing their knowledge and understanding to reach national goals.

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Let's view National Education Bill from nationalistic point of view

An Observer

From the point of view of the national interest, the investment of the government in the education sector is an endeavor for the human resource development and an effort to create job opportunities and socioeconomic development for each family and citizen. As Myanmar is home to various ethnic nationalities, education for all and lifelong education aims at the equitable development of all the states and regions and the equal improvement of education, health, economy and social life of all the ethnic nationalities in accordance with their literatures, cultures and traditions.

From the point of view of socioeconomic development, promotion of national education can contribute to human resource development, create job opportunities and reduce poverty and unemployment. With wide view, all the citizens are required to promote the education sector for nurturing citizens with five moral strength, developing human resources with correct ideology and wisdom and eco-

nomie development with the increased production.

The process of practical education reform was not considered and approved just by the government, a political party or an organization. It is known to all that the government has been carrying out tasks for the development of the education sector since 2011. In February 2012, a workshop to lay down educational policy was held in Nay Pyi Taw and the discussions were focused on the research of the present education system for the educational reform. In August 2012, Comprehensive Education Sector Review-CESR was carried out with the help of foreign and local experts for a year. The review pointed out the weaknesses of the education sector a need to develop the education policy and to draft a national education bill as they are the foundation for the promotion of national education and the basic framework for future.

To adopt educational policies and laws, people-centered workshops

were held in states and regions from December 2013 to January 2014 and public opinions were collected. Responsible persons from the ministry of education and other ministries concerned, political parties and educational organizations including National Network for Education Reform participated in the discussions.

As an observer, I found that about 90 percent of the policies submitted by the Ministry of Education are the same as those submitted by educational organizations including the NNER. National-level practical education reform workshop was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 and 6 January in 2014. Based on the findings of the workshop, national education policies and national education bill were drafted. Then the Ministry of Education submitted the National Education Bill to the Pyithu Hluttaw.

The bill submitted by the Ministry of Education includes fourteen chapters and 80 paragraphs. The bill was also published in the dailies on 17 and 18 March for the general public to study. The bill was discussed and amended by the Pyithu Hluttaw and sent it to the Amyotha Hluttaw. It was learnt that there were some differences between the bill submitted by the Ministry of Education and the bill sent to Amyotha Hluttaw by Pyithu Hluttaw.

As an observer, I would like to say that the

promotion of educational reform contributes to human resource development of the country. The aims of drawing strategies and programmes for human resource development is to nurture technicians, businessmen, graduate with job opportunities skilled laborers and workers required for the country based on working population and competent population of the country. Together with the educational reform, the public are also required to change their attitude and opinion for human resource development. In families, parents send their children to school with the aims of improving the socioeconomic life of the families in the future. However, the emphasis was placed on holding a degree and there were so many unemployed graduates in the past. At present, only about one million people are employed in government departments.

The government is making efforts for the economic development of the country by inviting local and foreign investment and encouraging small and medium size enterprises and development of the private sector. In addition, it is carrying out tasks for human resource development and for job creation focusing on the private sector.

In this circumstance, experts and leaders of political parties, ethnic organizations and other various sectors are required to contribute to the promotion of national education with a

common point of view for the country.

It is also required to change the deep-rooted ideology that everything is controlled by the central government. The real situation is that the management system of the government has changed since the new government was formed in 2011 to build a democratic nation. Policies were adopted by the government in the past, forums and workshops participated by the public have been held and policies have been adopted based on the recommendations of the forums and workshops since the new government was formed. Public participation can be traced from the rural development forum held in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 May 2011. Similarly, it can be seen that educational workshops held since 2013 December were people-centered. It can also be seen that educational organizations and ethnic nationalities from states and divisions participated in the workshops.

In these workshops, bottom-up form based on public recommendations of strategic plans discussions was employed instead of top-down form. Trainings for decentralized public administration are also being conducted across the country in cooperation with development partners. Although international scholars quickly recognize the changes in Myanmar, there is serious advice on smooth

transition. It is true that the will of the people must be emphasized in the transformation to a democratic country. It is also true that people have the right to express their desire. However, when the desires of the people are different, the desire of the majority must be emphasized, and it is important to prevent actions that can slow down the momentum to build a democratic country during the democratic transition. Although it is required to carry out based on public opinion, if there are actions to delay the tasks, to destabilize regions, to discourage foreign investment by a mob in many places, the transition and development of the country will be delayed. As Myanmar lags behind its neighbouring countries, it needs to make three steps while its neighbours make one step. At such a time, there should not be a situation where it is difficult to make a single step.

Therefore, all the political parties, organizations and national people are required to make a common vision by cooperation for the national interest without emphasizing the desire of one's own party or organization. It is my opinion that the country will develop step by step by discussing comprehensively and implementing the National Education Bill, that was drafted based on findings of national and regional workshops and amended by national race parties, Hluttaw representatives and representatives from respective regions.

Trs: MWT

Myanmar's oldest English daily newspaper is hiring now!

The Global New Light of Myanmar will relocate to Yangon in mid-April and is now looking for foreign editors and local reporters. Journalists who prefer to work as freelancers or on a part-time basis are also welcome to submit their applications. For further details, please send an email with your resume and samples of your work to the chief editor wallace.tun@gmail.com.

ARTICLE

Development Model for Myanmar—Looking beyond Thailand

By Masahiko Tanaka

Mr. Tanaka is the Head of the JICA Office in Myanmar.

Being a 'late comer' to economic development, Myanmar is said to have the advantage of learning from the experiences of other countries. Many look toward Thailand as a natural model to follow. Thailand of the early 1980s was also poised to begin its fast growth, from an income level that is comparable to Myanmar's income level today.

Thailand's economic achievements since then have earned its place in the fabled league of 'East Asia Miracle' countries, along with Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and others. There is much to learn from these successes. Thailand maintained broadly sound macroeconomic balances, encouraged savings, promoted export industries, and made massive investment in infrastructure.

But one should not overlook the serious problems Thailand now faces. The country struggles to sustain steady progress toward high income status (say, per capita GDP of \$20,000 or more). It is caught in the 'middle-income trap'. The

recent political events also reveal deep and fault lines among the Thais that threaten social and political stability of the 'Land of Smiles'.

Thailand's fundamental problems are related to the widening gulf across socio-economic groups, not just in incomes but also political power, weaknesses in the education system, and the shortage of competitive and innovative domestic manufacturing companies. In effect, Thailand remains a socio-economic system that favours the elite class, at the expense of the rest.

With the open economic policy framework already adopted and various investments planned for improving infrastructure and education, Myanmar will surely enter a phase of rapid economic growth soon. The question is not whether Myanmar can catch up with Thailand; it is whether it will be able to go beyond it.

In this regard, it will be useful for Myanmar to look toward Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. They all sailed past the middle-income range and attained high-income status in about

40 years from the start of accelerated growth. From the outset, they dealt with the issues that tripped up Thailand very differently. So, what did they do, and what can Myanmar learn from it?

As they launched into high growth in the 1950s to 1960s, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan all managed to limit elite access to special economic opportunities. Monopoly rights and 'sweetheart deals' from the government could no longer be the basis for business success. Under the previous economic regime in Myanmar, such favours were the chief drivers of investment. It is so important to carry through the ongoing economic liberalization to change all that. Directing the best of business minds toward 'value creation' is the key to building a thriving economy with a competitive manufacturing sector as its engine of growth.

