NEW laws will soon be enacted to restrict jade production within the Lonekhin and Hpakant mining blocks in Kachin State, said Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win at a session of the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

No more jade mining blocks will be allowed, and restrictions will be set on the current jade mining businesses operating in the regions, added the Union minister.

Although the Myanmar Gems Law has been enacted further rules and regulations will be drawn up by the ministry.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe told the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday that the recent removal of squatters in Yangon Region was carried out entirely within the law.

The operation was conducted under the direct supervision of the ministry concerned, Maj-Gen Aung Soe responded to a query raised at the parliament, stressing that the eviction of squatters did not require any court order.

U Htay Oo of Yangon constituency 2 enquired about the forceful removals of squatters without any court orders in Dagon Seikkan, Mingaladon and Hlegu townships last year.

When asked about the police presence at the sites, Maj-Gen Aung Soe explained that the deployment of police was just to prevent unnecessary conflict between the squatters and officers on duty.

"The police were present there only for security reason," he said.

According to statistics released by the Yangon Region government, there are 1,280 squats on land owned by the Department of Agriculture in Hlegu, 232 squats on the land designated as an area for state projects in Dagon Seikkan, and 478 squats on farmland in the Pyinmabin industrial zone in Mingaladon. —Thein Ko Lwin
Pyidaungsu, Pyithu Hluttaw Speakers meet Sri Lankan parliament speaker

SPEAKER of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amooytha Hluttaw Mahin Win Khang Than held talks with Mr Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, over friendship and legislation between the parliaments of the two countries.

Speaker Mahin Win Khang Than hosted a dinner in honour of the Sri Lanka parliamentary delegation at the Park Royal Hotel yesterday evening.

Mr Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka also called on U Win Myint, Speaker of the Pyithu Hlut- taw, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, U Win Myint clarified measures being taken for power sharing, national reconciliation, amending, revoking and making laws at the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Speaker U Win Myint also expressed his hope that the two countries, which possess similar culture and live in the same region, would find ways to promote bilateral cooperation and mutual trust.

Mr Karu Jayasuriya also spoke on the political reforms in Sri Lanka since 2015 and preparations for amending the country’s constitution.—Myanmar News Agency

Seven taken captive, five freed by KIA

SEVEN people were taken captive by members of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) from a village in Hpakant Township, Kachin State, on 29 April. The motive for the kidnappings has not been confirmed.

On hearing the news, government troops, together with a local people’s militia, faced 13 engagements with the KIA during the effort to clear their hideouts in the area from 1 to 10 May. The army seized various ammunition during the raids on the KIA’s training school and five hideouts.

KIA troops detonated mines in residential areas in the township and fired heavy artillery and grenades at army bases and police stations during the Tatmadaw operations. The attacks caused damage to the township, leaving one woman dead.

The KIA freed five people on 2 May, and two are still held in captivity.—Myawady

Child victims counted among total trafficked persons in Upper Myanmar

EIGHT children are among the total trafficked victims, numbering 38, detected in upper Myanmar up until this April for 2016, said an officer from a police force combating the trafficking of people in Mandalay.

Police Major Hnin Aye called for the report of missing children to the police, saying that the number of trafficked children stood at 20 last year.

A total of 617 cases of human trafficking were reported in 2015 and 319 in 2014, he added.

Based on facts and figures, the police officer said that, often, biological fathers of the child victims, their grandparents and relatives are among those found guilty of child trafficking.

Child victims are being brought into situations of exploitation such as forced labour, forced marriage and forced prostitution, he added.

According to the anti-human trafficking police force (Mandalay), educational talks have been conducted to raise public awareness of human trafficking in the region as well as other parts of Upper Myanmar.

“We have educated the parents of children forced to beg in cooperation with ward administrators and members of NGOs and INGOs,” said Police Major Hnin Aye.

According to human trafficking statistics, a total of 3,160 victims were trafficked during an eight year period between 2008 to 2015.—Aung Thant Khang

NLD names former Permanent Representative to UN as Union Minister for State Counsellor

U KYAW TINT SWE will be named Union Minister for State Counsellor, according to U Win Htein, a member of the central committee of the National League for Democracy.

The appointment of a Union minister to the newly formed ministry is described as an effort to assist State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in carrying out her responsibilities in her capacity as Union minister for foreign affairs.

U Kyaw Tint Swe, Myanmar’s former permanent representative to the UN, was a member of the Letpadaung Investigation Commission, which was assigned to investigate the controversial copper mine project in 2013.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Tuesday approved the proposal of the president to form the ministry of the State Counsellor. —Thein Ko Lwin

Govt to limit jade mining under new laws and restrictions

>> From page 1

In his report to the Parliament the Union minister said that heavy vehicles that exceed the permitted number of machines used on mining sites to extract jade were prohibited following regular field trips of an inspection team led by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The present government limited the number of heavy machinery allowed for jade mining based on the size of the mining sites, allowing miners to use five excavators and 10 dumpers for an area under 10 acres, 12 excavators and 36 dumpers for area between 10 acres to 30 acres and 20 excavators and 48 dumpers only.

Coordination and cooperation efforts will be made among the ministries concerned, the regional government and Tatmadaw columns to ensure the enforcement of current and future rules and regulations in mining areas, the Union minister told the Parliament.

Punitive actions will be taken against jade mining companies that fail to follow directives on discarding waste soil, he added.

According to statistics, jade mining operations are run on 305 blocks run in joint venture with the government and 7,344 are held by private companies on a mining area of 1.744,757 acres in Lonekhin and Hpakant of Kachin State.

The share of mining blocks under the government’s semi-control accounts for 1.25 per cent of the total mining area in Hpakant.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker warns MP ...
President U Htin Kyaw meets outgoing Russian Ambassador to Myanmar

President U Htin Kyaw received the Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Vasily B. Pospelov who had completed his tour of duty in Myanmar at Credentials Hall of the President House in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the President held talks with the outgoing Russian Ambassador on the promotion of bilateral relations, exchange of visits of high-ranking officials between the two countries and matters related to scholarship programmes. The military co-operation plan between Russia and Myanmar, approved yesterday by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, was reportedly not on the agenda.

Also present at the call were Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials.—Myanmar News Agency

FM Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Speaker of Sri Lanka parliament

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm Wednesday.

During the meeting, they discussed and shared the experiences of democratic transitional process as well as the enhancement of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Sri Lanka in a cordial manner.—GNLM

FM Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets resident representatives of UN agencies, Int’l orgs

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with Heads of the United Nations agencies and other international organizations in Yangon at 2 pm yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union Minister for Planning and Finance, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and the officials concerned also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, in the interest of people, they frankly discussed and exchanged views on future cooperation between Myanmar and the UN and other international organizations with short-term projects and long-term goals.

Moreover, they also discussed on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by Myanmar.

The Union Minister stressed the important role of education and peace process for the overall development of the country.—Myanmar News Agency
Local News

Union Minister for Information meets foreign ambassadors

INFORMATION Union Minister Dr Pe Myint met foreign ambassadors in his office separately, officials said.

Dr Pe Myint met Ambassador of the United States to Myanmar Mr Andrew Patrick at 1pm and British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nicholas Coppel at 2pm.

Their discussions focused on bilateral media cooperation, the changing trends of the country’s information sector, its challenges and prospects for further cooperation.

The union minister was accompanied by Permanent Secretary U Tin Swe and officials. — Myanmar News Agency

Union Defence Minister meets US Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win received US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scott Alan Marciel at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting the two held comprehensive discussions on the promotion of relations between the two Defence Services, Asia-Pacific regional issues and illegal transboundary migrants. — Myanmar News Agency

Crime NEWS

22-wheel vehicle crash leaves one person dead

A 22-wheel vehicle collided with a second vehicle between mileposts 279/0 and 279/1 on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Tatkon town, Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday, leaving one dead.

The 22-wheel vehicle, en route to Pyinnmana from Yamaethin, collided with a second vehicle which was being driven by one Chit Win Tun, 37, with passengers on board when the former lost control. The 22-wheel vehicle driver fled the scene in his car.

