President U Thein Sein accepts golden rice award for promoting rice production

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—President U Thein Sein received golden rice award from the International Rice Research Institute Wednesday at a ceremony coinciding with the launch of Myanmar’s strategic plan on the development of rice production.

The dual ceremony was held at Agriculture Research Department in Nay Pyi Taw, and was attended by Vice President U Nyan Tun, union ministers, deputy ministers, officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, UN agencies, international agencies, NGOs, Director General Dr Robert Stewart Zeigler of IRRI and guests.

At the first session of the ceremony, Dr Zeigler conferred the award to President U Thein Sein for his guidelines on promotion of rice cultivation.

The president then made opening remarks for the second session, saying the sufficiency of food and nutrition is a global concern, as half of the world’s 7.7 billion people, including 90 percent of the Asia-Pacific region’s population, consume rice as a staple. IRRI has been cooperating with Myanmar in promoting the country’s rice production sector since 1960.

Low pressure persists over Bay of Bengal

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 20 May—A low-pressure zone is persisting over the East Central Bay and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology said Wednesday.

Strong monsoon conditions are present in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay, while the weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

The government weather bureau forecast for Wednesday predicts rain or thundershowers to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State and scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway regions, as well as Shan and Chin states.

Rain or thundershowers are predicted to be fairly widespread in Mandalay Region, as well as Rakhine and Kayah states, and widespread in the remaining regions and states.

YANGON, 20 May—The founders of Yangon’s first taxi call service presented their business plan Wednesday to more than 15,000 people including cab drivers and owners at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry building in Yangon.

The Taxi Call Centre expects to launch soon with a fleet of 1,500 call cabs in the commercial capital.

The founders—an entrepreneur, a famous private teacher and well-known movie star Wai Lu Kyaw—invited taxi operators and drivers to join the service and said business partnership with the centre presented numerous benefits.

“Yangon is believed to have more than 50,000 taxis on the road in 30 townships. —GNLM

Operators of Yangon’s first taxi call service aim to launch service soon

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 20 May—The founders of Yangon’s first taxi call service presented their business plan Wednesday to more than 15,000 people including cab drivers and owners at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry building in Yangon.

The centre will run its call taxi service with hire cars, offering K300,000 per month, and recruit drivers with at least three-years’ experience, paying a monthly salary of K180,000-350,000.

The centre’s operators said taxi drivers currently earn much less than K10,000 a day, excluding fuel cost and rent paid to the owners, while driver-cum-owners earns less than K20,000 a day, excluding fuel cost, inviting them to sign up with the centre.

Yangon is believed to have more than 50,000 taxis on the road in 30 townships. —GNLM

Sustainable strategy vital to ecotourism development

JCGV cinemas commissioned in Mandalay

Public Expenditure Management Network in Asia kicks off

Vice President urges Rakhine State authorities to stop human trafficking, transnational crimes

Rain or thundershowers are expected Thursday over Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay, and one or two rain or thundershowers are expected over Yangon and neighboring areas, with 80 percent degree of certainty.
Coal fired power plant projects to go ahead

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May — Coal fired power plant projects will not be cancelled as electricity consumption in Myanmar is increasing by 13 to 15 percent annually, said Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo to Pyithu Hluttaw session on Wednesday.

MP Daw Tin Tin Yi from Kyunsu constituency asked the government’s plan whether the coal fired projects would be cancelled amidst the protest of local people.

Myanmar has 43 power stations with installation capacity of 4,987 MW generated 69 percent from hydropower, 29 percent from natural gas and 2 percent from coal, while only 30 percent of households across the country get electricity.

The deputy minister said Myanmar needs to construct more power plants to be able to generate 23,594 MW in 2030-2031 to distribute electricity the whole country.

Regarding query of Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Aung Sein about electricity distribution to Myanmar township from national grid, U Aung Than Oo said preliminary surveys are being carried out to construct a 33-KV power station by using bio-fuel and wind powers alternatively.

He added that the project will be implemented depending on budget allocation and low-interest from local or foreign loans.

Myanmar township is about five nautical miles from nearest Yanbye Township.

Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Htin Aung replied to the query of Kanpetlet constituency MP Thura U Aung Ko whether Myanmar seafarers could join shipping companies in Taipei (China).

U Htin Aung said Myanmar sailors associations can also practice similar trend like the Myanmar Seafarers Federation.

Myanmar educationalist brings honorary doctorate home

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May — Myanmar education expert U Than Oo arrived back home on Wednesday after receiving the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters conferred at the 52nd Convocation of University of Hawaii in the Doctorate of Humane Letters receiving the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

For his lifetime commitment to education reform processes of Myanmar, the veteran educationalist was conferred the award at the 104th Annual Commencement Exercise held on May 16. He is currently an advisor at the Ministry of Education and President of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science.

U Than Oo, 88, was welcomed by the members of the Myanmar Literacy Supporting Centre and the Pyin-nyar-Tazaung Special Publication at the Yangon International Airport.

U Than Oo received a master degree of education at the 52nd Convocation of the university.

ABU Radio Song Festival 2015 on 29 May

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May — Myanmar Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information and Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) will jointly arrange the ABU Radio Song Festival 2015 at the National Theatre, here, from 6 pm to 9 pm on 29 May.

Vocalists from Asia and Pacific region countries as well as those of Myanmar will present songs and dances to the audiences. Enthusiasts may enjoy entertainment of the festival free of charge.

For further information, may call MRTV on 09-5188504, 09-448542595 and 067-79374, fax:067 79205 and email: radiooffice2014@gmail.com.—MNA

Correction

Please read Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills opens instead of Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills concludes in the headline of the news on page 2 in this daily issued on 19-5-2015.

GNLM

Information for Public Remonstration

1. 88 New Generation Democracy Party headquartered at No. 133 on Ngantay Road in Mawlamyine in Mon State has submitted its application for the registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission on 20 May, 2015 in accord with Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law, along with the following party’s name, flag and seal.

2. It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party’s name, flag and emblem they may submit a complaint along with the strong evidences within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement in line with the Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.

Union Election Commission

Flag of 88 New Generation Democracy Party

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No.12/2015
3rd Waxing Day of Nayon, 1377 ME
(20 May, 2015)

Guiding Star Party allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced Wednesday that Guiding Star Party headquartered at No. 1536, 6th Street, Alinyaung Ward 1, Bago, Bago Region, has been allowed to register as a political party as of 20 May in line with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The party’s registration number is 83.

By order, (Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No.13/2015
3rd Waxing Day of Nayon, 1377 ME
(20 May, 2015)

Red Shan (Tailai) and Northern Shan Ethnic Solidarity Party allowed to register as political party

The Union Election Commission announced Wednesday that Red Shan (Tailai) and Northern Shan Ethnic Solidarity Party headquartered at No. Dha-1/70-B, Gangaw Street between 40th and 41st streets and 67th and 68th streets, Mahamyang Ward 1, Mahaungmye Township, Mandalay Region, has been allowed to register as a political party as of 20 May in line with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The party’s registration number is 84.

By order, (Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw
Vice President urges Rakhine State authorities to stop human trafficking, transnational crimes

Nav Pyi Taw, 20 May—Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, the chairman of the central committee for development and stability of Rakhine State, urged local authorities to do their utmost to prevent human trafficking and transnational crimes in the state, where economic development is gaining momentum. The vice president held talks with the members of the committee Wednesday in Sittway, Rakhine State, over the socio-economic development of the state. During the meeting, U Maung Maung Ohn, Chief Minister of Rakhine State, discussed providing job opportunities and shelter to people in relief camps. The commander of Danyawady Naval Region Command Headquarters discussed efforts to stop human trafficking in Myanmar’s sea territories and along the Rakhine coast.

The Head of Rakhine State Police Force clarified efforts to enforce the rule of law in the state and prevent transnational crimes and drug trafficking at the border areas.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham expressed delight at the improvement of the situation in Rakhine State, which has gained momentum for peace, stability and development. He also stressed the need to promote cooperation between the regional government and international non-governmental organizations to be able to boost development of the region. During his tour, Dr Sai Mauk Kham also met with local people at Thakepyin relief camp and Thaehuang relief camp and view round urban development tasks.—MNA

Public Expenditure Management Network in Asia kicks off

Nav Pyi Taw, 20 May—The Public Expenditure Management Network in Asia was established with Budget Communities of Practice-T.Cop and Treasury Communities of Practice-T.Cop to share experiences among member countries, Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein told the annual plenary meeting of the network at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II, here, on Wednesday.