Investment in manufacturing is a risky business. Developing new technologies and products is even more challenging. This creates a tendency for the private sector to underin-

vest in these areas, even if it is in the best long-term interest of the country. To offset this 'market failure', each of the three countries adopted policies to nurture competitive industrial firms. Such 'industrial policy' is credited with the impressive advances in manufacturing. Although general economic liberalization helps stimulate investment, Myanmar needs to think of an 'industrial policy' to promote manufacturing in particular. Current policies may be even hindering foreign direct investment. For instance, an automaker points out that with import duties on completed cars and parts being identical, there is little incentive to assemble them in Myanmar. A more coherent policy is needed to support domestic production.

Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan also strengthened their education systems, starting much earlier in fact, and ensured not just universal primary education but access to good tertiary education for anyone eligible. The educated labour force supplied the professionals and skilled workers

to support the vigorous expansion of manufacturing industries. This also spread the benefits of growth widely. Equity in access to good education is a cornerstone of a vibrant and inclusive economy.

Simultaneously, they all upheld social norms that rejected excessive income disparities. The land reform programs after World War II in these countries were tangible expressions of this spirit. A majority of families came to see themselves as 'middle class'. Few were left behind in poverty, and excessive wealth was frowned upon. In the context of Myanmar today, large-scale land reform may not be effective. But, the leaders of Myanmar, in all walks of life, should strive to forge a national consensus that extreme wealth and abject poverty are not acceptable. Myanmar should also use policy instruments (progressive taxation, social safety nets, minimum wages, etc.) to make such a vision a reality.

In effect, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan all created a system in which numerous private companies, large

and small, kept up innovation in technology and products. It was supported by an abundance of well-educated labour, which became the core of the middle class. It is an entirely different and inclusive dynamic than what we observe in Thailand (and many other countries that suffer from the middle-income trap).

A country tends to stumble onto a particular path of development by accidents of history. Once on it, however, it becomes difficult to change course. Perhaps the most important late-comer's advantage is to know that when it faces a rare moment to choose the course of development, as Myanmar does now, it should make a conscious and decisive choice. What I have suggested is not necessarily the easiest path to take. There are already vested interests that would jealously guard their privileges. But succumbing to their wishes will put Myanmar too on the path to the middle-income trap. On the other hand, if it succeeds in pursuing the alternative path, it will likely go far beyond where Thailand has gone.

3-F Strategy for Success

3-F stand for Faith, Focus and Fight

If your objective is SUCCESS in your life, in your job, and in your relationships, you have got to deploy the 3-F Strategy for Success.

The first phase of the strategy is to have **FAITH**. There is an official CREDO of the International Mountaineering Association. It states that if you have love and faith in the mountain that you are climbing, your climbing will surely become easier. In the Bible, it is said that; **"If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you can remove the mountain"**. Regarding the power of faith, I have read a story about a fisherman who could walk on water because of his earnest faith. The story is somewhat like this:

Once upon a time, there lived a fisherman on the bank of a certain river. He had heard that on the other side of the river, there lived a mullah who was very good at preaching.

One evening he went to the preacher and listened very attentively to the mullahs' teaching. He was very much delighted to hear what the master preached.

So, when he went to bed that night, he ruminated about the holy law, and a strong wish welled up in his mind to serve the mullah a breakfast at his dwelling the next morning. So he went to the master in the early morning. When he reached at the master's place, he ardently invited the preacher to have breakfast at his house. The mullah accepted his offer and began to go to the fisherman's house. When they reached the river, the mullah asked the fisherman where his boat was.

The fisherman replied that he had not come by boat. He said that in the early morning he came by walking across the river, fervently reciting "Bismilla, Bismilla all the way!" But the mullah said that the fisherman might be able to

walk across the river, but he certainly could not do so. He said he definitely needed a boat to cross the river. So, the fisherman had to hire a boat for the mullah and himself to go to his house.

There is another story with regard to the power of faith. This story's title is: **"The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountain"**. The name of the "foolish" old man was Yui Koan. He lived in his ancestral village which was not very far from the sea. But, there were three mountains which lay between his village and the sea. Old man Yui passionately wished in his heart that if only there were no mountains between his village and the sea, the trade and commerce of his village would flourish by leaps and bounds. So he made up his mind to remove the three mountains that were barring the village from the sea.

He disclosed his burning desire to the village el-

ders. All the village elders laughed at his ideas and ridiculed him for entertaining such a foolish idea. All the wise-acres rejected outright the idea of the "foolish" old man to remove the mountains. So, old man Yui then and there decided to undertake the job of removing the mountains by himself. To took the matter into his own hands. From that day onward, he started digging the mountains by himself. He made it known to the whole village that his sons and daughters will take up his unfinished work, and his grandchildren will continue to take up the unfinished work of their parents, and so on down the ancestral line.

The resolute determination and the iron will of the "foolish" old man was so great and so strong that it struck some very resonant chords with the hearts of the three angels who came and took away the three mountains on their backs.

The second phase in the Strategy is to have a **FOCUS**. The dictionary meaning of **FOCUS** is to give attention, effort, etc. to one

particular subject, situation or person rather than another.

My personal meaning of **FOCUS** is:

F for Feeling
O for Objective
C for Commitment
U for Unwavering
S for Strength

I mean, if you have a focus on something, you have a very passionate feeling for it, and your aim and object will be so strong to accomplish that something. And you will go all-out for that something by aiming high and giving all you have got without holding anything back. You will be so definite in your commitment that you would not waver or hesitate to sacrifice your whole life for it. It would be the genuine dedication of your entire being, lock, stock and barrel. With your clear **FOCUS** you will always be strong—yes, you will always be strong inside, you will permit no defeat, and you will fight all you can. So, you will come to

Kyi Mun

the third phase of your strategy: **FIGHT**.

The dictionary meaning of **FIGHT**, for our present purpose, is: To try very hard to get something or to achieve something. But, in your **FIGHT**, **RIGHT** must always precede **MIGHT**. If your strategy is to succeed in the long-term, you must have what it takes to do the **RIGHT** things first and to do the things **RIGHT** consequently. It means, in your **FIGHT**, you have got to have the **RIGHT** Objective and the **RIGHT** Resources before executing the **RIGHT** Strategy. After that, you are strictly required to implement your Plan of Action with effectiveness, efficiency and excellence, along the lines of Total Quality Management.

In conclusion, you have got to: "Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid and neither be you dismayed."

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING GROUP CO., LTD.

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 18th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting (AFMM)

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 5 April 2014

Theme: Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community

Introduction

1. We, the ASEAN Finance Ministers, convened our 18th Annual Meeting under the chairmanship of H.E U Win Shein, Minister of Finance, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

2. We, the ASEAN Finance Ministers, together with the ASEAN Deputy Secretary General, expressed our gratitude to His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, for graciously granting us an audience at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

3. Together with the troika of ASEAN Central Bank Governors of Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar, and Malaysia we maintain our commitment to pursue growth and economic stability in the ASEAN region amid the global economic uncertainties. At the same time, we also maintain our commitment to ensure stability of our financial markets. Our exchange of views with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) on the risks and policy challenges confirmed our pledge to maintain financial and economic stability.