The accident killed a passenger identified as U Bu Thee, 60, from Shwe Dar village and injured another ten passengers. The surviving passengers are searching for the driver and have filed charges against him. — Tin Tun Tar (Tatkon)

Yaba seized on Lashio-Mandalay Road

A LOCAL police squad in Nawngkhio seized yaba from a motorcycle driver on the Lashio-Mandalay road on Monday.

Police searched the motorcycle being driven by one Sai Tun Sein with Sai Aik Kham Pan on board at milepost 80/4 on Pyihtaungsu road and discovered 3,900 yaba pills. Police have filed charges against both suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — Saya Maung (Muse)

Fire destroys a warehouse and four houses in Amarapura

AN outbreak of fire caused by electric short circuiting destroyed a warehouse and four houses in Hisantan ward, Amarapura town, Mandalay region on Tuesday.

The accident occurred around midnight due to the electric short-circuiting of a switch board in the kitchen of a Salt warehouse belonging to one U Aung Naing. Nobody was inside the warehouse at the time. The fire was put out by firemen with the help of neighbours. Local police have filed charges against the warehouse owner. — Tin Maung (Sub-MN)

Myanmar police assist disaster victims

THE Czech Ambassador to Myanmar met the vice chairman and the secretary and executives of the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI) and entrepreneurs from its sister business groups in the meeting hall of the MRCCI at Yadanaon Super Center in Mandalay on Monday.

At the meeting the vice chairman of the MRCCI gave a welcoming speech while the ambassador elaborated on products upgraded and the quality of certain products upgraded, it has been learned. — Thiha Ko Ko

Czech Ambassador meets entrepreneurs in Mandalay

THE Czech Ambassador to Myanmar met the vice chairman and the secretary and executives of the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI) and entrepreneurs from its sister business groups in the meeting hall of the MRCCI at Yadanaon Super Center in Mandalay on Monday.

Members of the Myanmar Police Force have been contributing their energy and resources to the rescue, rehabilitation and clean-up required in disaster-hit areas.

On Sunday, 8 May, members of Unit-1025 of the Security Police Force, based in Sinhaungwe, Myaing and Yay sagyo townships in Magwe Region, took part in rebuilding damaged houses hit by strong wind, hailstones and heavy rain, and they cleaned fallen trees that blocked roads in those areas. — Ye Zarni

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**LOCAL Business**

**Shrimp breeders suffering from infertility**

**Soe Soe Yu**

FRESHWATER and saltwater shrimp businesses are faced with losses this year because of infertile shrimp, according to the Myanmar Shrimp Association.

"Shrimp farming businesses ranging from breeding stations to saltwater shrimp farming farms are not thriving this year. A species called Vannamei is being imported from abroad to bolster numbers. The breeding business is currently dependent on the species. If the imported species is a pedigree the shrimp farming sector might begin to thrive", said Daw Toe Nanda Tin, vice chairman of the Myanmar Importers’ Association.

There are not many local companies breeding Vannamei shrimp. Shrimp farming businesses are faced with losses because of inadequate breeding, according to shrimp businesses. "The government needs to intervene in shrimp breeding. We cannot extend our business without government subsidy. The freshwater prawn needs to be a priority", said U Tun Aye, the chairman of the Myanmar Importers’ Association.

Previously, the shrimp farming industry was so flourishing that shrimp could not be purchased from local factories in 2013. Only imported shrimp were being sold on the domestic shrimp market. The legal import of shrimp to fill the gap is of vital importance in fulfilling the needs of local demand to ensure the health of the industry, said Daw Toe Nanda Tin.

**Sugarcane planters reap handsome profits**

**GROWERS** from northern Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region earned healthy profits from their sugarcane plantation this season.

"We currently sell for K300 per sugarcane plant to local merchants, including owners of sugarcane juice shops in the town," one farmer said. Brokers from Myingyan, Taungoo, Mandalay, Bagan and Nyaung U are the primary buyers from the plantations.

Local growers usually begin growing sugarcane between June and July, cultivating about 6,000 plants per acre.

Myingyan Township is located in Myanmar’s central dry zone. Farmers there usually grow different kinds of bean, sesame, watermelon, cucumber, onion, tomato and sugarcane.—**Than Zaw Min**

**Mandalay brokers face millions in losses from trade errors**

"MERCHANTS from Mandalay wholesale brokerages should carry out trading in cash so as to avoid the possible losses caused by pre-buying and pre-selling systems," said U Aung Swe Hein from the Mandalay Trading Centre.

The Mandalay Trading Centre is planning to form a committee to solve trade problems among local brokers who have lost millions of kyats from trading errors in recent days.

U Soe Win Myint, owner of a sale centre, said: "The root cause of the problem is greed. The association has already urged all members to be engaged in pre-buying and pre-selling. It is just like football gambling."

The association, which was set up in 1935, has over 19,000 members from the Mandalay municipal area.

"This is not a pre-emptive attempt. We have not got some information about it. We need to negotiate with members. We have to deal with this problem because members have asked for help. Normally, we don’t solve such problems," A net loss of nearly K3 billion (US$2.568,493) from traders’ errors has occurred within five years at the Mandalay Trading Centre.—**Aung Thant Khauang**

**Three offshore gas fields see low demand from partner countries**

THREE of Myanmar’s four offshore gas fields have attracted low demand for natural gas from partner countries, according to Electric Power and Energy Ministry. The Zawtika Project, the country’s largest offshore gas field has proven to be the exception.

The low demand has been linked to the fall in crude oil prices in the world market.

Myanmar is home to four natural gas exploration projects: the Yetagun Project, operated by Petronas Co, in the Andaman Sea, the Shwe Project, operated by Daewoo International Co, in the Bay of Bengal; the Yadana Project, operated by Total SA, a French energy group, in the Andaman Sea; and the Zawtika Project by the Thai oil company PTTEP, in the Gulf of Mottama.

In the past, Thailand has purchased over 400 million cubic feet of natural gas from the Yadagun Project per day. However, the neighbouring country has reduced its demand to 200 million cubic feet a day.

Likewise, demand from China has declined to just over 300 million cubic feet from 600 million cubic feet per day. The world’s most populous country normally buys natural gas produced from the Yadana Project.

Since late 2014, the price of natural gas has gradually fallen in local market.—**200**

**Industries manufacturing ready-made meat products to be established**

FACTORIES which can manufacture high quality frozen meats and ready-made meat products will be built in Myanmar with the assistance of foreign technical experts, according to the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

High quality ready-made meat products will be manufactured by grinding around 30,000 visses (a viss is approximately 1.6 kilograms) of chicken and mutton daily, said U Win Sein, the vice chairman of this federation.

"We will establish industries which can produce ready-made meat balls. Both domestic and Thai entrepreneurs will cooperate in order to bring the manufacturing of meat products to Myanmar with the use of technology from Thailand", he added.

In the initial phase only 10,000 visses of meat products will be manufactured daily. The production will be positively related to demand for the product.

Raw meat materials which will be used in the meat production by those factories will be purchased from local breeders during the first year. Those same factories, however, will produce raw meat materials later on.—**200**

**MPU and KEB Hana Card sign MoU**

THE Myanmar Payment Union (MPU) and South Korean KEB Hana Card signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly conduct payment services in Myanmar.

According to the MoU, MPU Card users will have access to the services of KEB Hana Card and South Korean businessmen will also receive the financial service from local banks. Members of the MPU and KEB Hana Card also negotiated to develop services with Master Card based in the USA, said U Mya Than, the chairman of the MPU.

The MPU Card was issued in September of 2012 and its service has been made available at nearly 1,500 ATMs of MPU across the country. There are about 3,000 points of sales (POS) which can accept payments with MPU Cards. The MPU e-Commerce system was introduced last year in order to aid people wishing to pay tax using MPU Cards.—**200**
Hopes growing for fresh push for nuke-free world from Obama

HIROSHIMA — Hopes are growing among people in Hiroshima, including atomic bomb survivors, that US President Barack Obama will express his renewed determination for a world free of nuclear weapons on his historic visit to the site of the US atomic bombing at the end of World War II later this month.