Country Director Mr Ulrich Zachau of World Bank made a speech while Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance U Maung Maung Win discussed reform process in public financial management in Myanmar. Delegates of member countries discussed reform process in public financial management, relationship between projects and budgets, drafting medium-term financial frameworks, drawing of budget, monetary management and treasury affairs.

The meeting will run till 22 May. According to the request of World Bank and PEMNA, Myanmar hosted the plenary meeting of the network.

MNA

JCGV cinemas commissioned in Mandalay

Mandalay, 20 May—Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut, Mandalay Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu, Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization U Lu Min, CEO of JCGV Mr Kim Min Kyu and JCGV Present of Board Daw Sanda Tun formally opened three cinemas of JCGV in the third floor of Mingala Mandalay Ocean Super Centre in Mandalay on Wednesday.

CEO of JCGV Mr Kim Min Kyu and Chairman of MMPA U Lu Min spoke on the occasion.

The union minister and guests enjoyed movies to be shown at No 1 cinema.

Cinemas of JCGV are the first of its kinds in Mandalay and ninth in the nation. No 1 cinema can give 169 seats to the guests. No 2 cinema 157 and No 3 cinema 117. Ticket for entrance fee are ranged from K1,000 to K6,500.

The cinema show four movies a day and five movies on Friday and Saturday.

The cinemas were built last two years along with the Mingala Mandalay housing project. At present, the housing project gains momentum for development with apartments, shops and shopping mall.

Tin Maung and Aung Thura
**Outstanding trainees in Buddhist cultural course honoured in Myanmar**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 20 May** — A ceremony to present prizes to winners in the first Buddhist cultural course was held at Parahtita Myoshwe Monastery in Ward 4, Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, on 18 May.

Altogether 92 trainees sat the examination organized by Myanmar Township Lineage and Buddhism Preservation Committee and Myanmar Wunthani Rekkhita Association.

Officials presented K100,000 to the first prize winner, K70,000 to the second, K50,000 to the third, K30,000 to the fourth, K20,000 to the fifth and K10,000 each to 87 trainees.

The ceremony was also attended by the chairman of the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee and member Sayadaws.

**MWEA holds annual general meeting**

**Yangon, 20 May** — The Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs’ Association held its 20th annual general meeting at Novotol Yangon Max Hotel on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township on 17 May.

Founder of the association, retired professor Dr Daw Yee Yee Myint, spoke on the occasion while chairperson Daw Hla Wady extended greetings.

General Secretary Daw Hnin Wai read out the report of executive committee for 2014-15 fiscal year and financial consultant Daw Khin Hay Yu explained the financial report. The chairperson presented certificates of honour to those who contributed to founding the association.

**IPRD officials donate book for village libraries**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 20 May** — Deputy Director Daw Thin Thin Zin and officials of the District and Township Information and Public Relations Departments, as well as personnel from the Township Immigration and National Registration Department, donated books and publications to libraries in Aungthiri and Thabyesan villages in Pobbathiri Township on 19 May.

In Thabyesan Village-tract, Deputy Director Daw Thin Thin Zin gave talks on the benefits of reading and longevity of libraries.

Head of Township IPRD Daw Theint Theint Myo spoke about disadvantages of narcotic drugs.

**Farmers and agricultural staff take course in climate-friendly agriculture**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 20 May** — Thirty-two trainees are undertaking a climate-friendly agriculture (CFA) course at the hall of Tatkon Township Agriculture Department from 18 to 22 May.

Deputy Director U Htin Aung Shein and officials of Department of Agriculture (Head Office) give lectures to the trainees.

The training course aims to teach farmers skills in the production of organic vegetables and fruit.

**Correction**

Please read “Dr. Michael McGarry of Canada” instead of “A Canadian government representative” in the second line of the first paragraph in first column of the news and please read “Canadian citizen prepares to assist Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association” in the headline and “Dr. Michael McGarry is inspecting clinics, delivery rooms and pre-primary schools of the MMCWA to provide assistance for the facilities” in last paragraph of the news on page 4 of this daily issued on 16-5-2015.

**Teaches attend scout instructor course in Taninthayi Region**

**Dawei, 20 May** — A scout instructor course of Taninthayi Region was conducted at No 3 Basic Education High School in Dawei.

On 19 May, Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region U Myat Ko gave instructions to the trainees.

Veteran scouts presented gifts to the chief minister.

The girl guides section No 4 of Dawei BEHS No 3 handed over its third prize in the PymOoLwin scout gathering 2015 to the chief minister.

The chief minister presented certificates of honour to the joint secretary of the Myanmar Scout Committee and members who gave training to the youths.

Altogether 60 trainees including school heads and teachers of BEHSs in Taninthayi Region attended the scout instructor course from 16 to 20 May.
The ninth session of the 13th tenure of Vietnam’s National Assembly is opened in Hanoi on 20 May, 2015. The session, to last till 26 June, is expected to review and adopt 11 law bills and have the first reading for other 15 bills. —Xinhua

HANOI, 20 May — The ninth session of the 13th tenure of Vietnam’s National Assembly (NA) convened in capital Hanoi on Wednesday, with a focus on law building and decision for key socio-economic issues.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Nguyen Sinh Hung, NA chairman said the ninth session is taking place amid complicated world political and harsh global economic situation while Vietnam is facing new opportunities and challenges.

The session is of great importance for Vietnam to review the country’s current situation in socio-economics, defence, security, foreign affairs, and justice among others, said Hung.

At the session, Vietnam will also determine what to do immediately to fulfill socio-economic targets in 2015 set by the NA.

During the ongoing session, the NA will review and pass 11 law bills as well as give comments on other law bills, said Hung.

In addition, the NA will review the government’s reports on supplement evaluation to result of the implementation of the 2014 socio-economic development plan and state budget as well as the implementation of those in the first months of 2015, according to the NA chairman.

Another content that will be reviewed and decided during the session is the policy to invest in Vietnam’s southern Long Thanh International Airport.

This is an important project to Vietnam’s southern economic region as well as to the whole country, with impacts on various sectors and areas, as well as draws great attention of local voters, said Hung.

The NA chairman added that investment phases and effectiveness of the project should be well calculated to ensure feasibility and possibility of investment mobilization, and make sure the project is in line with Vietnam’s aviation development.

The ninth session of the 13th tenure of Vietnam’s NA is expected to last till 26 June. —Xinhua

Nine killed in dust storm in western India

NEW DELHI, 20 May — At least nine people were killed in a dust storm that hit the western Indian state of Rajasthan Tuesday evening, a senior police official said Wednesday.

“The dust storm lasted for one hour. While five people died in the state’s Bharatpur district, two persons died in Dholpur and two others in Bikaner. Some deaths happened due to wall collapse because of the storm and strong winds,” he said, on condition of anonymity.

Rajasthan’s Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje has announced a compensation of 400,000 rupees (8,000 US dollars) for the families of each of the victims. Dust storms are common in Rajasthan because of the desert there. —Xinhua

Sri Lanka denies int’l investigators to probe war allegations

COLOMBO, 20 May — Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on Wednesday said that he will not allow international investigators into the country to probe allegations over the war.

Speaking to newspaper editors, Sirisena said that a domestic system will be in place by June to investigate the allegations and local laws will be used to take action against anyone found guilty.

“We have had talks with the UN on the investigations. As a government we have told them we will not allow foreign investigators coming into Sri Lanka. However we will take advice from the UN and conduct a domestic investigation,” the president said.

The UN Human Rights Council is expected to submit a report on Sri Lanka at its September sessions.

“We need to brief the Human Rights Council in September on the domestic mechanism. So the mechanism will be in place by June. We will ensure our sovereignty is protected in the human rights investigation,” Sirisena said.

Sri Lanka defeated the Tamil Tiger rebels after a 30 years war in May 2009 but was accused of committing grave human rights violations during the final stage of the battle.

The former Sri Lankan government had rejected most of the allegations on human rights abuses and also refused to allow international investigators into the country. —Xinhua

Two killed by Abu Sayyaf men in S Philippines

MANILA, 20 May — Two civilians were killed and another was wounded when they were fired upon by Abu Sayyaf terrorists off the waters of Maimbung town in Sulu Province of southern Philippines on Tuesday afternoon, a military commander reported on Wednesday.