4. We reaffirmed our commitment to realizing the goals of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). We continued our activities in various areas under the Roadmap for Monetary and Financial Integration of ASEAN.

5. We also welcomed the continued efforts to operationalized the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization (CMIM), strengthen the AMRO and carry out the workplan under the Asian Bond Markets Initiative (ABMI). We strongly believe that these initiatives are crucial in maintaining economic stability in the region given remaining uncertainties surrounding the global economy.

Regional Economic Update and Policy Challenges

6. We are pleased that the ASEAN economies grew by 5.1 percent last year, with our exports recovering during the second half of the year. Economic outlook remains robust, anchored by rising domestic demand stemming from private consumption and infrastructure investment. We remain vigilant in managing the downside risks, including capital outflows. Volatile currency movements, emerging inflationary pressures and tightening financial conditions, which could dampen economic growth.

7. We would like to reaffirm our commitment to implement appropriate monetary, fiscal, and macro/micro-prudential policies that will sustain economic growth and maintain financial market stability. Our macroeconomic policies will continue to address country-specific issues, mindful of their spillover effects across the region. We remain focused on price and financial sector stability supportive of sustainable economic growth. We agreed to further strengthen domestic demand, pursue structural reforms, encourage private sector investment, and aim for equitable economic development throughout the region. We are also committed to strengthening our cooperation and integration efforts to improve ASEAN's resilience against external shocks.

Roadmap for Monetary and Financial Integration of ASEAN (RIA-Fin)

8. We welcomed all efforts to deepen ASEAN financial sector integration. As ASEAN is at the cusp of the 2015 deadline under the ASEAN Economic Community, we encouraged the Working Committees under the Roadmap for Monetary and Financial Integration of ASEAN to intensify their efforts and ensure that financial integration plays a meaningful role in supporting regional economic integration.

9. In particular, we welcomed the updates by the Troika of ASEAN Central Bank Governors of Brunei

Darussalam, Myanmar, and Malaysia on the implementation of the ASEAN Financial Integration Framework (AFIF) under the guidance of the Senior Level Committee (SLC) on Financial Integration. We also commended the work of the Task Force on ASEAN Banking Integration Framework (ABIF) and we look forward to the finalization of ABIF by May 2014 and its inclusion as part of the Sixth AFAS Package. We are also pleased with the ongoing work of the ASEAN Working Committee on Payments and Settlements Systems.

10. We acknowledged the importance of capacity building as an important element to achieve integration in the financial sector. In this regard, we are pleased with the work of the ASEAN Central Banks in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, the ADB, the SEACEN Research and Training Centre and the Steering Committee on Capacity Building (SCCB).

Capital Market Development

11. We are pleased with the work of the Working Committee on Capital Market Development (WC-CMD) in building the capacity and laying the long-term infrastructure for the development of ASEAN capital markets. We also commend the progress of initiatives of the ASEAN Capital Market Forum (ACMF) on harmonization and mutual recognition of rules and regulations. We have therefore agreed to continue the efforts to deepen and integrate our capital markets to ensure that the flow of capital is geared towards productive sectors. We took note of the ASEAN Capital Markets Infrastructure (ACMI) blueprint for the establishment of clearing, settlement and depository linkages among the ASEAN capital markets.

12. We welcomed the efforts of the Cross-Committee comprising ACMF, the Working Committee on Capital Account Liberalisation (WC-CAL), WC-CMD and the Working Committee on Payment and Settlement Systems (WC-PSS) in developing the ASEAN Capital Market Infrastructure Blueprint for integrated access, clearing, custody and settlement in support of the ASEAN Trading Link. We noted that the Cross-Committee and the ASEAN Exchanges will proceed with the formation of a task force to develop an implementation plan for the Blueprint.

13. We took note of the WC-CMD's ongoing initiative to update the Bond Market Development Scorecard which has continued to be a useful tool to monitor the progress of ASEAN's Bond Market development, openness and liquidity.

14. We welcomed the significant progress made by the ACMF, particularly with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding to establish the ASEAN Framework for cross-border offering of Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) by the Securities Commission of Malaysia, the Monetary Authority of Singapore and the Securities and Exchange Commission of Thailand. We are pleased that the Framework is targeted to be operationalised by the first half of 2014.

15. We took note of the continued work on corporate governance ranking of ASEAN publicly listed companies as well as the development of a common prospectus framework for cross-border offers of securities. We welcomed the Joint Study on the Assessment of ASEAN Capital Market Development and Integration, and took note of the recommendations arising from the study.

Financial Services Liberalization

16. We are pleased that the Sixth Round of negotiations of Financial Services Liberalization under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) has been concluded successfully. We will be working toward the signing of the Protocol to implement the Sixth Package on Financial Services Liberalization in May 2014. We are going to start the Seventh Round of Negotiations thereafter. We urged our officials to closely work together to ensure progressive liberalization and integration of our fi-

nancial markets. We also welcomed a continued work on a review of AFAS financial services rules to improve financial services obligations among countries as part of a broader initiative under ASEAN to enhance the AFAS.

17. We are supportive of the work done by the Working Committee on Financial Services Liberalization (WC-FSL) in deepening insurance sector integration. We took note of the increasing collaboration between the WC-FSL and the ASEAN Insurance Regulators' Meeting and the ASEAN Insurance Training and Research Institute in deliberating initiatives to further support insurance sector development integration. We also welcome the WC-FSL's active participation in integrating ASEAN with the global economy through ASEAN's free trade agreements with dialogue partners.

Capital Account Liberalization

18. We recognized the work of the Working Committee on Capital Account Liberalization (WC-CAL) in its efforts to achieve greater capital mobility that is essential in supporting greater investment, trade and business activities in the region, and in promoting greater integration of our markets with the global economies.

19. We are pleased that capital account liberalization initiatives and the developments in the ASEAN member states' (AMS) capital account regimes are being monitored through an agreed monitoring tool and regular updating of the CAL heat maps of the individual member states. We also welcomed the policy dialogue process on safeguard mechanisms for CAL established within the WC-CAL process to keep track of the trends in capital flows among the ASEAN economies while in the process of capital account liberalization, with an aim to identify possible risks and exchange ideas/experiences in applying safeguard mechanisms to help ensure macroeconomic, financial and monetary stability.

Strengthening ASEAN Finance Cooperation and Economic Integration

Enhancing Regional Surveillance

20. We are encouraged by the improved progress of the ASEAN Integration Monitoring Office (AIMO), particularly with the development of surveillance reports, monitoring tools, and capacity building programs. We are fully committed to expand the capacity and resources of AIMO, and encourage Member States and external partners to further support AIMO in fulfilling its mandate.

21. We also reaffirmed our support for the AMRO in monitoring macroeconomic and financial developments in the region, particularly in its original mandate to support the CMIM. We welcomed AMRO's participation in providing us updates on the macroeconomic and financial situation in the region. We also look forward to the institutionalization of AMRO as an international organization.

Infrastructure Financing

22. We welcomed Myanmar's accession to become a full-fledged member of the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF). We recognized that the AIF is an integral component of ASEAN's efforts to strengthen regional physical connectivity, and narrow the infrastructure development gap in ASEAN. We welcomed AIF's first project in Indonesia last year and look forward to new projects in Indonesia, Lao PDR and Vietnam in 2014. We are pleased that the AIF has reduced the cost of funds, thereby benefiting members. We appreciated the continued support from the ASEAN-World Bank Infrastructure Finance Network (IFN) and endorsed the programs for 2014.