On Tuesday, the Japanese and US governments announced the president’s plan to travel to Hiroshima on 27 May after a Group of Seven summit in the central Japan prefecture of Mie, as the first sitting US leader to do so.

Obama may call for nuclear disarmament in a short speech or a statement while in Hiroshima, according to a source close to bilateral relations, and US media have reported that Obama could give a speech similar to his 2009 Prague address in which he called for a world without nuclear weapons. “I hope he will say in his speech, ‘Nuclear weapons should never be used again,’ and that ‘dropping atomic bombs was a mistake,’” said Manabu Shigeyoshi, a 67-year-old Hiroshima city resident. Shigeyoshi’s mother survived the atomic bomb attack. “I want to listen carefully to what President Obama has to say,” said Yujii Egusa, 88, who was a student working on a nearby island when the atomic bomb detonated over the city on 6 August, 1945. Egusa, who suffers from a cataract traced to his exposure to radiation, hopes Obama will muster the courage to speak his mind while visiting.

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, who has long sought a visit by Obama to the city, told reporters on Wednesday he expects Obama to “accept the feelings of hibakusha and reinforce his speech in Prague.” Atomic bomb survivors are called hibakusha in Japanese.

With Obama’s Hiroshima trip confirmed, the focus has shifted to whether the president will have an opportunity to meet with survivors. Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary, said it is not yet decided whether Obama will meet some of them.

Akanomi Okada, 87, who was about 2.7 kilometres from the epicenter at the time of the explosion, said he wants Obama to “meet with and listen to hibakusha to learn how much anguish the atomic bomb has caused.”

While in Hiroshima, Obama may visit the Peace Memorial Museum, which displays artifacts that belonged to atomic bomb victims and survivors, and the Atomic Bomb Dome, skeletal remains of the only major building left standing after the explosion.

Seiko Ikeda, 83, who suffered a severe burn on her face at age 12 when the bomb was dropped 1.5 km from her, hopes the president will not just visit the museum and the dome but listen to survivors’ voices.

Ikeda said she believes Obama hears their stories in person, he likely will be emotionally overcome.

Hiroshima Gov. Hidehiko Yuzaki told reporters that he hopes Obama will visit the site of the atomic bomb firsthand, allowing him to understand how widespread the damage was, adding that he also hopes the president will meet with hibakusha.

—Kyodo News

Thailand faces ‘moment of shame’ at UN rights council review

BANGKOK — Thailand faces a “moment of shame” when the UN Human Rights Council reviews its rights record on Wednesday, a rights group said, amid fresh political unrest that, rights groups said, has caused “moment of shame” for the Thai government.

The crackdown comes as Thailand’s military government prepares to put a widely criticised military-written constitution to the public in August.

The military seized power in a May 2014 coup saying it had to end a bitter cycle of political unrest that saw the effects of the atomic bomb detonaed over the city on 6 August, 1945. Egusa, who

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—Kyodo News

Manila — Philippine presidential aspirant Rodrigo Duterte has barred some possible members of his Cabinet, including secretaries from the previous administrations and a former military general.

The Davao City mayor, who is leading the partial unofficial election results, told reporters that he has yet to talk to other people whom he would consider to be part of his Official Family.

In dialogues with businesspeople prior to the 9 May elections, Duterte said that he would appoint as his peace adviser his former classmate and fellow Davaoeno, Jesus Dureza, who serves as the peace adviser and press secretary of former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

He was also eyeing hotel owner Carlos Dominguez to be his secretary at the Department of Finance or the Department of Transportation and Communications.

Duterte was also considered running mate Senator Alan Peter Cayetano to head the Department of Foreign Affairs after the one-year ban for losing candidates. Cayetano has been trailing behind other vice presidential bets Leni Robredo and Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Duterte also said that former Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Hermogenes Esperon Jr. would also be part of the Cabinet.

More than a decade of political unrest has seen at least the use of military courts to try military personnel prior to the 9 May elections, Duterte said that he would consider to be part of the Cabinet.

Two of the eight face separate charges of royal insult. They were charged on Wednesday with insulting the revered monarchy in private Facebook messages, the latest in a growing number of royal insult charges under the junta.

“We have additionally charged them with royal defamation and computer crimes,” Police Lieutenant Colonel Chaiporn Nitayapat, who is in charge of the case, told Reuters.

Several cases seen by Reuters submitted to the UN by rights groups and UN member countries include the expansion of internal policing powers for the military and the use of military courts to try critics.

More than a decade of political strife has seen at times violent street protests by both Thanon’s supporters and their opponents.

—Reuters

Activists who were detained after posting critical comments on Facebook of the ruling military junta, leave the military court in Bangkok, Thailand on 10 May. Reuters
Tokyo governor under fire over travel expenses, car use

TOKYO — Tokyo Gov. Yoichi Masuzoe has been in the hot seat since he was found last month to have spent massive amounts on official trips overseas and used official cars for frequent visits to his vacation home.

While the 67-year-old has been widely regarded as the front-runner in the capital’s 2018 gubernatorial election, his path is now looking increasingly uncertain as scandals involving him show no signs of abating.

The former welfare minister first came under fire last month when it was learned he spent more than 200 million yen ($1.8 million) on eight overseas trips over two years since he became governor in 2014.

That was quickly followed by news that he used metropolis government vehicles 48 times in about a year from April 2015 to travel either to or from a vacation home Yugawara, a hot-spring resort area in Kanagawa Prefecture.

In the face of mounting criticism by taxpayers and other governors that he does not know the value of money and uses public resources excessively, Masuzoe apologised over the vehicle use and said he would reduce spending on overseas visits.

“I will not use official vehicles in principle from now on,” Masuzoe said on a TV programme earlier this week, while saying he may still visit his vacation home.

Earlier, Masuzoe had said that he used the vehicles in accordance with applicable rules and asserted there was no problem from a crisis management standpoint with his being away from Tokyo so often as he could still be reached and issue instructions in the event of an emergency.

However, some major politicians have criticised Masuzoe’s actions. Former Osaka Gov. Toru Hashimoto wrote on his Twitter account, “It’s wrong to use official vehicles in such a way.

Among incumbent governors, Kanagawa Gov. Yuji Kuroiwa said last month he was “shocked” at the amount Tokyo spent on overseas trips, while Saitama Gov. Kiyoshi Ueda also said he questioned the appropriateness from the standpoint of the public.

A week-long visit to Paris and London by a Masuzoe-lead delegation last autumn as part of the preparations for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics cost some 50 million yen, enough to buy a new condominium in central Tokyo. —Kyodo News

Australia holds five suspected of plotting sailing trip to join Islamic State

SYDNEY — Australian police have detained five men suspected of planning to sail a small boat from the far north to Indonesia and the Philippines en route to joining Islamic State in Syria, officials said on Wednesday.

The men were held on Tuesday after towing the seven-metre boat almost 3,000 km (1,865 miles) from Melbourne to Cairns in Queensland state, police said.

Australia has come under criticism for its tough immigration policies aimed at stopping asylum seekers taking boats from Indonesia to Australia, but few are believed to have attempted the journey in the opposite direction.

“We are investigating the allegation they were planning to make their way through Indonesia to the Philippines, with a view to ending up in Syria,” Victoria state Deputy Police Commissioner Shane Patton told reporters in Melbourne.

“It’s not a common occurrence, I would suggest, people trying to get to Syria via boat, but I don’t have the exact figures for sure.”

The five had not yet been charged. Under tough new security powers passed in 2014, Australian face up to a decade in prison for overseas travel to areas declared off limits, which includes the province ofRaqqain Syria, a key strategic hub for Islamic State militants.

Australia, a staunch US ally, has been on heightened alert for attacks by home-grown radicals since 2014 and authorities say they have thwarted a number of potential attacks, while there have been several “lone wolf” assaults, including a cafe siege in Sydney that left two hostages and the gunman dead.

Approximately 100 people have left Australia for Syria to fight alongside organisations such as Islamic State, Australia’s Immigration Minister said last month.

