DISCUSSION ON THE PEACE

Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong continues

THE Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong continued for the second day at MICC-2 yesterday with discussion of delegates to the conference. Following are the excerpts of the discussion at the morning session of the conference.

Speaking as a member of the panel of chairmen, Padoh Saw Kkawe Htoo Win said that the attendees will submit the attitude of their respective parties and organisations regarding matters related to the unity, peace, national reconciliation and construction of future Myanmar, that in so doing, their experiences will be different and their aspirations for the future will not be one and the same and that the future of Myanmar has to be built based on unity within diversity and peace.

Afterwards, the delegates expressed their opinions and attitudes. First, Union minister U Khaw Tint Swe, in his capacity as the vice chairman 1 of the 21st century Panglong convention central committee, said that not only during the period of changes in Myanmar’s international security policy but also in the post policy changes period, there shall be the same bases, that the national security policy will be based on democracy and that civilian participation in implementation of national defence and security is to be promoted.

He added that civilian-military co-operation is to be enhanced to be able to strengthen integrated security mechanism, that disarmament, abolition of armed groups and reunification are prerequisites to a peace process, that reintegration of those who were armed previously is needed to serve in the interest of their nation and their people, that peace and sustainable development are intertwined and that the armed conflicts are hindrances to the socio-economic development.

In our building of peace, he said, mere cessation of wars and conflicts is not enough. We need to ensure a long-enduring peace and security. We also need to manage resource sharing and profit sharing in an equitable manner.

Then, Padoh Saw Tar Do Mu from KNU said that the sovereign power of future federal union shall be descended from the entire mass of indigenous people, that all ethnic races shall be of equal status in terms of race and politics that clauses which protect the rights of languages, cultures, customs and traditions shall be enshrined in the federal constitution and that they wanted self-determination in political, economic, social and cultural sectors.

He added that all states and regions should be vested with all three powers and that they should also be empowered to write their own constitutions in such a way as not to be contrary to the federal constitution. Self-determination is to be combined with the federal union and the residual powers shall be vested into the state and regional authorities. Resource sharing and revenue sharing need a mechanism to ensure fair sharing. The system of horizontal equalisation and vertical equalisation will be established to bridge the development gap. In addition, it is needed, he said, to develop new free institutions and strengthen the existing ones.

Aung Hlaing from the NLD said that when a retrospective look at the world’s history is cast, it will be seen that there have been religious-connected armed conflict in Northern Ireland and apartheid-based conflict in South Africa, and the ongoing armed conflict in Syria which are treading upon a stable political path. And when their ways of solving these conflicts are analysed, they have taken months and years to end these conflicts are analysed, they have taken months and years to solve these issues with a great patience being exercised.

It is necessary for the representatives to the peace conference to work together through negotiation until an end to long-standing internal armed conflict is sought. They should be encouraged to brave the obstacles to the peace initiative, U Pyone Cho said.

Regarding the post-ceasefire plans, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Pyone Cho spoke of the need to help victims in conflict areas to overcome their physical and emotional traumas and the importance of rehabilitation and resettlement plans to improve their livelihoods.

He also called for curb on forced recruitment on humanitarian ground and respect for the rights of citizens included in the constitution.

Saw Kyaw Nyunt of the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army-Peace Council (KNU/KNLA-PC) described the government’s direct control of land management and natural resources as a challenge for the establishment of a federal republic, saying that it neglects the participation of the ethnic groups in decision making.

He called for the enactment of a law that guarantees the right to management of land and natural resources, the preservation of cultural heritage and an equal profit-sharing in the exploitation of natural resources among ethnic areas.

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Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong continues

>> From page 1

U Myint Soe of the Union Solidarity and Development Party spoke in favour of the practice of federalism based on geographical locations, calling for justice and equality before the law. He stressed the need for closer cooperation among regions, states and self-administered areas for greater development.

Col Tint Naing Aye said the country’s constitution reflects federalism, citing the equal number of representatives in the Amyotha Hluttaw, which allows 12 representatives from each state and region.

Saw Sein Win of the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) stressed the need to meet international criteria in the resettlement and rehabilitation work for internally displaced persons and refugees.

It is essential to make collective decisions at every stage and ensure transparency, accountability and responsibility. Apart from provisions of physical and mental support to those who were relocated and creation of sustainable livelihood for them, there must be issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards without causing impact on local people.

The above-mentioned are basic principles to be discussed in the political dialogue for establishment of a democratic federal Union. If the constitution can be revised, genuine peace will prevail in the new Myanmar, where all ethnic people will be able to live together, he discussed.