Cooperation on Customs Matters

23. We are pleased with the progress of activities under customs cooperation, particularly the successful test of the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) Gateway connectivity by seven Member States, and completion of the "scaled-down" version of Component 2 ASW pilot project, to be followed this year by the "full-fledged" pilot project. We encourage our customs officials to fully implement the outstanding initiatives, including the finalization of agreements and protocols, to support the establishment of a single market and production base under the AEC.

(See page 11)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mathematicians expanding exchanges with industry

TOKYO, 5 April — Japanese mathematicians are expanding exchanges with industry, trying to solve problems and practically apply otherwise purely academic knowledge. Around 20 people gathered on a recent Monday for a “study group” session at the Graduate School of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Tokyo.

During the session, researchers from industry referred to problems they were grappling with and mathematicians pledged to find solutions by the Friday

of that week. The session was held in a genial atmosphere with professor Masahiro Yamamoto, 55, saying the problems presented would help graduate students understand how much they can utilize what they have learned, while corporate researchers would “curiously wait and see.”

A question discussed actively during the session was “how companies can find useful information from messages posted by consumers on the Internet.”

Britain’s Oxford University launched a “study



Photo taken 18 Feb, 2014, shows Yasuaki Hiraoka, a Kyushu University associate professor, explaining his study on applied topology with mathematical formulas and graphics at the university's Institute of Mathematics for Industry in the city of Fukuoka.

KYODO NEWS

group” programme in 1968, assembling mathematicians from across the globe to work on problems presented by industry during a weeklong workshop. In Japan, the University of Tokyo, better known as Todai, and Kyushu University jointly started a similar programme in 2010. Professor Masato Wakayama, 58, who represents Kyushu University in the joint programme, is the first head of the Institute of Mathematics for Industry established by the university in 2011. The IMI consists of 25 ex-

perts on mathematics.

Mathematics for industry is a new research area aimed at “responding to the needs of the industrial sector by reorganizing and merging pure and applied mathematics into flexible and versatile forms,” according to the IMI. Currently, a total of 20 study programs involving 17 Japanese companies, including Asahi Glass Co, Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp. and Fujitsu Ltd., are under way in cooperation with mathematicians from Todai and Kyushu University.—Kyodo News

US military satellite launched after 15-year hold

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 5 April — A US military weather satellite, refurbished after more than a decade in storage, blasted off aboard an unmanned Atlas 5 rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on Thursday, a live webcast of the launch showed.

The sleek, 191-foot-tall (58-meter) rocket, built by United Launch Alliance, lifted off at 10:46 am EDT to put the Defence Meteorological Satellite Program or DMSP spacecraft into a 530-mile-high orbit passing over Earth’s poles. United Launch Alliance is a partnership of Lockheed Martin Corp and Boeing Co. The \$518 million satellite, known as DMSP-19 and built by Lockheed Martin, joins six other

operational DMSP satellites already in orbit.

The US Air Force was prepared to launch DMSP-19 about 15 years ago, but the satellites in orbit were lasting much longer than expected so it went into storage instead, said Scott Larrimore, weather program director at the Air Force’s Space and Missile Systems Centre in Los Angeles.

The same fate may await the 20th and final DMSP satellite, which is being built now and targeted to launch in 2020. The Air Force, however, is mulling whether to fly it at all or launch it early to avoid costly storage fees, among other options, Larrimore told reporters during a pre-launch conference call on 27 March.—Reuters

Internet companies’ growing ambitions spook 51 percent of Americans

SAN FRANCISCO, 5 April — The personal data gathering abilities of Google, Facebook and other tech companies has sparked growing unease among Americans, with a majority worried that Internet companies are encroaching too much upon their lives, a new poll showed.

Google and Facebook generally topped lists of Americans’ concerns about the ability to track physical locations and monitor spending habits and personal communications, according to a poll conducted by Reuters/Ipsos from 11 March to 26 March.

The survey highlights a growing ambivalence towards Internet companies whose popular online services, such as social networking, e-commerce and search, have blossomed

into some of the world’s largest businesses.

Now, as the boundaries between Web products and real world services begin to blur, many of the top Internet companies are racing to put their stamp on everything from home appliances to drones and automobiles. With billions of dollars in cash, high stock prices, and an appetite for more user data, Google, Facebook, Amazon and others are acquiring a diverse set of companies and launching ambitious technology projects.

But their grand ambitions are inciting concern, according to the poll of nearly 5,000 Americans. Of 4,781 respondents, 51 percent replied “yes” when asked if those three companies, plus Apple, Microsoft and Twitter, were pushing



A security personnel answers a call at the reception counter of the Google office in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad in this 6 Feb, 2012, file photo.—REUTERS

too far and expanding into too many areas of people’s lives. This poll measures accuracy using a credibility interval and is accurate to plus or minus 1.6 percentage points.

“It’s very accurate to say that many people have love-hate relationships

with some of their technology providers,” said Nuala O’Connor, the President of the Centre for Democracy and Technology, an Internet public policy group which has received funding from companies including Google, Amazon and Microsoft.—Reuters

US knocks plans for European communication network

WASHINGTON, 5 April — The United States on Friday criticized proposals to build a European communication network to avoid emails and other data passing through the United States, warning that such rules could breach international trade laws. In its annual review of telecommunications trade barriers, the office of the US Trade Representative said impediments to cross-border data flows were a serious and growing concern.

It was closely watching new laws in Turkey that led to the blocking of websites and restrictions on personal data, as well as calls in Europe for a local communications network following

revelations last year about US digital eavesdropping and surveillance.

“Recent proposals from countries within the European Union to create a Europe-only electronic network (dubbed a ‘Schengen cloud’ by advocates) or to create national-only electronic networks could potentially lead to effective exclusion or discrimination against foreign service suppliers that are directly offering network services, or dependent on them,” the USTR said in the report.

Germany and France have been discussing ways to build a European network to keep data secure after the US spying scandal.

Reuters

Joint Ministerial Statement ...

(from page 10)

ASEAN Cooperation on Taxation

24. We took note of the progress in ASEAN cooperation on taxation, particularly in addressing double taxation concerns and withholding tax issues. We also welcomed steps taken by the ASEAN Forum on Taxation (AFT) to explore opportunities for increasing regional cooperation in dealing with international tax evasion and to collaborate with external parties to further enhance regional dialogue among regulators to complete a network of bilateral tax treaties.

ASEAN Cooperation in Insurance

25. We welcomed the progress made in the ASEAN cooperation in insurance to improve insurance penetration in the region, developing regulatory frameworks to promote insurance products, and promoting consumer education to increase awareness. In that regard, we also welcome the continuous dialogue that insurance regulators have had with the WC-FSL in further developing and integrating our insurance sector. We took note that the on-going compliance with the core principles of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) is an important measure to enhance the performance of our insurance sector in supporting the realization of the AEC. We agreed on capacity building initiatives to assist member regulators in aligning their regulations with international best practices.

26. We noted the progress made in the ASEAN Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI) initiative. We recognized the importance and welcomed the continuous dialogue among all the ASEAN sectoral bodies involved. We also agreed that capacity building activities are an integral part of this initiative.