Police said it was unclear where the men, aged between 21 and 33, had planned to put the boat in the water. Indonesia and Australia share a maritime border, but it spans several hundred kilometres of open sea at its narrowest point.

The Australian Broadcasting Corp said that Melbourne-born radical preacher Masa Cerantonio, a vocal supporter of the Islamic State who was deported from the Philippines to Australia in 2014, was among those detained. Cerantonio, who converted to Islam from Catholicism at 17, was believed to be plotting to join Islamic State when he was deported for having “invalid travel documentation”. He was placed under surveillance but not arrested upon his return. —Reuters

Kidnapped son of Pakistani ex-PM arrives home from Afghanistan

KABUL/LAHORE — The son of a former Pakistani prime minister who was rescued by Afghan and US forces from al Qaeda captors in Afghanistan arrived home to a rapturous welcome in Pakistan on Wednesday, three years after being kidnaped from his home town.

Ali Haider Gilani was rescued on Monday by a joint force of Afghan and US commandos who attacked a house held by al Qaeda militants in Paktika province, just across the border from Pakistan.

Before his departure from Afghanistan, Gilani, with long hair and a grey-streaked beard, thanked his rescuers.

Looking tired but otherwise healthy, the son of former Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani said pressure from Pakistani forces fighting militants in lawless frontier lands had forced his captors to take him over the border into Afghanistan.

“I really appreciate the Afghan government’s efforts and the Afghan forces’ efforts for someone, these sacrifices, for someone from another country,” he told reporters at Afghanistan’s Ministry of Defence where he was handed over to Pakistani diplomats.

“That shows the efforts of the Afghan government to bringing peace in the region,” he said.

“I would also like to thank US forces which, at the critical moments of my release provided me with shelter, food and medical care,” he said. “I’m just looking forward to being reunited with my family and just getting back to normal life.”

The rescue offered a rare moment of warmth and respite in long-running tensions between Kabul and Islamabad, which many in Afghanistan blame for fostering and sheltering Taliban leaders on their soil.

Pakistan denies it helps the insurgents and says it is itself the target of militants from Afghanistan. —Reuters

An officer takes pictures of a boat, which Australian police have seized in Cairns, Queensland, Australia in this still image taken from video, on 11 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ali Haider Gilani, (C) son of former Pakistani prime minister Yusuf Raza Gilani, speaks to media after he was rescued in Afghanistan in a joint operation by Afghan and US forces, at the Defence ministry in Kabul, Afghanistan on 11 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS
We, Asian Youth, Are the Future

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

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

Painting agriculture as a promising profession

Kyaw Thura

Despite its heavy dependence on agriculture, our country has seen more and more young rural people leave farming as they have witnessed the extent of the poverty their ancestors have struggled with. Worse, people have come to portray the business of agriculture as a profession for the poor. It is absolutely vital to reverse the economic and social declines in rural areas.

Successful governments have placed the issue of agricultural development at the top of their agenda. Even then, farmers still have still to eke out their livings, though they have been working themselves to the bone to feed the country. It is, therefore, crucial that the government realise that the success of the fight against poverty rests with its management to ensure that farmers enjoy proportionate returns for their agricultural output.

As an agricultural country, Myanmar has a long tradition of regarding farmers as beneficent.

However, in today’s reality, our neglect of the welfare of farmers amounts to biting the hand that feeds us.

The government should direct its efforts at providing technical support and financial assistance to farmers so as to unlock the full potential of agriculture. In doing so, what matters most is to develop a strategy for improving the quality of rural life by painting the agricultural sector as a promising profession.
National-level Disaster Preparedness plan to be implemented

THE Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs will draw up a plan to mitigate the losses and damages that could be caused by the impacts of El Nino according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The ministry will arrange to brace for the possible impact of natural disaster, followed by the El Nino weather, said Maj-Gen Aung Soe, the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs at a parliamentary session on 8 May.

“The ministry is drawing up the plan as a national project to allow us to be prepared against the possible danger of natural disaster which can break out across the country. 15 Regional and State Administrative Fire Services Departments, 73 District Fire Services Department, 73 District Fire Stations, 330 Township Fire Services Departments and 330 Township Fire Stations have already reformed. A total of 428 fire stations out of 703 local fire stations were opened. Previously, our department had one duty and that was to extinguish fires. Now our duties have been extended to carrying out timely disaster relief measures’, said the deputy minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe.

Despite the existence of preventive measures for the outbreak of fire our country still needs world-class arrangements and systems for the prevention of serious damage, said Dr. Myint Thein, an MP, adding that as this year is witnessing extreme heat. Such a system is urgently needed, he added. —GNLM

KBZ foundation supplies drinking water to locals

TO supply fresh water to people facing a scarcity of drinking water due to drought induced by El Nino, KBZ’s Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation is sending its fleet of water tankers to areas in southern Shan State, Sagaing and Twantay daily. On Monday the foundation’s fleet moved 2800 to 3600 gallon water tankers which were sent out to several villagers around Taunggyi to supply water to the people there.

The foundation had supplied water to the people of several villages around Shwenyaung and Heho in southern Shan State on 6 and 7 May and also filled water into a concrete tank for fire fighting at Heho Airport and the staff quarters.

Meanwhile, employees of the KBZ bank branch in Sagaing visited some villages about 14 miles away from the town and supplied drinking water to the people there currently facing a scarcity of water on the same day while employees from Twantay branch supplied drinking water to people in villages in the southern part of Yangon. —GNLM

Myanmar artists to participate in Myanm/art at Triennale Di Milano

NINE selected Myanmar artists will display their works at the exhibition Myanm/art, to be held from 29 June 2016 for three weeks in Italy. “The Italian embassy strongly supports initiatives, such as Myanm/art, that aim to enhance cultural relations between the two countries and at contributing to wide people-to-people contacts between Italy and Myanmar,” said Italian ambassador to Myanmar Pier Giorgio Aliberti at a press conference held yesterday, where he met with the nine Myanmar artists whose works were selected by a qualified jury. Myanm/art, curated by Mauro Salvemini and Eugenia Battisti, will display the works of Aung Sint, Chan Nyein Kyaw, Khin Maung Zaw, Khin Zaw Latt, Kyaw Nyo, Myint Naing, Mon Thet, Saw Moe Zaw, Tin Maung Oo in the exhibition at the XXI Triennale Di Milano in a space allocated to Myanmar artists. The exhibition has received the patronage of the Italian embassy in Yangon, as well as of the Myanmar embassy in Rome, the Myanmar Honorary Consulate in Turin and the Italy-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce.—GNLM

Fundraising event to assist war victims in Shan State

A FUNDRAISING show titled ‘Stop the War’ was held at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon on Thursday, with a wide range of entertainment programmes performed by local celebrities and ethnic minority groups. All proceeds from the event will be donated to war victims in conflict-stricken areas in northern Shan State. Moreover, the event organisers also accepted donations for war victims in Rakhine State during the show. The event mainly entertained audience with tradition-
Clinton loses to Sanders in coal state of West Virginia

WASHINGTON/New York — US Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders defeated Hillary Clinton on Tuesday in West Virginia’s primary, winning over voters deeply skeptical about the economy and signaling the difficulty Clinton may have in industrial states in the general election.

The loss slows Clinton’s march to the nomination, but she is still heavily favored to become the Democratic candidate in the 8 November election.

In a November match-up with Donald Trump, Clinton will need to win over working-class voters in the US Rust Belt, which includes key states such as Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Trump, 69, won contests in West Virginia and Nebraska handily on Tuesday. The presumptive Republican nominee is set to meet with party leaders in the US Congress on Thursday, including US House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan.

After Ryan said last week that he was not yet ready to endorse Trump, Trump said on Sunday that he would have to decide whether he still wanted Ryan to preside over the party’s July convention.

Trump said in a Fox interview on Tuesday night that he would like Ryan to chair the convention as planned. “He’s a very good man, he wants what’s good for the party,” the New York billionaire said.

Trump has zeroed in on Clinton’s protracted battle with Sanders, a 74-year-old US senator from Vermont. He has taunted Clinton in recent days by saying she “can’t close the deal” by beating Sanders, her only rival for the Democratic Party’s nomination since 1 February.