Col Allan Arrojado, chief of the Joint Task Group Sulu, said the victims were aboard a motorized boat, cruising between the seawaters of Tiongabal island in Maimbung town and Tapul town, around 3 pm when they were fired upon by Abu Sayyaf men aboard another boat.

Arrojado said, the victims were attacked “without any apparent reason.”

Arrojado said the Abu Sayyaf men may be trying to avenge the death of their five comrades during the failed kidnaping of businesswoman Guan Kim Mau six days ago in Laminusa island.

The 400-strong Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), founded in the early 1990s by Islamic extremists, is a violent Muslim terrorist group operating in the southern Philippines. The ASG is notorious for a series of kidnappings, bombings and even beheadings in southern Philippines over the past decades. —Xinhua

Abe becomes 6th longest-serving prime minister in postwar Japan

TOKYO, 20 May — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe became the sixth longest-serving prime minister in postwar Japan on Wednesday, surpassing the tenure of his grandfather and former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi with 1,242 days in office.

“I have a long way to go. What is important is not the number of days in office but what I have achieved,” he told reporters at the prime minister’s office. “I will devote myself to tackling our policies.”

After first becoming prime minister in September 2006, Abe abruptly stepped down in September 2007 due to what he later described as an intestinal disease. The leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party began his second term in December 2012, and his tenure includes the 366 days he spent as prime minister during his first term.

The longest-serving prime minister in postwar Japan is Eisaku Sato, who logged 2,798 days in office. He is followed by Shigeru Yoshida at 2,616 days, Junichiro Koizumi at 1,980 days, and Junichiro Koizumi at 1,980 days.
With nuclear deal in sight, Iran drives harder bargain in Indian trade talks

NEW DELHI, 20 May — Iranian trade negotiators have made a stronger pitch to Indian counterparts as hopes rise of international sanctions on Teheran easing later this year, sources said, and Indian companies fear they may lose business as more countries bid for projects. The push back from the Iranians came as a surprise to India, which has enjoyed special dispensation from Teheran as one of only a handful of countries willing to do business with it while it faced Western economic sanctions.

Under a tentative framework agreement reached between six major powers and Teheran in April, Iran agreed to limit its nuclear activity in return for sanctions relief. A final deal could be reached by 30 June. That prospect appears to have emboldened Iran, said sources familiar with trade negotiations with India, including in its handling of a sizeable deal to import railway tracks.

The $233 million contract, signed last October, was for India’s State Trading Corp (STC) to facilitate exports of rail track, said sources linked to SAIL and Jindal Steel and Power Ltd to Iran’s railways. But Iran told Indian negotiators that it had offers from other countries, including Turkey, to supply the equipment at a cheaper cost, the sources said.

Last month, New Delhi sent trade secretary Rajeev Kher to persuade Teheran to adhere to the original terms, but he came back “empty handed”, according to one of the sources. “They are no longer the same Iranians that came to us last year for signing the deal,” the source said. “They were polite this time, but had an upper hand in the negotiations.”

India has cut the value of the deal by about 7 percent to $217 million, the sources said. They added that they worry the Iranians may seek further cuts, and could split the order with other countries.

STC chairman Ram-Him Khaele declined to comment. Kher, Iran Rail, SAIL and Jindal Steel did not respond to requests for comment. It was not immediately clear whether other countries that trade with Iran have seen a similar hardening in Teheran’s stance. Oil refinery sources in Japan said they had not seen any change yet.

Iran said it wanted to renegotiate the rail contract, because the euro had declined against the dollar and steel and iron ore prices had fallen significantly since the deal was first struck in 2014. Indian negotiators said price and currency risks were incorporated into the original agreement, but they had to give in, the sources said. It was a large order for the Indians and the spectre of competition from other suppliers loomed large, they added. “Earlier they were standing in line to offer us deals,” one source said.

Now, they ask the Indians to “wait in line and wait your turn.”

The supply contract is expected to kick off within six months, and, under the renewed terms, India will supply 250,000 tonnes of rails to Iran over 18 months through STC. The shift in Iran’s stance has also been visible in the vital energy sector. The National Iranian Oil Company has told Indian refiners, for example, that it would withdraw some of the discounts and free shipping it had been offering them on crude sales to maintain its output, oil industry sources said. The sources added that the state oil firm anticipated ramping up exports once the nuclear deal was finalised, after which there would be many more buyers for its crude.

In 2013, the then Iranian Oil Minister Rostam Qasemi visited India to offer development rights for a gas field on a production sharing basis. The Indian government gave in, the sources said. “Earlier they were standing in line to offer us deals,” one source said.

Now, they ask the Indians to “wait in line and wait your turn.”

Under the renewed terms, India will supply 250,000 tonnes of rails to Iran over 18 months through STC. The shift in Iran’s stance has also been visible in the vital energy sector. The National Iranian Oil Company has told Indian refiners, for example, that it would withdraw some of the discounts and free shipping it had been offering them on crude sales to maintain its output, oil industry sources said. The sources added that the state oil firm anticipated ramping up exports once the nuclear deal was finalised, after which there would be many more buyers for its crude.

In 2013, the then Iranian Oil Minister Rostam Qasemi visited India to offer development rights for a gas field on a production sharing basis. The Indian government gave in, the sources said. “Earlier they were standing in line to offer us deals,” one source said.

Now, they ask the Indians to “wait in line and wait your turn.”

Third nuclear plant in Japan clears major hurdle for resumption

TOYOYAMA, 20 May — An idled nuclear reactor owned by Shikoku Electric Power Co on Wednesday cleared a major hurdle toward resumption, giving another boost to the government’s plan to revive nuclear power following the 2011 Fukushima meltdown.

With the approval of the Nuclear Regulation Authority for its enhanced safety measures against earthquake and tsunami hazards as well as other severe accidents, the No. 3 unit of the three-reactor Ikata plant in western Japan has joined a total of four reactors at two other nuclear plants in obtaining safety approval based on tighter post-Fukushima regulations.

The decision will likely be finalized after soliciting technical comments from the public for a month. But the reactor is not expected to go back online before winter, as Shikoku Electric has yet to gain local approval and finish other necessary procedures.

The utility said it will aim to bring the reactor back online by the end of this year.

Shunichi Tanaka, chairman of the NRA, said the regulator had “heated exchanges of opinions” with Shikoku Electric over the plant’s safety before giving its approval.

Shikoku Electric applied for the safety screening of the Ikata No. 3 unit in Ehime Prefecture, which began commercial operation in 1994, as soon as the tighter regulations were introduced in July 2013.

At the regulator’s behest, the utility set tougher quake-resistance safety criteria for the plant’s facilities and enhanced safety measures, including the construction of a new quake-proof, emergency response facility.

Currently, all of Japan’s 43 commercial reactors are offline amid safety concerns raised by the Fukushima Daichi nuclear accident.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is seeking to reactivate reactors that have cleared the regulator’s safety screening, saying it is necessary to lower electricity bills and boost economic growth.

Nevertheless, the outlook remains uncertain due to a prolonged regulatory screening process and other hurdles.

Two reactors at Kansui Electric Power Co’s Sendai plant in Kagoshima Prefecture, which was the first last year to meet the new safety requirements, are seen as the closest to restarting. But the plant is not expected to go back online before late July as the utility still needs to finish pre-operational checks.

Safety clearances were also obtained in February for two reactors at Kansui Electric Power Co’s Taka hadnama plant in Fukui Prefecture, but a recent court decision that has banned their restart also clouds the government’s bid to revive atomic power.

In total, 24 reactors at 15 nuclear plants, including the Ikata unit, are currently undergoing the regulator’s safety screening process.

North Korea ‘modified’ submarine missile launch photos, says US official

SEOUL, 20 May — Photos showing a North Korean missile launched from a submarine were manipulated by state propagandists, and the isolated country may still be years away from developing the technology, a top US military official said on Tuesday.

North Korea, heavily sanctioned by the United States and United Nations for its missile and nuclear tests, said on 9 May it successfully conducted an underwater test-fire of a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) which, if true, would indicate progress in its pursuit of building missile-equipped submarines.