Financial Inclusion and Literacy

27. We thanked Brunei Darussalam for the initiative on financial literacy to provide a platform for dialogue and exchange of experiences and best practices among ASEAN member countries. We also welcomed Myanmar’s initiative to follow up with planned activities to achieve greater financial inclusion for unbanked people of ASEAN this year.

Engaging and Building a Stronger ASEAN

28. We welcome the Philippines’ hosting of the 10th ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Investor Seminar (AFMIS) which will be held back-to-back with the 23rd World Economic Forum on East Asia, to promote ASEAN as an attractive investment destination. We acknowledge that the staging of the 10th AFMIS, during these exhilarating times, is an avenue to intensify effective policy cooperation and coordination in ASEAN especially as the ASEAN Economic Community 2015 draws near.

Acknowledgement

29. We thanked Myanmar for hosting the 18th AFMM this year and welcome Malaysia as Chair and Host in 2015.



Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung (2nd L) holds a welcoming ceremony for his visiting Malaysian counterpart Najib Tun Razak (3rd L) in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 4 April, 2014. Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and his Malaysian counterpart Najib Tun Razak said on Friday that the two sides vow to bring two-way trade turnover to 11 billion US dollars by 2015. —XINHUA

Guizhou to build 800 nurseries for “left-behind” children

GUIYANG, 5 April—Southwest China's Guizhou Province is to establish 800 nurseries for “left-behind” children, to ease their psychological problems caused by the absence of parents.

The nurseries, to be built in rural boarding schools, are expected to be completed before the end of 2014, the Guizhou education department said in a statement on Friday. The special homes will provide

areas for reading, surfing the Internet and making phone calls to parents, in addition to playgrounds and exercise equipment, the statement said.

The nurseries will help create a better environment for their healthy growth by providing good physical conditions as well as sufficient psychological intervention, the statement said.

The education department will award 20,000

yuan (3,220 US dollars) to each nursery that operates well in the future, it added.

“Left-behind” children are those who remain in rural homes while their parents go to work in cities. The children are usually taken care of by their grandparents or other relatives.

According to a report by the All-China Women's Federation in May 2013, the problems facing left-behind and migrant

children, including lack of family closeness, security, protection and educational opportunities, have been relieved but have not yet been resolved, and new problems keep emerging.

Guizhou had about 2.4 million “left-behind” children in 2013 thanks to the large number of outbound laborers, a report by the Guizhou Academy of Social Sciences showed.

Xinhua



Passengers queue to take long-distance coaches at Liuzhou's bus terminal, in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 4 April, 2014. Guangxi received a travel rush during China's traditional Qingming Festival, or Tomb-sweeping Day, which falls on 5-7 April this year. —XINHUA

Violence escalates prior to elections in Indonesia's Aceh

JAKARTA, 5 April — Indonesia's northernmost province of Aceh saw increasing violence during campaign period for parliamentary election scheduled on 9 April, claiming lives of civilians.

The latest deadly violence occurred on Monday, killing three people in a van used in the campaign of a local Aceh Party in the city of Bireun. Police said that the violence was perpetrated by armed people who had been tailing the van packed by 12 party supporters.

The perpetrators shot their guns through the van windows, killed a man, a woman and a 1.5 year-old infant onboard the van. Another man inside the van was severely injured in the incident. “The rampant violence in Aceh was very concerning, but we are determined to make the election conducted peacefully here,” Aceh Governor Zaini Abdullah said in the

province's capital Banda Aceh on Friday as quoted by a local media.

He expected the security apparatus to continue improving their measures to secure the condition among the public with persuasive manner during the campaign period scheduled to end on Saturday.

He also called on supporters of political parties taking part in the elections to maintain situation conducive towards the elections. Responding to the rampant violence in Aceh, Indonesian Military Commander General Moeldoko said on Friday that they were spontaneous acts as the military did not find previous signals related to it.

“We implement intelligence and territorial operation to secure the condition. But why it (violence) still emerges? We learned that it all conducted spontaneously,” Moeldoko said here. Coalition of Aceh civil society revealed on

Thursday that 38 violations related to elections were recorded from April 2013 to March 2014. It said that 21 of the violations were violence acts and the remaining 17 ones were legal violence related to elections.

The high violation rate related to the elections in the province this year was related to ignorance and snail-drag handling of apparatus to respond similar cases occurred in 2009 elections and 2012 regional election, the coalition said.

The rampant violence that cost human lives showed that security remain a crucial issue in the gas-rich province of Aceh that saw 30 years of insurgency movement, claimed at least 25,000 lives. Helsinki peace accord signed by Indonesian and Aceh insurgent leader in 2005 ended the movement, made Aceh remained in Indonesia's territory. It is now governed under special autonomy status based on Islamic law.—Xinhua

Pakistani PM to participate in Boao Forum

ISLAMABAD, 5 April — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will participate in the 2014 Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) to be held in China's southern Hainan Province from 8 to 11 April, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Friday.

The prime minister

will deliver a speech at the opening plenary of the BFA on 10 April, which will be inaugurated by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, the statement said.

Sharif will also make a keynote speech at a seminar on “Reviving the Silk Road”, which will be

attended by the leaders of China, Iran and Kazakhstan, the Foreign Ministry said.

Besides attending the forum, Sharif will hold a bilateral meeting with the Chinese premier, the statement said.

Xinhua



Cars pass on Yangpu Bridge in south China's Hainan Province, on 4 April, 2014. Yangpu Bridge, a cross-sea bridge with the longest span in Hainan, opened on Friday. —XINHUA

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Chinese tourists to grow by 10 to 15 pct this year in Catalonia

BARCELONA, (Spain), 5 April — The region of Catalonia, located in the north-east of Spain and whose capital is the well-known city of Barcelona, is expected to receive between 10 percent and 15 percent more Chinese visitors in 2014, the Director of the Catalan Tourism Agency Xavier Espasa told *Xinhua* on Friday.

Espasa explained that the Agency expected this increase in the number of Chinese visitors after this region received around 140,000 Chinese tourists in 2013.

“Around 2 million Chinese tourists visit Europe, of which Spain receives 10 percent, 200,000 more or less. Catalonia receives around 70 percent of the 200,000”, he explained.

The Catalan Tourism

Agency established a centre to promote tourism in Beijing in 2006 and thanks to that, the number of Chinese tourists who chose Catalonia as their destination has significantly increased.

The strategy consists of emphasizing especially the luxury sector and the MICE sector, which refers to meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions. There is also “an on-line course for Chinese intermediaries and agents so that they can know better our destination, Catalonia”, Espasa said.

The Director told *Xinhua* about the most promoted areas: “culture is promoted by the agency, but they are also focused on privilege tourism, Gaudi and Miro,” he named as examples.

Espasa said that “the Chinese market is important” and stressed the importance of events such as the Mobile World Congress (MWC) held in the city of Barcelona and the motor sport race Circuit de Catalunya, which is held near the city. “These events are important to the business world, as well as other events of the same kind,” he said.

Espasa took part on Friday in the opening of a Conference held in the International Tourism Show in Catalonia (SITC) that is being held from April 4 to 6 in the Mediterranean city.

The conference, organized by the Catalan Tourism Agency, is a platform for companies and centers of tourism to exchange ideas on source markets.