Clinton, 68, has said she will ignore Trump’s personal insults, including his repeated use of his new nickname for her, “Crooked Hillary,” and instead will criticise his policy pronouncements.— Reuters

French finance minister admits to ‘inappropriate’ conduct towards female journalist

PARIS — French Finance Minister Michel Sapin admitted on Wednesday to behaving inappropriately towards a female journalist, days after a sex scandal forced the resignation of the vice-president of the lower house of parliament.

Sapin said that he was sorry about what he did but insisted that that should not be “confused with the seriousness of harassment or sexual assault”.

“During a trip to Davos in January 2015, amid about 20 people, I made a comment to a journalist about her clothing and put my hand on her back,” Sapin said, in a statement that partly denied what French journalists wrote in a recent book about what happened at the World Economic Forum.

“There was no aggressive or sexual intent in my conduct but the mere fact that the person was shocked shows that those words and this gesture were inappropriate, and I was, and still am, sorry,” he said in a statement sent to Reuters on Wednesday.

Sapin, one of Socialist President Francois Hollande’s closest backers, said the journalist immediately asked to talk with him and that he apologised to her.

Hundreds of female French politicians on Tuesday denounced sexual harassment in the corridors of power and what they called a Mafia-style code of silence that lets it go unpunished, a day after lawmaker Denis Baupin quit his post as vice-president of France’s National Assembly after being accused of harassment.

Baupin denies any wrongdoing. Sapin said that “in the current circumstances” he felt he had to issue that statement.

Five years ago, when a sex scandal forced Frenchman Dominique Strauss-Kahn to resign from his post of IMF chief, the case unleashed a soul-searching debate within France about sexual abuse that goes undeclared or undetected in the upper echelons of power.— Reuters

Indonesia to issue regulation allowing castration of child molesters

JAKARTA — The Indonesian government decided Wednesday to soon issue a government regulation in lieu of a law imposing chemical castration of child molesters following a recent series of sexual attacks against minors in the country.

The decision was made after a limited Cabinet meeting on violence against children chaired by President Joko “Jokowi” Widodo.

Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture Puan Maharani told a press conference that the decision was taken with the view that sexual violence against children “is an extraordinary crime” that deserves “an extraordinary punishment.” According to data of the National Commission for Child Protection, from 2010 until 2014, almost 22 million children suffered violence, with 62 per cent of them exposed to sexual abuse.— Kyodo News

I will run for president next year: Ljajic

BELGRADE — Leader of the Social Democratic Party of Serbia (SDPS) Rasim Ljajic has said he will run in the 2017 presidential race.

“As things are now, I will be a candidate in the presidential elections, so citizens will have their say concerning my performance in various offices,” Ljajic tells the Blic daily.

Asked whether this means he will not be in a next government, he says “does not have any wish or over-high expectation”, adding it is not his decision to make.

Ljajic notes that leader of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) Aleksandar Vucic will decide on the make-up of the new government which will also include the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (SVM), beside the SNS-led list that incorporates the SDPS.— Tjgung

Drought-hit South Africa partners with Iran to build desalination plants

CAPE TOWN — South Africa has partnered with Iran to develop desalination plants along all coastal communities to boost water supplies, the water minister said on Wednesday, as the worst drought in living memory dries dams.

“Now with the partnership that we have entered into through the binational commission between South Africa and Iran we want to go full steam,” Nomvula Mokonyane told reporters.— Reuters

Impossible for Turkey to accept changes in counter-terrorism law — EU Minister

ISTANBUL — It is impossible for Turkey to accept changes to its counter-terrorism law, which already meets European Union standards, EU Affairs Minister Volkan Bozkir said on Wednesday.

Speaking to broadcaster NTV, Bozkir also said that making changes to the counter-terrorism law is not an element of the planned visa-exemption deal with Europe.

“The EU last week asked member states to grant visa-free travel to Turks in return for Ankara stopping migrants reaching Europe, but said Turkey still had to change some legislation, including bringing its terrorism laws in line with EU standards.— Reuters

London police say abandoned item on bus was non-suspicious

LONDON — London’s Metropolitan Police said on Wednesday that officers had established that a suitcase abandoned on a bus was non-suspicious.

Earlier, the police force had issued a statement saying that specialist officers were dealing with an unattended item found on board a bus in Hackney, north-east London, and cords had been put in place while the item was assessed.

Police were called at 08:39 am (0739 GMT) to deal with the item spotted on a number 271 bus on Holloway Road.

The British authorities consider the security threat level to be “severe”, meaning that an attack is “highly likely”.

In July 2005, suicide bombings on London’s transport system, including one on a bus, killed 52 civilians.— Reuters
**Car bomb in Baghdad’s Sadr City kills 64 — police, medics**

BAGHDAD — A car bomb claimed by Islamic State in a Shi’ite Muslim district of Baghdad killed at least 50 people and wounded more than 80 others on Wednesday, Iraqi police and hospital sources said.

The SUV packed with explosives went off near a beauty salon in a bustling market at rush hour in Sadr City. Most of the victims were women and many of the wounded were in critical condition, the sources said. Amaq news agency, which supports Islamic State, said a suicide bomber had targeted Shi’ite militia fighters.

The ultra-hardline Sunni jihadi group, which considers Shi’ites apostates, claimed a twin suicide bombing in Sadr City in February that killed 70 people.

Security has gradually improved in Baghdad, which was the target of daily bombings a decade ago, but violence directed against both the security forces and civilians is still frequent and large blasts sometimes set off reprisal attacks.

The fight against Islamic State has exacerbated a long-running sectarian conflict in Iraq, mostly between the Shi’ite majority and the Sunni minority.

Sectarian violence also threatens to undermine US-backed efforts to dislodge the militant group from vast areas of the north and west of Iraq that they seized in 2014.— Reuters

**Amid domestic ‘apology’ concern, Obama fixes historic Hiroshima trip**

WASHINGTON — US President Barack Obama has decided to make a historic trip to Hiroshima, building on last month’s visit by US President to the Japanese city devastated by an American atomic bomb 71 years ago.

Earnest’s comment reflected the difficulties Obama’s staff faced before arriving at the politically sensitive decision.

Though opposition has not been raised yet, Earnest suggested that the White House had expected World War II veterans and Obama’s opponents to accuse the president of intending to apologise to Japan for dropping the bomb they say prevented unnecessary deaths of American service members.

Earnest said that if people view Obama’s trip to Hiroshima as tantamount to an apology, “they will be interpreting it wrongly.”

The American Legion, a major group of war veterans, urged Obama to make sure he does not apologise in the western Japanese city, saying in a statement that the group is “heartened” to hear the remark by Earnest.

A senior Japanese government official, who asked not to be named, said he does not think an apology from Obama when he visits the city on the occasion of a Group of Seven summit in central Japan in late May “will be a priority for many people in Japan.”

Many atomic-bomb survivors, their supporters and relatives are urging Obama to declare on his visit an unwavering US commitment to realising a world free of nuclear weapons.

Kerry last month became the first US Cabinet member to go to Hiroshima and laid a wreath at a monument of the Peace Memorial Park near ground zero.

Japanese people favourably received Kerry, who said he was overwhelmed by the “gut-wrenching” exhibits at the Peace Memorial Museum and would persuade Obama to visit the city.

None of Obama’s predecessors visited Hiroshima or Nagasaki, the other Japanese city attacked by a US atomic bomb, while he was in office.

A high-profile supporter of Donald Trump, the presumptive presidential nominee of the Republican Party, commended the 69-year-old businessman in a gathering in Indiana last month for having “guts” to drop an atomic bomb if necessary, as wartime President Harry Truman did.

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Trump smiled when former basketball coach Bobby Knight, standing beside the presidential hopeful, said Trump’s decision saved “millions of American lives.”

“Obama is going to get a tremendous backlash if he goes,” said Peter Kuznick, an expert on the modern American history who has worked on raising the public awareness of the US atomic bombings at the end of World War II.