On Wednesday, the North warned Washington not to challenge its sovereign right to boost military deterrence and boasted of its ability to miniature nuclear warheads, a claim it has made before and which has been widely questioned by experts and never verified.

But Pyongyang is still “many years” from developing submarine-launched ballistic missiles, US Ad miral James Winnefeld told an audience at the Centre for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) in Washington on Tuesday.

“They have not gotten as far as their clever video editors and spinmeisters would have us believe,” said Winnefeld, who is vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Analysis seen by Reuters from German aeronautical engineers Markus Schiller and Robert Schmucker of Schmucker Technologie appeared to support Winnefeld’s statement.

The Munich-based pair said photos of the launch were “strongly modified”, including reflections of the missile exhaust flame in the water which did not line up with the missile itself.

North Korea, which regularly threatens to destroy the United States, had a track record of offering faked proof to claim significant advances in missile technology, Schiller and Schmucker said, such as poorly built mockups of missiles on display at military parades in 2012 and 2013. — Reuters

People stage a protest in front of a building housing the Nuclear Regulation Authority in Tokyo on 20 May, 2015, as a reactor at Shikoku Electric Power Co’s Ikata nuclear power plant in Shikoku, one of Japan’s main islands, cleared a major safety hurdle toward resumption. — Kyodo News
Washington, 20 May — The United States on Tuesday indicated its willingness to change pro-democracy programmes which it organizes in Cuba and which are considered by Havana, removing one of the biggest impediments to restoring diplomatic ties.

A senior State Department official, speaking to reporters before talks with Cuban representatives on Thursday, said the sides had narrowed differences over reopening embassies since an agreement was reached in December to renew diplomatic relations.

The official said another obstacle had been removed after Cuba found a US bank that would handle the accounts of a restored Cuban embassy in Washington. The official declined to name the bank.

M&T Bank Corp canceled its services with Cuba’s Interests Section in Washington in 2013 and Havana blamed the move on US sanctions.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the democracy programmes would change over time, and they will continue to change over time to reflect a reality, whether that reality is on the ground in Cuba or in the United States. “The programs include courses in journalism and information technology at the US mission in Havana. The United States sees them as normal diplomatic functions, but Cuban President Raul Castro said last week that they were “illegitimate” for government opponents.

The official said the programmes have already been adapted but the United States would not halt them because they were the most direct way of supporting ordinary Cubans.

The talks in Washington on Thursday are the fourth round since US President Barack Obama and Castro agreed on 17 December to restore diplomatic relations, which were severed in 1961 during the Cold War. They will focus on upgrading the “interests sections” in Washington and Havana to embassies.

Washington also wants an end to restrictions on the movement of its diplomats in Havana and the removal of Cuban security police around its premises.

Cuba signaled on Monday that it was ready to move ahead, saying it did not see any obstacles.

In the US Congress lawmakers who oppose and support close ties with Havana introduced legislation.

Two Republican senators who oppose normalizing ties, Marco Rubio of Florida and Louisiana’s David Vitter, introduced a bill that would make ending restrictions on travel and trade conditional on Cuba resolving billions of dollars in claims over property seized during the island’s communist revolution.

Another group of senators introduced a bill that would open the way for US telecommunications and Internet companies to provide services and devices in Cuba.

Clinton and her husband, President Barack Obama, have urged Congress to pass legislation.

A senior State Department official, speaking to reporters before talks with Cuban representatives on Thursday, said Clinton had passed on to Blumenthal’s wife on Tuesday.

The subpoena, a copy of which was made available to Reuters, demands that Blumenthal appear before the House committee on 3 June to give a deposition. The subpoena is dated on Monday but carries a notation indicating an unnamed deputy US marshal served it on Blumenthal’s wife on Tuesday.

The copy of the subpoena contains no further details about the subject matter of the deposition.

“I can confirm Mr Blumenthal has been called for a deposition by the committee,” Jamil Ware, a spokesman for Republican Representative Trey Gowdy, the Benghazi committee chairman, said in response to a Reuters query.

More than two years ago, a set of emails sent by Blumenthal to Hillary Clinton while she served as secretary of state were posted on the Internet by a hacker who called himself Guccifer. Blumenthal did not work for Clinton when she was secretary of state and sent those emails as a private individual.

The emails included detailed private intelligence reports on events in Libya sent to Blumenthal by Tyler Drumheller, a former senior CIA officer.

Some of the emails were sent around the time of the Benghazi attacks on and discussed information Drumheller’s sources gave him about the attack.

On Tuesday, The New York Times published a handful of emails showing that Clinton had passed on some of the private intelligence reports to aides and other State Department personnel.

The messages show that at least one of the private intelligence reports made its way to a recipient who appears to have been Christopher Stevens, the US ambassador to Libya who was killed by militants during the 11 September, 2012, Benghazi attacks.

The emails, part of a batch of around 300 messages related to Libya that the State Department turned over to Gowdy’s committee earlier this year, show Clinton herself tersely expressing interest in some of the private intelligence reports and scepticism about others.

In one email to an aide, Clinton, referring to one of the reports supplied by Blumenthal, wrote: “This strains credibility. What do you think?”

People familiar with the set of Clinton emails turned over by the State Department to Gowdy’s committee said that the emails leaked to The New York Times were not a complete set of messages related to what Blumenthal sent Clinton.

Blumenthal is a former journalist who served in the Clinton White House as one of the most loyal defenders of both Hillary Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

The congressional investigation into Bill Clinton’s relationship with the White House intern Monica Lewinsky, Blumenthal was accused by a longtime friend, the late British writer Christopher Hitchens, of spreading defamatory information about Lewinsky. Blumenthal denied the allegation.
The Challenge of Change

Sonu Trivedi

Myanmar’s growing rapprochement with the West has significantly challenged China’s interest by changing the bilateral balance of power in the region. It has opened a window of opportunity for other countries to re-engage with Myanmar which is considered as one of the virgin markets in Asia. Accelerated by loosening of sanctions and establishment of quasi-foreign relations, investment in Myanmar is growing. In 2015, the European Union committed to the reform process in Myanmar and has agreed to a “Comprehensive Framework” work which outlines its support to political, social and economic development, fostering respect for human rights and association of the government in re-building its place in the international community.

Given the growing rapprochement of Myanmar with the West, in the light of the complex relationship of United States with China, such heightened economic engagement may affect the Myanmar-China bilateral relationship. China was the key player in Myanmar after the economic sanctions were imposed by the United States and the European Union since 1988, but easing of Western sanctions has increased competition and challenged the monopoly and dominance of Chinese presence. Obama’s foreign policy of ‘pivot’ to Asia-Pacific has been a cause of concern for the growing Chinese presence in the region. It has prompted Chinese anxiety and heightened regional worries, which are now faced with a tough dilemma to choose between the United States and China.

In this regard, Myanmar’s regular dialogue with US leadership and high level visits have raised alarm bells for China. Transition in Myanmar has also led to the opening up and its growing importance for the existing and new regional powers. The mounting Japanese assertiveness in Myanmar sends a warning signal for China’s growing influence in the country. Japan’s assistance in the country’s effort for democratization and building up of a future Myanmar has now deepened its partnership. Japan’s geo-political ambitions and competing economic opportunities is posing a strong challenge to the traditional regional powers in Myanmar. It has offered economic aid to support development of country’s infrastructure in the hope of improving the investment climate for business. The coming together of Japan and Thailand in Myanmar on the much-awaited multi-billion dollar Dawei megaproject and India’s invitation to Japan to invest in and build overland infrastructure in the Northeast is going to outplay China’s position in the region. Furthermore, Japanese entry into developing the Chennai port and an attempt to link it with Dawei port in Myanmar is an indication of Japan-India and Thailand coming together and forming an axis in a bid to confront China in Myanmar.

So far as India’s interest in Myanmar is concerned, it is stepping up its engagement in the light of Myanmar’s continuing reform process and its historical and cultural ties. India is regarded as a land of opportunities and a benign power, given the competitions that exist from the existing players and other potential stakeholders. For India, the coming together on ‘commerce, culture and connectivity’ by the Indian Prime Minister offers tremendous opportunities for boosting trade and strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries. He regards Myanmar as “a valued friend and priority area”. India is trying to leverage on ‘soft’ power diplomacy and fostering deeper economic relations. This is compared to Chinese loan which are more commercial in nature, India and Japan have kept their focus more on infrastructure development, capacity building and humanitarian assistance.