Xinhua

The Republic of The Union of Myanmar Ministry of Energy Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise Request for Expression of Interest

Title: Joint Venture Project of LPG Production, Storage, Distribution and Marketing for Liquefied Petroleum Gas Plant (Nyaung Don)

The Republic of The Union of Myanmar, Ministry of Energy, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise intends to implement joint venture between Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise and interested foreign investors who have the ability in terms of worldwide experiences in LPG Production, Storage, Distribution, Marketing and services, financial capacity, reliability for long term cooperation with respect to business expansion and enhancing the existing facilities/capacities for production, storage, distribution and marketing to operate the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Plant (Nyaung Don).

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours starting on 7.4.2014. No telephone enquiries shall be allowed.

Planning Department

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Fax: 067 411124

E-mail: MPEHO@mptmail.net.mm, mpeict@gmail.com

Building No(44)

Nay Pyi Taw

Letter of Expression of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by e-mail, by fax, by mail) by 15.5.2014 during office hours.

Managing Director

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Building No(44)

Nay Pyi Taw

Fax: 067 411126

E-mail: MPEHO@mptmail.net.mm, mpeict@gmail.com

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Italy cuts five embassies on cost-cutting plan

ROME, 5 April — The Italian government on Friday approved to cut five embassies as part of a review of public spending.

Embassies in Santo Domingo in Dominican Republic, Tegucigalpa in Honduras and Nouakchott in Mauritania are placed on the scrapping list. The consulate in Reykjavik in Iceland will also close its door, according to a statement published on the government's website.

The government also agreed to merge Italy's representation at UNE-SKO in Paris with that to the OECD. The new name for Italy's mission in Paris will be “Italy's Representation to International Organizations,” the statement added.

The move was part of the government's review of public spending which has estimated 108-million-euro (147-million-US dollar) cuts over three years at the foreign ministry. Italian Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini said on Thursday that the salaries of Italian diplomats including ambassadors will also feature in the cost-cutting plan.—*Xinhua*



Staff members line up on a marine surveillance ship heading to Boao, south China's Hainan Province, on 4 April, 2014. A fleet of six marine surveillance ships will monitor maritime traffic safety, investigate maritime accidents, detect pollution, and carry out other missions during the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2014 in Hainan.—XINHUA

Abducted Iranian border guards released by Sunni rebels

TEHERAN, 5 April — Abducted Iranian border guards were released by Iran's Sunni rebels, local media reported on Friday.

The Pakistan-based Jaish Al-Adl group has released the Iranian border guards it abducted in Iran's southeastern border region in early February, a securi-

ty source told semi-official *Fars* news agency on Friday.

“These guards have been handed over to the Iranian officials in Pakistan by Jaish Al-Adl terrorist group a few hours ago,” *Fars* quoted the unnamed source as saying.

Earlier on Friday,

Jaish Al-Adl released the news of releasing four Iranian border guards on its website.

Also, Esmail Kowsari, member of the Iranian parliament's national security and foreign policy commission told the local *Tasnim News Agency* on Friday that four border guards

were released by the group.

“The kidnapped Iranian border guards have been handed over to the Islamic Republic of Iran's liaison in Pakistan, but they have not entered into the country yet,” Kowsari was quoted as saying.

In March, Jaish Al-Adl Sunni rebel group

from Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan province said they killed one of the five Iranian border guards that they claimed to have taken as hostages in February.

In October, Jaish Al-Adl also claimed responsibility for a deadly attack in a mountainous area near Saravan city

bordering Pakistan in Sistan and Baluchestan province, in which at least 14 border guards were killed.

Sistan and Baluchestan province, mostly populated by Sunni Muslims, has been the scene of bloody clashes between the Sunni rebels and the Iranian security forces.—*Xinhua*

US names Colombian pop singer indigenous ambassador



Colombian singer and composer Carlos Vives performs during the 55th International Song Festival in Vina del Mar city, about 121km (75 miles) northwest of Santiago, on 27 Feb, 2014.
REUTERS

MIAMI, 5 April—The US Agency for International Development (USAID) on Friday named Colombian pop singer Carlos Vives its first “inclusion Ambassador” in an effort to promote rights and economic opportunity for Colombia’s displaced indigenous communities.

The alliance is part of efforts by the US government’s anti-poverty agency to help Colombia transition away from its civil conflict which has uprooted about 5 million people, according to Colombian government figures.

The country’s 1.4 million Indians have been hit particularly hard by the violence, with more than a quarter of them forced to flee their lands in recent decades, according to the head of the government’s programme to protect indigenous people.

Grammy award-winning Vives and USAID have a nationwide tour slated for the summer. The singer will mentor indigenous music groups and appear in a series of events aimed at highlighting indigenous culture, USAID said in a statement.

“The diversity of

Colombia is part of our cultural richness that we need to recognize and value,” said Vives, one of Latin music’s most celebrated stars during the 1990s and 2000s with his traditional Vallenato-style songs.

USAID is Colombia’s largest bilateral aid donor, according to the agency’s website, with programmes ranging from truth and reconciliation projects among victims and ex-combatants to job placement programs for indigenous youth whose families have fled to Colombia’s cities.

“For Colombia to move towards prosperity and peace, the well-being and rights of all Colombians must be taken into account, especially Afro-Colombian and indigenous groups who have been historically marginalized,” USAID’s Associate Administrator Mark Feierstein said in a Press release. The United States has provided billions of dollars in anti-narcotics aid and training over the last decade or so to back Colombia’s armed forces in their offensive against Marxist FARC rebels and drug traffickers.

Reuters

Johnny Depp confirms engagement to actress Amber Heard

LOS ANGELES, 5 April—Actor Johnny Depp is engaged to marry actress Amber Heard, who he calls “a Southern belle and sweet as can be and very good for me” in an interview with NBC’s “Today” show to air on Friday.

The 50-year-old “Pirates of the Caribbean” actor confirmed the news days after he was spotted wearing a woman’s engagement ring on his left index hand, which set off speculation that he was to wed Heard.



Actor Johnny Depp gestures during a promotional event of his new movie “Transcendence”, on his first visit to China in Beijing, on 31 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Cyrus, Timberlake Finnish gigs under US sanctions’ cloud

HELSINKI, 5 April—Finnish concerts by American pop stars Miley Cyrus and Justin Timberlake have come under the cloud of US sanctions against Russia because of the venue’s Russian owners, the promoter said on Thursday.

Timberlake has a sold-out concert scheduled in May at the Hartwall Arena in Helsinki, which is owned by Gennady Timchenko, co-founder of Russia oil trader Gunvor, and brothers Boris and Arkady Rotenberg.

All three were included in a list of visa bans and asset freezes imposed by the United States against close allies of President Vladimir Putin last month following Russia’s annexation of the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine.

Cyrus is due to perform at the arena, Finland’s biggest entertainment venue, in June.

Helsinki concert promoter Live Nation Finland said its lawyers were discussing with US authorities whether the sanctions against the venue’s owners would bar planned shows by American artists.

“We are examining the possibility whether this could have an impact on American artists’ shows,” said Nina Castren, the chief executive of Live Nation Finland.

“If it does, then we will need to come up with a different solution. But I believe that the problem will be solved and the concerts will be held,” she said.