Kuznick, professor at American University in Washington, said even if Obama makes no apology, simply going to an atomic-bombed city may be taken by some in the United States as tantamount to saying sorry.

The American public’s strong sentiment about using nuclear weapons at the end of the war was on display in 1995 when a Smithsonian plan to hold an exhibition of the atomic bomb attacks was effectively called off.

War veterans and some lawmakers opposed the plan as the exhibition was going to put on display materials showing the ordeal of victims.

As 21 years have passed since the cancellation, major US public polls indicate a perceptible change in how the Americans view the atomic bomb attacks as well as their country’s nuclear policy overall.

A Pew Research Centre survey in 2015 indicated that while 70 per cent of respondents aged 65 or older believed the US atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were justifiable, the comparable percentage among those aged 18 and 29 was much lower at 47 per cent.

“In the long run, history is going to view Obama positively” for visiting Hiroshima, Kuznick said.—Kyodo News

**British police seize $22m in suspected Russian gang’s scam**

LONDON — British police seized cheques for $22 million related to a suspected Russian organised crime scam that used the London futures market to launder cash through two Russian companies, a Swiss firm and a British Virgin Islands investment company.

After a four-month investigation by police and exchange operator Intercontinental Exchange Inc (ICE) into suspicious trading on the futures market, City of London Police said on Wednesday they had seized four cheques six weeks after the arrest of a Russian broker on suspicion of money laundering.

“Our investigation points towards a suspected Russian organised crime group using London’s futures market to launder millions of dollars worth of criminal revenue,” Detective Inspector Craig Mullish from the City of London Police’s Money Laundering Unit said.

The Russian broker was arrested in London on 23 March 23 on suspicion of fraud and has been released on bail until July, the police said in a statement on their website.

No further details were immediately available.

ICE in London was not immediately available for comment.—Reuters

**Children dying among detained ‘Boko Haram suspects’ in Nigeria**

DAKAR — Babies and children are among more than 100 people to have died in detention this year in a military barracks in northeast Nigeria where suspected Boko Haram members are being held, often without any evidence, Amnesty International said on Wednesday.

Around 1,200 people, one in 10 of whom are children, are being detained at Giwa barracks in the city of Maiduguri, where they are kept in dirty, overcrowded cells without enough food or water and denied access to legal aid or a trial, Amnesty said.

Some 150 people, including seven young children and four babies, have died this year in Giwa barracks, many from disease, hunger, dehydration, and gunshot wounds, according to Amnesty.

Nigerian government officials were not immediately available for comment. Former detainees told Amnesty that inmates received half a litre of water each day, lacked access to washing facilities, and slept on the floor in cells that were rarely cleaned.

“People are detained, often with their children, in appalling conditions which do not meet basic human rights, or keep them alive,” Amnesty’s Nigeria researcher Daniel Eyre said. A regional offensive last year drove Boko Haram from much of the territory it held in northern Nigeria, undermining its seven-year campaign to carve out an Islamist caliphate. Young men suspected of fighting for the militants are being rounded up in mass arrests — often without any evidence against them — by the military as they return to their homes in towns and villages previously held by Boko Haram, Amnesty said.—Reuters
Brazil Senate set to vote on Rousseff impeachment

BRASILIA — Brazil’s Senate will vote on Wednesday on whether to put President Dilma Rousseff on trial for breaking budget rules, amid expectations she will become the country’s first leader in more than two decades to be removed from office.

If her opponents garner a simple majority of the 81 senators, Rousseff will be suspended for up to six months during the trial and Vice President Michel Temer will take power.

With well over half of senators telling newspapers they will vote to try Rousseff, Brazil’s first female leader is expected to leave the Planalto presidential palace on Thursday, following 13 years of leftist Workers Party rule in Latin America’s largest economy.

The political crisis has hit at a time when Brazil had planned to be shining on the world stage, as it prepares to host the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in August.

Senators are due to start discussion of the motion at 9 am (1200 GMT) after each member of the upper house gets the chance to speak. The final vote is expected to take place around 8 pm (2300 GMT).

Rousseff, who has said her impeachment is illegal and branded it a ‘coup,’ has vowed to fight the process until the last minute. Her government appealed to the Supreme Court on Tuesday. “I will not resign, that never crossed my mind,” Rousseff said in a speech on Tuesday, to cheers from supporters.

Brazil is struggling with its worst recession since the 1930s and the country’s biggest-ever corruption scandal — a long-running probe into a vast kickback scheme at state-run oil company Petrobras.

The economic crisis and Petrobras investigation have paralyzed Rousseff’s second-term administration. There are worries the tense political situation may spark protests that could turn violent. On Wednesday, anti-impeachment protesters blocked roads with burning tires around Sao Paulo, the capital, Brasilia, and other cities, snarling morning traffic and prompting clashes with police. The Workers Party and labour unions have called for a national strike.

The vote will cap a chaotic week that started with the newly installed speaker of the lower house, Eduardo Cunha, saying he had annulled the full chamber’s 17 April vote to impeach Rousseff. He argued the vote contained procedural flaws.

Senate leader Renan Calheiros promptly rejected his decision and said the upper house would press forward with impeachment proceedings. Maranhao withdrew his decision on Tuesday, following complaints it was illegal. That cleared the way for the Senate vote.

If the case goes to a trial in the Senate, presided over by the head of the Supreme Court, Rousseff’s opponents are confident they can muster the two-thirds of the 81 senators, or 54, needed to unseat the unpopular president. Temer would then fulfill the remainder of her mandate until elections in 2018.— Reuters

New Zealand warns hikers away from ‘Lord of the Rings’ volcano

WELLINGTON — New Zealand has warned hikers and climbers to steer clear of a volcano in a national park whose jagged volcanic rock formations and eerie barren landscapes featured in “The Lord of The Rings” movies.

Quake and volcano monitoring service GNS Science raised the alert for Mount Ruapehu, in the North Island’s Tongariro National Park, which last erupted in 2007. “There are more signs of life at the volcano,” said Volcanologist Brad Scott.

The Department of Conservation warned trekkers to stay out of the Summit Hazard Zone, within two km of the centre of Crater Lake.

“Recent visits to the volcano have confirmed an increase in the output of volcanic gas,” GNS Science said. The temperature of the lake has risen from 25 degrees Celsius (77 degrees Fahrenheit) to 46 degrees Celsius (115 F) since mid-April. The volcanic alert level has been lifted to “heightened unrest” from “moderate”.

Each year, thousands of people trek the so-called Tongariro Crossing, a 20-km (12-mile) alpine crossing that passes all three volcanoes in the area.

The landscape formed the backdrop for Moron’s hissing wasteland in Peter Jackson’s “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy.— Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 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 Claim’s 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: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DRAGO J VOY NO (610368)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DRAGO J VOY NO (610368) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T 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 Claim’s 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: M/S BELLINE AGENCIES PTE LTD Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANDAMAN STAR VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANDAMAN STAR VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.5.2016 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.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (SPORE) PTE LTD Phone No: 2301185
Britain’s queen caught on camera calling Chinese officials ‘very rude’

LONDON — Queen Elizabeth has been caught on camera saying Chinese officials were “very rude” to the British ambassador during a state visit to Britain by President Xi Jinping last year.

She made the comments at a garden party at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, the same day that Britain’s prime minister, David Cameron, was filmed making undiplomatic remarks about Nigeria and Afghanistan being corrupt countries.

His comments were especially awkward as he is hosting both countries’ leaders at an anti-corruption conference in London on Thursday, while the queen’s comments are not helpful to the British government’s determined efforts to court Beijing to boost trade ties with China.

Under her constitutional role, the 90-year-old monarch never makes any politically or diplomatically sensitive comments in public, and it is rare for the content of her private conversations to be revealed.

In footage broadcast by the BBC, the queen was seen meeting senior police officer Lucy D’Orsi, who is introduced by an official as having been in charge of security during Xi’s visit in October last year.

“Oh, bad luck,” the queen says in response.

D’Orsi then describes her dealings with Chinese officials as “quite a testing time” and recounts that at one point they had walked out of a meeting and told her “the trip was off.”

The queen says: “They were very rude to the ambassador.”