Thailand is another potential player in the region, given its impact on the traditional regional players. It has been engaged with Myanmar on the rail project from the Thai border to Mandalay. It is expected that this initiative would speed up financial integration, trade liberalization, facilitate investment climate and people to people connectivity. The new maritime Silk road aims at enhancing India’s maritime connectivity. India has been a matter of concern for regional powers because of its strategic implications. Due to growing Sino-Myanmar energy ties, China is investing heavily in developing ports in Myanmar, gaining greater access to the Indian Ocean. In the wake of sanctions which had far reaching implications on Western investments, China emerged as Myanmar’s biggest ally, investing in infrastructure, mining projects, hydropower dams and oil and gas pipelines to help feed southern China’s growing energy needs. However, it is China’s decision to send troops to Myanmar’s Sittwe port to provide security to Balu Banswara project that has been a matter of concern.

The coming together of China and Myanmar on the proposed ‘land corridor’ project and the recently approved $200 million credit facility for the development of a rail connection between Yangon and Mandalay indicates a major shift in Sino-Myanmar relations.

In terms of the future, the greatest challenge will be to overcome the obstacles to creating a comprehensive framework for wider economic and political cooperation and development. This is particularly important in view of the backdrop that China’s geopolitical ties with its South-East Asian neighbours have been with the backdrop that China’s geopolitical ties with its South-East Asian neighbours have been with the backdrop that China’s geopolitical ties with its South-East Asian neighbours have been with the backdrop that China’s geopolitical ties with its South-East Asian neighbours have been with the backdrop that China’s geopolitical ties with its South-East Asian neighbours have been weak. The push for a closer relationship with the United States and the EU will also be in line with the tightening of economic and political cooperation and development.
**Housing for low-income families under construction in Aungmyethazan Tsp**

Trainees receive caps and coats at Meiktila Nurses Training School

---

**Myanmar, Vietnamese businessmen focus on investment, trade and tourism sectors**

---

**Myanmar, Israel discuss economic cooperation**

---

**Modern technology for cement production introduced**

---

**Myanmar, Vietnamese businessmen focus on investment, trade and tourism sectors**

---

**Myanmar, Israel discuss economic cooperation**

---

**Modern technology for cement production introduced**

---

**Myanmar, Vietnamese businessmen focus on investment, trade and tourism sectors**

---

**Myanmar, Israel discuss economic cooperation**

---

**Modern technology for cement production introduced**
Saudi jets pound army bases, depots in Yemen capital

Cairo, 20 May — Warplanes from a Saudi-led coalition carried out the most sustained bombardment of Yemen’s capital Sanaa in nearly two months of air strikes on Tuesday night, residents of the city said, hitting army bases and weapons depots.

It was the first time air strikes continued from morning until after midnight since the campaign began on 26 March, residents said, and led to terrifying blasts across the city.

Yemen’s exiled government in Riyadh, backed by the coalition, said on Tuesday it would not agree to talks with rebels until they withdrew from cities and surrendered weapons, meaning peace talks to end the civil war seem unlikely soon.

Iraqi forces say thwart Islamic State attack east of Ramadi

Baghdad, 20 May — Iraqi forces said they fought off an overnight attack by Islamic State militants east of the city of Ramadi, which the insurgents overran at the weekend in the most significant setback for the government in a year.

The insurgents attacked government lines in Husaiba al-Sharqiya, about halfway between Ramadi and the Habbaniya military base, said police and pro-government forces.

“Daesh (Islamic State) attacked us around midnight after a wave of mortar shelling on our positions,” Amar al-Fahdawi a leader of the pro-government Sunni tribal force in the area, told Reuters.

“This time they came from another direction in an attempt to launch a surprise attack, but we were vigilant and, after around four hours of fighting, we aborted their offensive,” he added.

Islamic State militants are seeking to consolidate their gains in the vast desert province of Anbar, where only small pockets of territory remain under government control, strung out along the Euphrates river valley and the border with Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

The Habbaniya base is roughly midway between Ramadi and the town of Fallujah, which has been under Islamic State control for more than a year and is just 50 km (32 miles) from the Iraqi capital.

An explosion is seen at the Noqum Mountain after it was hit by an air strike in Yemen’s capital Sanaa on 19 May, 2015. — Reuters

An explosion is seen at the Noqum Mountain after it was hit by an air strike in Yemen’s capital Sanaa on 19 May, 2015. — Reuters

Egypt appoints Brotherhood critic as new justice minister

Cairo, 20 May — Egypt appointed judge Ahmed el-Zend, a fierce critic of the Muslim Brotherhood, as justice minister on Wednesday, the president’s office said in a statement, angering opposition politicians.

Zend, head of a group that represents judges across the country, has regularly condemned the now outlawed Brotherhood, the Islamist movement removed from power in mid-2013.

In a speech from last year posted on YouTube, he also condemned the 2011 uprising that ousted veteran autocrat Hosni Mubarak for letting the Brotherhood reach power a year later.

While the courts have been gradually absolving Mubarak-era officials, they have been handing down lengthy sentences to liberal and Islamist activists on charges ranging from protest to committing acts of violence. Some online commentators tweeted “No to Zend as justice minister” and shared videos of his past statements.

Former justice minister Mahfouz Saber resigned on Monday after he was branded snobbish for saying that the son of a garbage collector would be unworthy to serve as a judge. — Reuters

An explosion is seen at the Noqum Mountain after it was hit by an air strike in Yemen’s capital Sanaa on 19 May, 2015. — Reuters

Israel police say Arab driver shot dead after ramming attack

Jerusalem, 20 May — Israeli police shot dead a driver in a Palestinian neighbourhood of East Jerusalem on Wednesday after he rammed them with his car, injuring two of them, a police spokesman said.

Describing the driver as an “Arab terrorist”, the spokesman said two policewomen had been lightly hurt in the incident.

Palestinians want East Jerusalem, and other territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, for their future state. With US-backed peace talks stalled for more than a year, Jerusalem has seen a surge in violence.

Burundi president delays parliamentary elections by 1 week

Bujumbura, 20 May — Burundi’s President Pierre Nkurunziza has signed a decree delaying parliamentary and local council elections by one week to 2 June because of the political crisis gripping the east African state, his adviser said on Wednesday.

Willy Nyamitwe told Reuters Nkurunziza had made the decision after a recommendation by the election commission and following requests from opposition politicians and the international community for a postponement. — Reuters

Protesters show bullet casings during a protest against Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza and his bid for a third term in Bujumbura, Burundi on 19 May, 2015. — Reuters
Apple, Android app makers cool to Microsoft overtures

SAITTE, 20 May — Microsoft’s plan to make its new version of Windows a mobile hit by letting it accept tweaked Apple and Android apps has met an obstacle: Some of the software developers the company needs to woo just aren’t interested.

Windows phones accounted for just 3 percent of global smartphone sales last year, compared with about 81 percent of devices with Google’s Android system and 15 percent for Apple and its iOS system, according to research firm IDC. One reason is that Windows doesn’t run as cause so few people use a Windows phone, most developers remain focused on the more popular systems and don’t see a need to develop apps for Windows.

They also said they doubt how the new tools will be to use.

“Windows phone will have to gain a significant share of the market before this becomes something that saves us time and/or money,” said Sean Orelli, a director at app development firm Fuzz Productions in New York, which makes apps related to Citibank, the New York Post, and Conde Nast, among others.

For Microsoft, the world’s biggest software company, there’s a lot at stake this summer as it rolls out Windows 10, the first operating system designed to run on PCs, tablets and phones. If developers don’t embrace the new platform, it will seriously damage the prospects of the new operating system, which Microsoft hopes will power one billion devices in two or three years.

Interviews with more than a dozen developers found just one planning to move an app from Apple or Android to Microsoft (MSFT). That’s King.com, which ported its popular Candy Crush Saga game to iOS to Windows 10 “with very few code modifications” and will be installed automatically with upgrades to Windows 10, according to Microsoft. King.com confirmed the move but declined to comment further.

Eight developers said they aren’t planning to develop for Windows 10 at all. Four who already have Windows apps said they would continue to do so.