Timchenko and the Rotenbergs bought a stake in Helsinki ice-hockey team Jokerit along with the arena, which is the team’s home rink, last year.—Reuters

Singer Miley Cyrus attends the Clive Davis Pre-Grammy Gala and Salute to Industry Icons, honoring Universal Music Group Chairman and CEO Lucian Grainge, in Beverly Hills, California on 25 Jan, 2014.
REUTERS

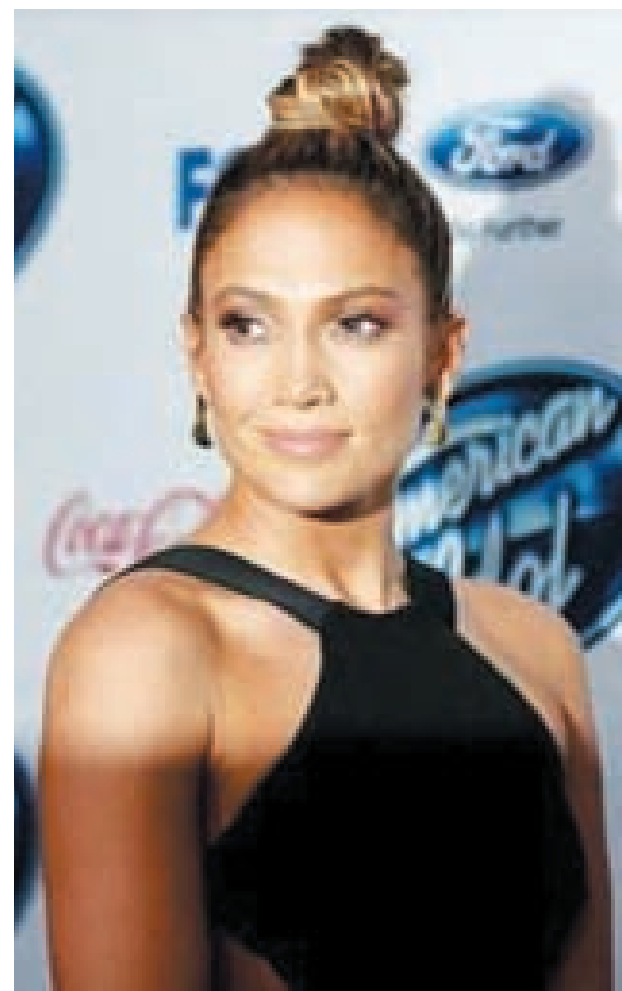
J.Lo-backed network to buy Madison Square Garden’s Fuse TV

LOS ANGELES, 5 April — Latino-focused cable network NUVOTV, backed by Jennifer Lopez, said its parent company SiTV Media Inc would buy Madison Square Garden Co’s Fuse TV. Madison Square Garden will receive \$226 million and a 15 percent stake of the combined company and will also gain a seat on the SiTV board.

“It enhances our distribution relationships, dramatically expands our aggregate subscriber base, provides substantial economies of scale, affords unique opportunities for programming and cross-promotion...,” NUVOTV Chief Executive Michael Schwimmer said in a statement.

Fuse, an American music television network, reaches about 74 million homes through pay-TV systems including DirecTV and Dish Network Corp.

As part of the acquisition, NUVOTV also plans to utilize Fuse’s street front studio on Seventh Avenue in Manhattan - across from Madison Square Garden.—Reuters



Singer and judge Jennifer Lopez poses at the party for the finalists of “American Idol XIII” in West Hollywood, California on 20 Feb, 2014.
REUTERS

Heard, a 27-year-old Texas native, co-starred with Depp in 2011’s “The Rum Diary.” The following year, Depp split from his long-time partner, the French actress Vanessa Paradis, with whom he has two children.

Depp, who is currently promoting his new sci-fi film “Transcendence,” also called Heard “a wonderful girl. She’s sharp as a tack,” according to a “Today” transcript released on Thursday.

Reuters

GENERAL

Condolences
Lt-Gen Tun Yi (Retd)
BC 5896
Age(88)

Our heartily condolences go to the family of Lt-Gen Tun Yi (Retd), Deputy Commander-in-Chief (Army) (Retd), Member of the State Council (Retd), Naingngan Gonyi (First Class), Independence Mawgun (Second Class), who passed away at Shwegondine Specialist Clinic in Yangon at 2.40 am on 4-4-2014.

Thiri Pyanchi U Aung Thaung, Minister (Retd) Family

Americans more worried about environmental pollution than global warming

WASHINGTON, 5 April — Americans are much more worried about pollution of water, soil and air than about the possible impact of climate change or global warming, a survey released Friday found.

A little more than a third Americans say they worry a great deal about climate change or global warming, putting these concerns at the bottom of a list of eight environmental issues, according to a 6-9 March Gallup poll.

Only 35 percent of Americans expressed concern about “climate change,” while 34 percent say they are worried about “global warming,” the poll found.

In contrast, 60 percent of Americans are very worried about “pollution of drinking water,” equally 53 percent about “contamination of soil and water by toxic waste” and “pollution of rivers, lakes and reservoirs,” and 46 percent about “air pollution.” Equally 41 percent of Americans worry a

great deal about “extinction of plant and animal species” and “the loss of tropical rain forests,” according to the survey.

While the percentages of Americans who worry about the environmental pollution, extinction of plant and animal species, and loss of tropical rain forests have increased by 6 percent or 7 percent from last year, those of Americans who worry about climate change and global warming virtually remained unchanged, the poll showed. “A major challenge facing scientists and organizations that view global warming as a major threat to humanity is that average citizens express so little concern about the issue,” Gallup said in a report.

Many climate change activists have attempted to raise awareness in recent years, but the survey showed they have failed to change Americans’ attitude about the issue in any lasting way.—Xinhua

Skydivers fail to break world record following fatal accident in Arizona



Skydivers form a missing man formation in Eloy, Arizona, on 3 April, 2014.—REUTERS

PHOENIX, 5 April—A team of 221 skydivers failed with their final attempt to break a world record in a daring jump above the southern Arizona desert on Friday, one day after a colleague died in a previous attempt, organizers said. Skydivers from 28 countries attempted the feat at about 19,500 feet in the air above the town of Eloy before deploying their parachutes, Gulcin Gilbert, spokeswoman for the World Team group organizing the attempt, said in an email.

The team was trying to break the world record for most skydivers changing from one kaleidoscope-like formation to another in a one jump. The record is currently held by 110 skydivers in Florida.

The attempt failed because two skydivers were out of formation, Gilbert said. “But the spirit right

now is still great,” Gilbert said. “Everyone gave their best. After all this record was extremely difficult.”

Friday marked the fourth and final planned day of attempts at the popular US skydiving facility about 65 miles south of Phoenix.

Judges from Swiss-based Federation Aeronautique Internationale were present to watch the attempt, Gilbert said.

Skydivers had dedicated the effort on Friday to a veteran German skydiver who was killed when her main parachute malfunctioned during a record-breaking attempt the day before.

Berlin’s Diana Paris, 46, was pronounced dead at the scene after her main parachute was released too low to allow her reserve parachute to open and she hit the ground, authorities said.—Reuters

Alex Ferguson to become a Harvard lecturer



Former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson poses with his new autobiography before a book signing at a supermarket in Manchester, northern England on 24 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

LONDON, 5 April — Former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson will be swapping the dug-out for the lectern after

agreeing a long-term teaching position at Harvard University.