The BBC reported that in China, items about the queen’s remarks were censored from its news bulletins.

The Chinese authorities often censor items they object to from foreign news bulletins, which can only be seen by very few people in China as foreign TV channels are only allowed in high-end hotels and a tiny number of select apartment buildings.

A spokeswoman for the queen said: “We do not comment on the queen’s private conversations. However, the Chinese state visit was extremely successful and all parties worked closely to ensure it proceeded smoothly.”

Xi’s visit was full of pomp and ceremony, with Cameron and his finance minister George Osborne keen to impress the Chinese leader and present Britain as China’s firmest friend in Europe.

The queen has been careful to keep her views to herself during her 64-year reign, but several other members of Britain’s royal family have made undiplomatic comments about China in the past.

Her eldest son, heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles, has skipped two state banquets for Chinese guests in Britain and described some Chinese officials in a journal that was leaked to the media as “appalling old waxyworks.” — Reuters

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Japan enacts law to expand gov’t role in nuclear fuel reprocessing

TOKYO — A law to strengthen state involvement in nuclear fuel reprocessing cleared Japan’s parliament on Wednesday, as the government seeks to retain a recycling policy that has been mired in repeated technical troubles.

Under the new operational framework set by the law, a new body will be set up to supervise fuel reprocessing: Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd., whose main shareholders are power companies, has played a key role in the fuel recycling policy until now.

The new entity will now consign reprocessing operations to Japan Nuclear Fuel while mandating nuclear plant operators to shoulder the cost of reprocessing spent fuel in the form of financial contributions to the entity.

Until now, power companies voluntarily set aside reserves to be used for reprocessing.

Japan has struggled to recycle nuclear fuel, as the launch of Japan Nuclear Fuel’s reprocessing plant in Rokkasho, Aomori Prefecture, has been repeatedly postponed due to technical troubles.

Technical problems have also prevented the resumption of operations at Monju prototype fast-breeder nuclear reactor in central Japan, which is designed to burn reprocessed fuel and produce more plutonium than they consume.

Japan’s nuclear regulator, the Nuclear Regulation Authority, has urged the government to pick a new operator for Monju, which is currently under the management of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency. — Kyodo News

Research reactors pass safety screenings under new rules

TOKYO — Two research reactors at Japanese universities passed stricter safety screenings Wednesday by the nuclear regulator introduced after the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

The screening has affected research and educational programmes at Kyoto University and Kindai University, the operators of the two facilities. They plan to resume the reactors’ operations later this year.

Both commercial and research reactors need to gain approval to operate under the new safety regulations.

The two reactors halted their operations for a regular checkup in 2014. The Nuclear Regulation Authority began screenings for the reactors that year.

Shunichi Tanaka, the head of the NRA, said at a regular meeting Wednesday that the safety body should consider more effective ways to carry out screenings, given the fact that it took about a year and a half for the two research units to obtain safety clearance.

They have much smaller output capacity compared to a commercial reactor, with Kyoto University’s unit having a capacity of 100 watts and Kindai’s reactor 1 watt.

Kyoto University is also seeking to restart another research reactor, also halted in 2014, with an output capacity of 5 megawatts. — Kyodo News
Medical records search warrant carried out in Prince case

LOS ANGELES — A search warrant affidavit obtained by the Los Angeles Times on Tuesday revealed that a doctor who saw the late pop star Prince twice just weeks before his death and was at the musician’s home when Prince’s body was found had prescribed him medication.

The document said Dr. Michael Todd Schulenberg was at the star’s Paisley Park Studios compound in suburban Minneapolis to drop off test results when Prince’s body was found in an elevator on 21 April.

The affidavit said Schulenberg had also prescribed Prince medication, but did not specify what those medications were or whether the prescription had been filled. The search warrant was carried out on 5 May at North Memorial Medical Centre. Health system spokeswoman Lesa Bratton told the Los Angeles Times that Schulenberg no longer works for the system.

Barb Stevenson, a spokeswoman reached by Reuters, said she could provide no information on the case.

Schulenberg, whose name was misspelled in the documents according to the Los Angeles Times, also could not be reached for comment on Tuesday night.

Detectives also revisited Paisley Park on Tuesday as “a component of a complete investigation,” the Carver County Sheriff’s Office said in a statement on Twitter, without providing further details. Prince died one day before he was scheduled to meet another doctor who specializes in addiction treatment and “save his life,” that doctor’s lawyer said at a news conference last Wednesday.

California doctor Howard Kornfeld was contacted by Prince’s representatives on 20 April, one day before the singer’s body was discovered at his home, attorney William Maury told Reuters. Prescription opioid medication was found at the scene, according to a law enforcement source with knowledge of the investigation but who is not authorised to speak publicly.—Reuters

Trove of Marilyn Monroe’s personal belongings to go up for auction

LOS ANGELES — A collection of personal items including handwritten notes and jewellery that belonged to film star Marilyn Monroe will go up for auction in November at Julien’s Auctions.

Monroe, one of the most iconic stars of Hollywood’s Golden Age of cinema, left numerous items in her will to her acting mentor, Lee Strasberg. More than 500 lots of Monroe’s belongings will be at auction in Los Angeles on 19 and 20 November, and they are expected to fetch between $2 million and $4 million.

Julien’s Auctions said the items had never been on the auction block and are being offered for sale by the estate of Strasberg, who taught stars such as James Dean, Al Pacino, Jack Nicholson and Jane Fonda.

He died in 1982.

“Marilyn was a complex and beguiling figure in her lifetime, leaving generations of adoring fans to speculate, infer and debate about her life,” Strasberg’s wife, Anna Strasberg, said in a statement.

Many of the items are preserved exactly as they were when Monroe died of a drug overdose in 1962, aged 36.

A small clutch evening bag or minaudiere is being sold with two 10-cent coins, eight Philip Morris cigarettes and a used Revlon lipstick in the shade “Bachelor’s Carnation,” a vibrant red hue. It is expected to fetch between $15,000 and $20,000.

“That’s a really neat piece and it’s like a time warp right back to the 1940s when Marilyn was just becoming famous,” said Martin Nolan, executive director of Julien’s Auctions.

Amid the items are a glimpse into Monroe’s life, such as a taxi receipt dated 2 February, 1960 to 20th Century Fox, the year she was starring in “Let’s Make Love” for the film studio, and tax documents that detailed the actress’ expenditures. A jewellery case owned by Monroe’s former husband, baseball great Joe DiMaggio is expected to fetch between $3,000 and $5,000. The case has a brass monogram and a combination lock set to 555, reflecting DiMaggio’s No.5 player number for the New York Yankees. —Reuters

Woodo Allen tops bill at star-studded Cannes festival

CANNES (France) — The 69th Cannes Film Festival has what it takes to be a vintage edition, with Woody Allen leading a pack of celebrated filmmakers presenting their movies to the French Riviera crowds.

The 11-22 May cinema extravaganza opens on Wednesday with Allen’s “Cafe Society”, featuring Jesse Eisenberg and Kristen Stewart in a story of a young man who arrives in Hollywood during the 1930s hoping to work in the film industry.

“When we will be old we will tell our children you I was living at a time when Woody Allen’s films were coming out, and I think he’s one of the greatest auteurs,” festival director Thierry Fremaux told Reuters.

Although he has never been in competition, Allen is a Cannes favourite. This year will be the third time he has presented his films in the main competition.

“This year the competition is mostly Cannes favourites, Cannes darlings,” Variety critic Jay Weissburg told Reuters.

“The competition is exciting, it’s a great director, someone who likes to reward his friends, he’s somebody who likes to bring in the people he knows to come back year after year after year.”

The Dardenne brothers, who present “The Unknown Girl”, have won the festival’s highest distinction, the Palme d’Or, twice.

Ken Loach, in Cannes with “I, Daniel Blake” has won it once, while Bruno Dumont; Jim Jarmusch, who is showing two films including a documentary on Iggy Pop; Park Chan-wook; and Pedro Almodovar have all previously scooped other honors.

Jarman’s films are two of five distributed by Amazon as the video streaming giant makes its first appearance in Cannes.