Because Microsoft hasn’t actually unveiled its new set of tools to turn apps into a Windows format, developers did not rule out any move, and a Microsoft spokesman said that is still early” and many software companies want to explore the tools over the coming months.

For more and better apps might attract more people to buy a Windows phone or tablet, Microsoft reasons. Only six of the top 10 free apps on iPhone are available for Windows phone, and of those, two are made by Microsoft itself. In the longer term, Microsoft wants developers to create Windows apps. — Reuters

China to spend $182 billion to boost Internet by end of 2017

BEIJING, 20 May — China will spend more than $182 billion to boost Internet speeds by the end of 2017, a top government body said, as Beijing moves towards a more service-driven economy to boost growth.

The State Council said the government will invest more than 43 billion yuan ($69.3 billion) this year on network construction, with at least another 700 billion yuan ($112.8 billion) spent over the following two years. The outlay is expected to accelerate the development of fibre optic broadband and high speed 4G mobile networks, the governing body said on its website.

China ranked 83rd in the world for average Internet connection speed, slower than Malaysia, Thailand and Taipei, according to the cloud computing services provider Akamai’s State of the Internet report for the fourth quarter of 2014. Improving that standing is crucial for the world’s second largest economy, which is experiencing slowest growth in decades and is seeking to diversify away from low-tech manufacturing and development.

On Tuesday, China unveiled a vision for the next stage of its economic ascent, moving from low-tech manufacturing to advanced industry in areas such as space, e-commerce, green energy and bioengineering by 2025.

Premier Li Keqiang has already identified the Internet and technology as vital catalysts for the shift towards an economy centred around services.

China’s three state-owned wireless carriers are also on board. Last week, China Mobile Ltd, China Unicom (Hong Kong) Ltd, and China Telecom Corp Ltd said they would cut mobile data prices and boost data speeds this year, potentially spurring a mass migration of customers to more lucrative 4G contracts.

Eye-tracking tech makes virtual reality hands-free

LONDON, 20 May — An advanced virtual reality headset could be a game-changer for the entertainment industry and give users with certain disabilities new powers of communication and interaction, according to the developers. The FOVE headset uses eye-tracking technology to give the wearer an immersive and completely hands-free virtual reality, where all of their actions can be controlled by their eye movements.

Virtual reality technology has been touted as the next social and communications platform, with companies like Oculus VR one of the market leaders with their “Winds”. FOVE’s “virtual-reality-glasses” differs. But FOVE’s co-developer and chief technology officer Yuka Kojima says their unique technology offers an immersive experience like no other.

“Eye-tracking is gaining traction in VR. It allows for much more complex and subtle interaction than has been possible previously. By knowing exactly where the user is looking, characters in virtual reality can react to your gaze and return it naturally or respond on cue, asked?”

The Tokyo-based start-up was founded by Wilson alongside CEO Alex Elkins, and they clearly have the gaming industry’s in their sights, the makers of FOVE say their device could also bring virtual reality to cinema, allowing viewers to interact inside the headset with objects and characters.

Chinese researchers help paper plant realize zero waste discharge

NANJING, 20 May — Chinese researchers have achieved the breakthroughs necessary for zero waste paper plants, significant for environmental protection.

Xu Nanping of the Nanjing University nine months ago said on its website.

Microsoft said last month that it would provide tools to software developers to make it easier to design apps for Windows based on apps that run on Android or Apple. But because so few people use a Windows phone, most developers remain focused on the more popular systems and don’t see a need to develop apps for Windows.

It took Xu and his team lower. Currently, Oji Paper Co, Ltd each day 32,000-tonnes of waste paper plants, significant for environmental protection. Chinese researchers have achieved the breakthroughs necessary for zero waste paper plants, significant for environmental protection.

Xu Nanping of the Nanjing University nine months ago said on its website.

Microsoft said last month that it would provide tools to software developers to make it easier to design apps for Windows based on apps that run on Android or Apple. But because so few people use a Windows phone, most developers remain focused on the more popular systems and don’t see a need to develop apps for Windows.
Congratulations!

Our heartfelt congratulations to
U Aung Ko Win,
Patron of Myanmar-Japan Association, Chairman of Kanbawza Bank Limited,
on his achievements of
Special Honorary Presidential State Excellence Award (Highest Taxpayer First Prize)
for three consecutive years
for his generous contributions in person and through wealth to wide-ranging sectors including religion, education, health, social activities and sports.

We all make dearest wishes you could proceed unwavering supports in the interest of Myanmar more than ever before.

Chairman and members of Central Executive Committee
Myanmar-Japan Association

Indonesia sentences Japanese man, 73, to life for drug smuggling

JAKARTA, 20 May — A 73-year-old Japanese man caught last year trying to smuggle drugs into Indonesia was on Wednesday sentenced to life behind bars.

Reading out the verdict of the judicial panel of the Pariaman District Court, Presiding Judge Jon Effreddie said Masaru Kawada was found “clearly and convincingly guilty” of trafficking more than 1 kilogram of drugs. Prosecutors had demanded a 16-year prison term.

According to the judges, witness testimony and evidence proved that Kawada committed the crime.

Upon hearing the verdict, Kawada’s lawyers said he will appeal to a higher court. The prosecutors indicted Kawada, who comes from Aichi Prefecture, of trying to smuggle 2.35 kg of methamphetamine into the country.

Kawada was arrested at Minangkabau International Airport in the West Sumatra provincial capital of Padang on 22 November after customs officials found the drugs in his luggage. Kawada has steadfastly maintained his innocence, saying he was duped into carrying the drugs.

In court, he said a Chinese woman he met in Macao asked him to deliver the bag in which the drugs were later found to a friend in Padang, and that he only realized he was carrying methamphetamine after customs officials in Padang arrested him.

Kyodo News
Press Release

AYA Bank (Head Office), 14th May 2015: AYA Bank and Myanmar Post and Telecommunication (MPT) take a first step to initiate the Telebanking system on May 14, 2015. AYA Bank and MPT signed a Memorandum of Understanding which allows consumers to Top-Up by way of AYA Bank’s mBanking platform with convenience. This service is available to all, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. AYA Bank’s mBanking application offers an enhanced banking experience, enabling rural consumers to easily Top Up via AYA mBanking application service.

AYA Bank has pioneered, as one of the first of many to offer Top-Up service with the aim to largely facilitate rural customer’s needs. In strategic view, this service will support the union government plan to improve the socio-economic life of the rural people and alleviating poverty program by creating more opportunities in rural areas. What more is that, AYA bank’s mBanking service will, in part, help create a convenience for consumers.

AYA Bank, one of the leading private banks in Myanmar, has 111 branches and 222 ATMs, providing and serving with an aim to develop communities we serve across the nation. AYA Bank is the first bank to optimize the centralized core banking system in Myanmar. Along with it, the bank has innovative products and by using centralized core banking system which enables AYA Bank to continue offering outstanding services.

Jointly with VISA, AYA Bank has introduced Visa Prepaid Card, World Travel VISA Card to Myanmar consumers. By deploying new technology, AYA Bank introduced mBanking product in January of 2015.

As “Your Trusted Partner” AYA bank welcomes new customers and appreciates existing customer, encourage to use AYA Bank’s services supported by updated technologies. AYA Bank reassures that the services are safe, trust and easy to use every time, everywhere!!

Ministry of Energy
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise
Invitation for Opened Tender (4/2015)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United State Dollars (CIF Yangon) and Myanmar Kyats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Remark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>MPPE/MCY/CAP/T1</td>
<td>120 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal</td>
<td>3 Sets</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pump (Engine Driven)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>MPPE/MCY/CAP/T2</td>
<td>400 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal</td>
<td>4 Sets</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pump (Motor Driven)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>MPPE/MCY/T1</td>
<td>Oil Suction &amp; Discharge Rubber</td>
<td>8 Items</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Flexible Hose</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4)</td>
<td>MPPE/MCY/T2</td>
<td>Gate Valve</td>
<td>4 Items</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>MPPE/AV/LUB/T1</td>
<td>Aviation Lubricating oil and Grease</td>
<td>9 Items</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Aviation Gasoline 100LL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6)</td>
<td>MPPE/AV/T1</td>
<td>Stainless Steel Dipping g Tape</td>
<td>2 Items</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tyre with Tube &amp; Flap</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7)</td>
<td>MPPE/L/P/MCY/T2</td>
<td>Battery</td>
<td>2 Items</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8)</td>
<td>MPPE/L/P/TTS/T1</td>
<td>Shell Water Detector Capsules</td>
<td>400 Boxes</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9)</td>
<td>MPPE/L/P/MCY/T1</td>
<td>Rain or thundershow-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Battery</td>
<td>2 Items</td>
<td>Kyats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further detail please contact: Phone : 067-411487.