The 72-year-old Scot, who ended his glitter-

ing reign at Old Trafford last year after 26 years in charge, will share his wisdom as an academic in a new programme en-

titled ‘The Business of Entertainment, Media and Sports’.

“I’m delighted to have the opportunity and privilege to contribute to such a respected centre of excellence,” Ferguson, who won 13 league titles during his time at Old Trafford, said.

“The time I have already spent at Harvard has been a stimulating experience and I look forward to developing my relationship and activities with the students, faculty and friends of the Harvard Business School (HBS) community.”

The position will start in May. Ferguson, who led United to the title in his final season in charge, has given lectures at the Ivy League university in the past and he will work alongside Business School professor Anita Elberse, who developed a case study in 2012 examining his management skills.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(6-4-2014, Sunday)

- 6:00 am**
 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
6:20 am
 2. Physical Exercise
6:30 am
 3. Musical Programme
7:00 am
 4. News/Weather Report
7:20 am
 5. MRTV’s Youth Programme
8:30 am
 6. Amazing World
9:00 am
 7. News
9:30 am
 8. Beautiful ASEAN
11:00 am
 9. Dance Of Thingyan Festival
12:00 pm
 10. News/International News/Weather Report
12:25 pm
 11. Round Up of The Week’s TV Local News
12:40 pm
 12. Myanmar Movies
2:30 pm
 13. Dance Of Thingyan Festival
4:00 pm
 14. News
4:25 pm
 15. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Second Year (Law)
5:00 pm
 16. News
5:15 pm
 17. Sing & Enjoy
6:00 pm
 18. News / Weather Report
6:20 pm
 19. MRTV’s Youth Programme
7:00 pm
 20. News
8:50 pm
 21. Hit Songs of Stars
9:00 pm
 22. News
 23. Tamyethnar Takwestetsar

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(6-4-14 07:00am~
 7-4-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * The Most Prominent Resort And Residence – Ngapali
- * World News
- * Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
- * Local News
- * Myanmar National Poet and Literary Icon “Min Thu Wun” (Part-I) (In Memory of him and his childhood)
- * World News
- * [Doctor][Painter]
- * Local News
- * Snow Flakes...Scenic Confluence...To Kachin State
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Russian PM attributes economic slowdown to global factors, Crimea

Moscow, 5 April —The Russian economy is stalling due to a range of global and domestic factors, including events over Crimea, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said on Friday. “Everyone has lately come to a conclusion that traditional factors of the economic growth are practically exhausted,” Medvedev told the government’s Experts Council in the Volga city of Ulyanovsk.

Among the factors clogging Russia’s economy growth, Medvedev mentioned the situation of global markets as well as Crimea, which Russia absorbed in March. The prime minister offered to look for ways to speed up the economy through

cutting bureaucratic red tapes and changing rigid mentality of the younger Russians who see business as an undesirable career path.

“This is a dangerous trend that many young people dream of a career of being state officials. This is not a good sign. The priorities must be different,” Medvedev said, urging experts to work out a program for popularization of private business as young people’s life objective.

He lamented that a “significant part” of Russians believe that making money is a “shameful deed” and admitted that the government failed so far to alter that attitude and improve business climate in the country.

Xinhua

Yadanarbon FC thrash GFA FC 5-0 to lead the table in MNL 2014

MANDALAY, 5 April—Two-times Myanmar National League champion Yadanarbon FC thrashed GFA FC 5-0 at week (10) of MNL 2014 at Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay on Saturday to lead the table after playing one more match than Nay Pyi Taw FC.

Yadanarbon FC' Columbian Striker Fonseca scored his second hat-trick of the season against GFA FC and he is top scorer of

Myanmar National League 2014 with 10 goals. Fonseca gave the lead for Yadanarbon FC at 8th minute and added second goal at 50th goals and gained third goal at 86th minute. Defender Yan Aung Win scored fourth and fifth goals for Yadanarbon FC at 14th and 61st minute.

GFA FC is bottom of the table with one point after week (10) of Myanmar National League 2014. Byline: Nyi Myat Thawda

GFA FC defender controls the ball attacked by Yadanarbon Columbian Striker Fonseca during MNL match at Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay on 5 April.

PHOTO: SOE NYUNT



Teenager Thompson, veteran Pak lead Wie by one

NEW YORK, 5 April—American teenager Lexi Thompson compiled a brilliant eight-under-par 64 to tie South Korean Pak Se Ri for the halfway lead at the \$2 million Kraft Nabisco Championship on Friday.

Thompson, unhappy with her putting on Thursday, found her touch on the greens to plunder eight birdies in her final 13 holes and join Pak at seven-under 137 in perfect morning conditions at Mission Hills in Rancho Mirage, California.

They lead the first LPGA major of the year by one stroke from American Michelle Wie, who missed a golden birdie chance at her final hole, and are two in front of American Cristie Kerr and first round leader Shanshan Feng, of China.

The three frontrunners all played in the calm morning conditions, while Kerr and Feng had to contend with an afternoon breeze.

Thompson became what was then the youngest ever LPGA winner at the age of 16 in 2011 and she added two more victories last year.

A major title is her next target. "Obviously this is one of my main goals, to win a major this year, especially the Kraft Nabisco would be a huge honour," Thompson told reporters.

"I struggled a bit yesterday on the greens, just struggled to get my putts to the hole, but I figured out some things after my round yesterday with my putting and some of my iron shots."

Thompson was only three when Pak won her first major championship in 1998. Now 36, Pak has won just about everything worth winning, except for this tournament.

Reuters



American teenager Lexi Thompson.

Czechs on top, Swiss level, Italy, Germany lead

Seppi before bad light saw their clash suspended with the Wimbledon champion leading by a set.

His team, however, were trailing 1-0 in the tie after Fabio Fognini beat James Ward earlier in the day.

France got off to an

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga proved incapable of beating lower ranked opponents in Nancy.

World number 50 Benneteau took the first four games off 96th ranked Tobias Kamke, against whom he had a 3-0 record, but failed to build on his fine start and lost 7-6(8), 6-3, 6-2.

Tsonga,



Lukas Rosol (facing camera) and Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic celebrate after winning their Davis Cup men's doubles quarter-final tennis match against Japan's Tatsuma Ito and Yasutaka Uchiyama in Tokyo on 5 April, 2014. This win ensures the Czech team advances to the Davis Cup semi-finals.—REUTERS

embarrassing start against Germany, who are without the injured Florian Mayer and Tommy Haas.

Arnaud Clement's team were 2-0 down at the end of the first day after Julien Benneteau and

ranked 12th in the world after a poor start to the season, then lost 5-7, 7-6(3), 3-6, 7-6(8), 8-6 to world number 119 Peter Gojowczyk.

France's hopes of staying in contention rest

on Michael Llodra and Gael Monfils, who are set to play in the doubles against Kamke and Andre Begemann on Saturday.

It was an easier day for the dominant Czechs, chasing a third straight title, as wily veteran Radek Stepanek and big-hitting Lukas Rosol won their singles rubbers to put them in control in Tokyo.

Former world number eight Stepanek came from a set down to beat Tatsuma Ito 6-7(5), 7-6(5), 6-1, 7-5 before Rosol survived a mid-match wobble to suppress 21-year-old Taro Daniel 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-2.

The 35-year-old Stepanek used his serve to good effect, hitting 18 aces, as he ground down the 146th-ranked Ito in three hours, 53 minutes.

Reuters