While the competition films bring much of the prestige, some of the red carpet glitz will surround some of the out of competition screenings, such as Steven Spielberg’s “The BFG”, based on the novel by Roald Dahl.

Oscar-winner Julia Roberts makes her Cannes debut in Jodie Foster’s out of competition film “Money Monster”, alongside George Clooney.

“If we take him he’s his envelope, he’s going to be ‘hundreds of police officers will be deployed as France is still facing a high risk of attack.”

Private security officers will control the Palais des Festivals entrance while “hundreds” of police officers will be deployed as France is still under a state of emergency after last year’s Paris attacks killed 130 people. —Reuters
KATHMANDU — Climbers near Everest summit for first time in three years to make the final ascent to the world’s tallest peak, after fatal avalanches cut short the 2014 and 2015 campaigns.

Teams at forward camps are looking for a weather “window” to open in the next few days, clearing the way to the 8,850 metre (29,035 foot) summit. A large snow avalanche that killed 9,000 Sherpas in 2014, and an avalanche in the treacherous Khumbu Icefall in 2014, permitted the route to the South Col, with the final camp, to be established at about 8,000 metres (26,246 feet), and were stocking it with supplies. “Climbers have begun to move from the base camp to higher camps for the summit,” Shrestha told Reuters from Base Camp.

Ang Tshering Sherpa, chief of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, who is in touch with climbers at Base Camp, said in Kathmandu that, weather permitting, the route from the South Col to the summit would be fixed on Wednesday. “Climbers will then start making summit attempts from Thursday,” Sherpa told Reuters.

Veteran mountaineer and blogger Alan Arnette, tracking the campaign, said in a post eight teams had slept at Camp 3 — at 7,162 metres (23,497 feet). Unpredictable weather remains a challenge though this year’s campaign has been free of incident. Climbers from around the world spend tens of thousands of dollars to try to climb Everest every year though none reached the summit in last year’s spring campaign. Last September, Japan’s Nobukazu Kuriki, 33, had to call off his solo attempt when he was beaten back by wind and snow at 8,150 metres (26,738 feet).

Wang Jing, a 40-year-old Chinese woman, was the only person to climb Everest in 2014 but her ascent sparked controversy amid reports she took a helicopter over the Khumbu Icefall, in what many Everest climbers saw as a violation of their code.

—Reuters

**Rodin sculpture sets auction record at spotty Sotheby’s sale**

NEW YORK — A Rodin sculpture set a new artist’s auction record at Sotheby’s on Monday when it sold for $20.4 million, but the strong price was likely to provide little reassurance to an art market that many fear is softening after years of spiking prices.

Sotheby’s sale of Impressionist and modern art took in a total of $144.4 million, missing the low pre-sale estimate of about $165 million for 62 lots offered. One-third of the works went unsold. Despite some high points that drew spirited bidding, the sale was marked by its relatively high unsold rate, and some selective price tags for works that did find buyers.

Rodin’s marble sculpture, “L’Eternal Printemps,” soared far beyond its estimated price of $8 million to $12 million, and broke the Rodin auction record of just under $20 million. Drawing intense, global competition, Sotheby’s pointed to the work as emblematic of the kind of fresh-to-market, quality works that auction houses must now offer to elicit strong prices and spirited bidding. Executives employed words such as discerning, measured and selective to characterise both the night’s results and the present market itself.

“It’s emblematic of the marketplace we’re in right now,” said Helena Newman, European chairman of Impressionist and modern art, adding “It’s nuanced market.” —Reuters
La Liga chief Tebas renews feud with acting UEFA boss

BARCELONA — La Liga president Javier Tebas has renewed his old feud with Angel Maria Villar, saying he hopes the Spanish football federation (RFEF) chief becomes head of UEFA because it will mean him leaving his current position.

Villar has been acting president of European football’s ruling body since Michel Platini was provisionally suspended in October. He is now expected to run for election as UEFA’s permanent leader after Platini reigned when his ban was upheld by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Monday.

Tebas has long been a critic of Villar, the RFEF’s president since 1988, for his leadership of the organisation.

Their relationship was further strained last year when Villar supported a planned strike by players against a new law regulating the collective bargaining process, saying the RFEF had not supported a planned strike by players against a new law regulating the collective bargaining process, saying the RFEF had not supported a planned strike by players against a new law regulating the collective bargaining process, saying the RFEF had not supported a planned strike by players against a new law regulating the collective bargaining process.

West Ham farewell marred by attack on Man Utd bus

LONDON — West Ham United’s Boleyn Ground farewell party turned sour on Tuesday when Manchester United’s team bus was attacked by bottle-throwing home fans after it got stuck in traffic.

Huge crowds, many without tickets, had congregated outside the stadium for the sell-out Premier League clash, West Ham’s final home game before moving to the 60,000-seat Olympic Stadium after 112 years at Upton Park.

However, the carnival atmosphere was replaced by shameful scenes as some West Ham fans spotted United’s coach on Green Street outside the ground and threw missiles, including a smoke canister, at the vehicle.

Several windows on the coach were damaged during the chaos and policemen with riot shields moved in to quell the trouble.

Footage filmed by United’s players on board the bus showed them cowering on the floor as they bus came under attack.

Police eventually managed to escort the United team to the entrance less than an hour before the scheduled 1845 GMT (1945 London time) kick-off and the match began at 1930 GMT.

“It wasn’t nice, the coach got smashed up,” said Manchester United captain Wayne Rooney. “I’m sure you will see the images but it was disappointing.”

United manager Louis van Gaal looked visibly shaken by the incident as he walked into the stadium.

“The way we have been received is not the proper way of course,” the Dutchman said. “That makes all the influence on the players and that is a pity.”

West Ham’s co-chairman David Sullivan, whose side ended an emotional night with a 3-2 victory, said United should have arrived earlier to avoid trouble.

“I think the police and officials have been kind, I would make them kick off at 7.45 if it was up to me. Manchester United knew the score, they should have been here at four o’clock,” he said.

London’s Metropolitan Police said in a statement that one officer and a member of the public sustained minor injuries, but no arrests had been made.

West Ham later issued a statement condemning those responsible for the disorder.

“We are aware that there were some supporters outside the Boleyn Ground who didn’t act in an appropriate way when the Manchester United team bus was damaged,” it said.

“That was not acceptable and we will work with the police to identify those responsible and ban them for life.”

The Football Association also announced that it would launch a full investigation, including an incident where objects were thrown at United goalkeeper David de Gea during the game. “The FA strongly condemns the unsavoury incidents this evening,” it said in a statement.

West Ham have played at the 35,000-capacity Boleyn Ground since 1904 but will begin next season in the 700,000-metre Gold Cup at the Olympic Stadium after agreeing a 99-year lease.

— Reuters

Poland’s Zawadka gets four-year doping ban

SYDNEY — Polish swimmer Michal Zawadka has been slapped with a four-year ban for flunking a dope test in Sydney last September, the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) said on Wednesday. Zawadka, whose sample tested positive for anabolic steroid clenbuterol and stimulant methylhexaneamine during the New South Wales Short Course Championships, was banned by Swim Australia which oversaw the tests. “Zawadka waived his right to a hearing and as a result, accepted the mandatory four year sanction,” the ASADA said, adding that the suspension will be backdated to 11 November 2015. “This means he is ineligible to participate, as an athlete or support person, in any sports that have adopted a World Anti-Doping Agency compliant anti-doping policy until 12 November 2019.” Zawadka was the Australian champion in the 50 metres short course breaststroke when he represented KBR Aquatics in the 2014 Australian Short Course Championships in Adelaide. — Reuters

Michał Zawadka, a Polish swimmer, has been caught using performance-enhancing drugs and has been banned for four years. Zawadka, who tested positive for clenbuterol and methylhexaneamine in September 2015, has accepted the ban and it has been backdated to November 2015. His ban means he is ineligible to compete in any sports that have adopted the World Anti-Doping Agency’s anti-doping policy until November 2019. Zawadka was the Australian champion in the 50 meters short course breaststroke in 2014. — Reuters