Planning Department
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERIONE: According to the observation at (15:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over East Central Bay and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 21st May, 2015: Rain or thundershow-ers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kayin State, scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, Shan and Chin States, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region, Rakhine and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Yangon, Ayearyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of advancement of Southwest monsoon into the Deltaic areas.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that JUPITER FOODS PTE. LTD., No. 391-B, Orchard Road, Ngee Ann City, Tower B # 18-08, Singapore 238874, is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following trademarks:

- REAL GOOD
  - Classification of Goods and Services for “ Meat, fish, poultry and game; Used in respect of goods classified under Class 29 of the International Classification of Goods and Services for” Meat, fish, poultry and game; meat extracts; eggs, milk and milk products; edible oils and fats, Foodstuff Products”.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever, will be dealt with according to law.

UYE NOOS (Advocate) 5341 UYE NOOS & ASSOCIATES (Law Firm)
For JUPITER FOODS PTE. LTD. (ye.noos1@gmail.com)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV THIGAYU VOY NO (03/15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THIGAYU VOY NO (03/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(1) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS K. MARINE CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSAOTONE VOY NO (171)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAOTONE VOY NO (171) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(4) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SILVER FERN VOY NO (0007S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SILVER FERN VOY NO (0007S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.5.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185
‘Sicario’ with Emily Blunt as FBI agent brings drug wars to Cannes

CANNES (France), 20 May — A film that Canadian director Denis Villeneuve says is meant to break “a cover of silence” about the brutality of the Mexican drug trade and the complicity of users in the violence that feeds their habits blasted its way into Cannes on Tuesday.

“Sicario”, which means hitman in Latin America, is an action-packed thriller in which agents cross territorial and legal boundaries. Emily Blunt plays FBI agent Kate who gets recruited into a high-risk CIA-led drug operation across the border.

Josh Brolin is Matt, the CIA team leader, whilst Benicio Del Toro, who played a conflicted cop in the 2000 narcotics-trade hit “Traffic”, co-stars as a Colombian who has a role with the CIA team that does not become clear until the end.

The film, in competition for the top Palme d’Or prize, is filmed by Roger Deakins who creates a hellish Juarez, Mexico, where cartels turn the town into a war zone. A tunnel search scene with night-vision effects is a particularly stupefying shot. Villeneuve said he had been drawn to the script, in which many of the characters, except Kate, seem to be lacking any kind of moral compass, because it brought out the moral ambiguities of the war on drugs and the violence of the narcotics trade.

“As a North American I know that I share a part of the responsibility for that, and that violence is — from what I understand — under a cover of silence and I think that violence is horrible but violence under silence is more horrible.” Villeneuve told a news conference.

Blunt said she had discovered after she took the role of Kate that there had been pressure to change her character to a man — a move that Villeneuve said he would not have accepted.

“I found this character quite damaged and vulnerable and she’s struggling with this world of being a female cop — and certainly with the morally questionable things she’s coming to experience with these guys,” Blunt said.

“...I didn’t think about adjusting it to make it more masculine,” she said.

Brolin, who played US President George W. Bush in Oliver Stone’s “W.”, said he’d originally turned down the part of Matt but was glad that friends had convinced him to change his mind.

He said the wisecracking, cynical Matt helps to lighten the tone, so the intensely dramatic moments have greater impact.

“My job in the movie is to be as anti-heroic as possible,” he said.

Los Angeles, 20 May — Actor Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson gave a shout-out to director Steven Spielberg on Tuesday as he imprinted his hands and feet into the concrete outside the historic TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood.

The wrestling champion-turned-actor called Spielberg on Tuesday as he imprinted his hands and footprints in cement at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood.

Johnson is set to star in the disaster movie “San Andreas,” in which he plays a search-and-rescue helicopter pilot who must save his daughter after an earthquake devastates the California coast. The film opens in US theatres on 29 May.

The conditions may be raw and the acoustics tricky, but the underground venue is like no other, the striving musicians said.

“It’s a direct link into people’s everyday lives,” said Sebastian Lopez, 27, an accordion player auditioning with his pan-Latin band Yotoco.

“It’s a way to share our music with people in a very casual environment and kind of surprise them as they’re going about their daily lives,” he said.

A panel of artists, transit officials and others judge the music for quality, variety and appropriateness, the MTA said. About 70 musicians or groups tried out and a third of them will get picked, it said.

Whilst musicians are allowed to play in the city subways if they follow MTA rules, these winners get choice spots and support from the MTA’s Music Under New York programme.

“I’m excited about the exposure that it would allow us to have, meeting new people and finding new places to perform,” said Judy Minkoff, 36, the leader of an all-female a cappella group called Stiletta.

New Yorkers get the benefit of good music, said Gregory Morgan, a 35-year-old drummer with the Sunnyside Social Club jazz band. Average weekday ridership on the subway system is 5.6 million, according to the MTA.

“The world needs more good food and good music. When you have those two, everyone’s happy,” Morgan said.

Draft Myanmar Companies Law

In order to modernize the Myanmar Companies Act 1914, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) is currently preparing the new Myanmar Companies Law with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Please be advised that the draft Myanmar Companies Law has now been published in both English and Myanmar languages on DICA’s website (www.dica.gov.mm) for review by interested parties.

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration

FOR UNITED OIL COMPANY PTE LTD.

KHIN MAUNG CHO & ASSOCIATES

TRADEMARK CAUTION

PT KARYAINDAH ALAM SEJAHTERA, a Company incorporated in INDONESIA,of WISMA GAWI 4th Floor, Taman Perkantoran Kuningan, Jl. Setabuadi Selatan Kav. 16-17, Jakarta Selatan 12920, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trade Marks:

Reg. No.4/303/2015

in respect of: Edible Oils (290032) in class 29. Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

KHIN MAUNG CHO & ASSOCIATES

FOR PT KARYAINDAH ALAM SEJAHTERA

E: info@kmciplawfirm.com
P.H: +95-95-9128853

Dated: May 21, 2015

Reg. No.4/2615/2015

TRADEMARK CAUTION

in respect of: “Additives, non-chemical, to motor fuels; lubricants and greases; lubricating greases; industrial oils; marine oils” in class 4. Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark will be dealt with according to law.

KHIN MAUNG CHO & ASSOCIATES

FOR UNITED OIL COMPANY PTE LTD.

E: info@kmciplawfirm.com
P.H: +95-95-9128853

Dated: May 21, 2015

PT KARYAINDAH ALAM SEJAHTERA, a Company incorporated in INDONESIA, of WISMA GAWI 4th Floor, Taman Perkantoran Kuningan, Jl. Setabuadi Selatan Kav. 16-17, Jakarta Selatan 12920, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trade Marks:

Reg. No.4/2615/2015

in respect of: Edible Oils (290032) in class 29. Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

KHIN MAUNG CHO & ASSOCIATES

FOR PT KARYAINDAH ALAM SEJAHTERA

E: info@kmciplawfirm.com
P.H: +95-95-9128853

Dated: May 21, 2015

PT KARYAINDAH ALAM SEJAHTERA, a Company incorporated in INDONESIA, of WISMA GAWI 4th Floor, Taman Perkantoran Kuningan, Jl. Setabuadi Selatan Kav. 16-17, Jakarta Selatan 12920, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trade Marks:

Reg. No.4/2615/2015

in respect of: Edible Oils (290032) in class 29. Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

KHIN MAUNG CHO & ASSOCIATES

FOR PT KARYAINDAH ALAM SEJAHTERA

E: info@kmciplawfirm.com
P.H: +95-95-9128853

Dated: May 21, 2015

Musicians, from opera to blues, seek to play New York subways

Musicians line-up in Grand Central Terminal’s Vanderbilt Hall to take part in the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) 28th annual auditions for Music Under New York in Midtown Manhattan on 19 May, 2015.—REUTERS

New York, 20 May — It may not be the lights of Broadway but subway stations aren’t a bad gig either, according to scores of musicians who auditioned on Tuesday to play in New York City’s bustling underground terminals.

The auditions, attracting players of classical music, cabaret, opera, blues, reggae and even cartoon tunes, are hosted by the city’s Metropolitan Transportation Authority to select performers allowed to play, or busk, in subway stations from Times Square to Yankee Stadium.

The conditions may be raw and the acoustics tricky, but the underground venue is like no other, the striving musicians said.

“It’s a direct link into people’s everyday lives,” said Sebastian Lopez, 27, an accordion player auditioning with his pan-Latin band Yotoco.

“It’s a way to share our music with people in a very casual environment and kind of surprise them as they’re going about their daily lives,” he said.

A panel of artists, transit officials and others judge the music for quality, variety and appropriateness, the MTA said. About 70 musicians or groups tried out and a third of them will get picked, it said.

Whilst musicians are allowed to play in the city subways if they follow MTA rules, these winners get choice spots and support from the MTA’s Music Under New York programme.

“I’m excited about the exposure that it would allow us to have, meeting new people and finding new places to perform,” said Judy Minkoff, 36, the leader of an all-female a cappella group called Stiletta.

New Yorkers get the benefit of good music, said Gregory Morgan, a 35-year-old drummer with the Sunnyside Social Club jazz band. Average weekday ridership on the subway system is 5.6 million, according to the MTA.

“The world needs more good food and good music. When you have those two, everyone’s happy,” Morgan said.

Reuters
Tokyo DisneySea to open new ride themed on “Finding Nemo” in 2017

Tokyo, 20 May —The operator of the Disney theme parks in Japan will open a new attraction featuring the Disney/Pixar “Finding Nemo” animated film series at the Tokyo DisneySea Park in spring 2017. According to Oriental Land Co, the indoor attraction in the Port Discovery area will enable visitors to explore the underwater world of the 2003 “Finding Nemo” film as well as the upcoming “Finding Dory” film to be released in 2016 “by using a ride system that seamlessly blends visuals from the films with a motion system.”

With the opening of the new attraction, which is expected to have a five-minute ride duration, StormRider will come permanently around mid-May 2016, Oriental Land said.—Kyodo News

Rio de Janeiro construction strike affects work at Olympic sites

RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 May —Heavy-construction workers in Rio de Janeiro, many involved in work for the 2016 Olympic Games, have begun a strike, the union representing the workers said, threatening to slow completion of projects that are already behind schedule.

About 70 percent of the 12,000 Rio de Janeiro-region members of the Intermunicipal Union of Heavy Construction Workers, known by their Portuguese-language acronym Sitrapec, put down their tools on Monday, the union said. They plan to strike until at least Friday, the date set for an arbitrator to decide on conflicting demands from workers and management.

The union wants an 8.5 percent pay raise plus a 40 real ($13.29) increase in a monthly food subsidy. Employers have offered a 7.3 percent increase.

If the strike is resolved Friday, work on stadiums and transportation infrastructure projects should not be seriously affected, Sitrapec president Nelson Duarte told Reuters late Monday. “If it is not resolved, then we will go on strike indefinitely, Duarte said.”

The workers’ demands come as Brazil’s economy slows but inflation remains high in April than a year earlier according to Brazil’s statistics agency IBGE.

Talks between union and management began in February, but construction and engineering companies rejected an initial demand for a 15 percent raise.

The Rio Maius consortium, which is responsible for work on 2016 Olympic projects, said the strike has not affected work on the Olympic Park, where major events such as track and field are scheduled. The Rio de Janeiro organizing committee declined to comment on the strike.

The companies say they are being pressured by the economic downturn and the fallout from a giant corruption scandal at Brazil’s state-led oil company, Petrobras, Duarte said.

Many of two dozen companies barred from working with Petrobras, formally known as Petroeleo Brasileiro SA, because of a price-fixing, bribery and political kickback scheme are also involved in work on Olympic- and Olympic-related projects.—Reuters

Out of Africa? Texans offer sanctuary to endangered rhinos

SAN ANTONIO, 20 May — In the Texas grassland, home to white-tailed deer and rattlesnakes, outdoorsman Charley Seale says a vast sanctuary of open spaces that could be used to protect the wild African rhino from its biggest enemy — poachers in search of the animals’ valuable horns.

Seale is part of an ambitious project organized by the American Welfare Association in the United States and African countries to bring hundreds of orphaned baby southern white rhinos to the South Texas grasslands, whose climate and geography are similar to their native South African veld.

That is if governments will let them and the Texans can afford a transportation bill that could run tens of millions of dollars, all paid for by private donations.

“This is not for the faint of heart or for the faint of checkbook,” said Seale, head of the Texas-based Exotic Wildlife Association’s Second Ark Foundation, pointing out no public money will be sought for the effort, which is still in its early stages. Rhino poaching hit a record in South Africa last year, home to almost all the rhinos in Africa, and 1,215 killed in 2014, according to South Africa’s Environment Ministry.

International crime syndicates are after rhino horns, which are used in traditional Asian medicine and sell at prices higher than gold to the newly affluent in places such as Vietnam, where a belief, with no scientific basis, exists that they can cure cancer.

In January, South Africa said it had moved about 100 rhinos to neighbouring states to combat poaching. In 2015, another 200 rhinos will be moved to what Environment Minister Edna Moolewa said are “strongholds” where the animals will be safer from poaching.

Some have ended up in Botswana, a country that allows the shipping of poachers on sight.

But what about Texas? If the plan goes forward — and there are many issues yet to be resolved — it would likely be the largest attempt outside of Africa to move rhinos out of harm’s way.—Reuters

California, international leaders sign climate change agreement

California Governor Jerry Brown (C) holds a signed agreement with Minister-President Winfried Kretschmann (L) of the German state of Baden-Wurttemberg, Mexican Baja California Governor Francisco Vega de Lamadrid (R) and nine other international states and provinces to limit the increase in global average temperature to below two degrees, in Sacramento, California on 19 May, 2015.—Reuters

California and leaders of 13 states and provinces signed an agreement on Tuesday to limit their output of heat-trapping greenhouse gases to 80 to 95 percent by 2050, a goal they hope will help prevent runaway climate change. The target, which is based on a 1990 benchmark, will allow the individual governments, which collectively represent more than $4.5 trillion in GDP and 100 million people, to tailor reduction plans to fit their regional needs.

Called “Under 2 MOU” for a Memorandum of Understanding designed to help keep global temperature increase below 2 degrees Celsius, the pact seeks to provide a template for countries to follow to cut emissions.

The temperature mark is the warming threshold at which governments say climate change could become catastrophic and irreversible.

Later this year at a United Nations climate change conference in Paris, negotiators will attempt to reach an international agreement for nations to cut emissions. “This global challenge requires bold action on the part of governments everywhere,” California Governor Jerry Brown said on Tuesday. “It’s time to be decisive. It’s time to act.” Signatories of the agreement were Acre, Brazil; Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany; Baja California, Mexico; Catalonia, Spain; Jalisco, Mexico; Ontario, Canada; British Columbia, Canada; Wales, and the US states of Oregon, Vermont and Washington.

Ontario Environment Minister Glen Murray described the agreement as one of the strongest of any under international negotiations and gives sub-national governments a common voice at the Paris conference.—Reuters
**Casillas turns 34 with Real future uncertain**

Real Madrid’s Iker Casillas

**London, 20 May**—Real Madrid goalkeeper and captain Iker Casillas turned 34 on Wednesday with uncertainty still clouding his future with the European champions and Real reportedly lining up David De Gea as his replacement.

Casillas has been blamed by some fans for Real’s woes this season, when they failed to win any of the three major trophies, while arch rivals Barcelona are on the verge of a treble of Champions League and Spanish league and Cup titles.

The Spain international has suggested he wants to see out his contract, which runs until the end of the 2016-17 season, but he has been visibly irritated by his treatment at the Bernabeu in recent weeks.

While some sections of fans clearly back him, others have roundly whispered him, up with coach Carlo Ancelotti and Wales winger Gareth Bale.

Madrid-based sports dailies Marca and As both reported on Wednesday that Real had let Casillas know the club wants him to stay on next season.