Next, Dr Aye Maung of Arakan National Party said that all ethnic political parties and armed organizations, including the ANP, are willing to strive for emergence of a genuine democratic federal Union.

He discussed formation of forces under the management of a federal Union Tatmadaw based on states’ forces. He said that the state governments should be vested with full power to manage exploitation of natural resources and to collect taxes except for some taxes related to the federal Union government.

Dr Tin Myo Win, Chairman of the Peace Commission, stressed the need for building a federal system suitable for a country with different social, cultural, economic and historical backgrounds and varied religions and languages.

He highlighted the importance of a concept of working together for establishing a federal Union, suggesting that a future federal Union should be based on the formation of an Amyotha Hluttaw that represents all national races.

“It is imperative to ensure a system that does not allow one national race to influence another,” he added.

Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong of Chin National Front suggested developing a temporary constitution and a federal council in line with the constitution. The federal council should be transformed into a Union legislative body or Upper House (Senate) later.

He called for autonomy for the region of Chin people and collective administration of the Union, saying that a genuine federal system can guarantee democracy, equality and self-determination which are clearly stated in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

“Only when there are no bullets will peace, democracy and sound foundations for establishment of a federal Union emerge,” said Sai Tun Aye of Shan Nationalities League for Democracy.

Daw Wint Wah Tun of the National League for Democracy said her Shardonaw Township, Kayah State, has been suffering for over 50 years due to lack of peace in the region. Kayah State still lags behind in development. Despite no armed conflicts today, local people do not feel secure as landmine fields pose a threat to their way of life. Meanwhile, our national ethnic brethren are being held in camps as internally displaced persons due to the evil legacy of the armed conflicts.

He warned that a strong Union cannot be built by focusing on own interest and identity, pointing out challenges to possible disappearance of own identity.

“Daw Wint Wah Tun of the National League for Democracy said her Shardonaw Township, Kayah State, has been suffering for over 50 years due to lack of peace in the region. Kayah State still lags behind in development. Despite no armed conflicts today, local people do not feel secure as landmine fields pose a threat to their way of life. Meanwhile, our national ethnic brethren are being held in camps as internally displaced persons due to the evil legacy of the armed conflicts.

We firmly believe that the right policy for solving the political dilemma is through political means as the federal system is based on not allowing secession from the Union and that we can achieve success in building a federal democracy system through political dialogue.

U Kyi Myint of Shan State East Special Region-4 Mongla (PSC/NDDA) said in his remarks that there has not been a single shot fired in the region since 1989 when they achieved peace there, urging other armed organizations to make ceasefire as soon as possible in order to better develop in their respective regions.

We would like to demand the formation of Special Region-4 in eastern Shan State including Nangpan, Mongla and Situ as a Self-Administrative Zone with the demarcation set in 1989, under the direct rule of the Union Government.

We will elect leaders democratically for our self-administrative zone and will report results to the government. In order to effectively enforce the rule of law in our border area, our self-ad- ministrative zone should get an independent judiciary system and we will make efforts for socio-economic development within our zone and the government should provide budget allocations for the self-administrative zone.

Mong Win Htoo of Ta’ang (Palaung) National Party said the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong is a politically important event and added that the Ta’ang (Palaung) party is willing to come to peace terms and try for a win-win policy.—Myanmar News Agency

(The discussions in the afternoon and evening sessions of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong on 1st September will be continued.)

Savvy investors snap up land near Kyaukphyu SEZ

THERE has been a recent surge of investors buying up plots of land in Mibya Township and along the stretch of the Zin Kyauk river, both in close proximity to the Rakhine State’s Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone (KSEZ), real-estate agents have told Myitma-kha News Agency.

Buyers reportedly include Myanmar businessmen from around the country and local investors from nearby urban centers.

“There’s hardly any land left. Businesses have been dividing it up, buying up hundred-acre plots and fencing them off. The price of beach-side land is appreciating every month; it never falls. There are some people, though, that have managed to get a low-price for the land, buying it directly from farmers,” said U Maung Gyi, a local real-estate agent.

Businessmen began buying up swathes of land in the region back in 2014 with the objective of reselling it for a substantial profit, but come August 2016 and plots of land are still being purchased by such business savvy individuals as a long-term investment.

“One of the industrial zones comes to fruition, there will be an appreciation in the value of land in the region. I also expect hotels and tourism industries will set-up shop at some point, too. That’s why I’ve invested my money in land, in lieu of putting it in the bank,” a resident of Kyaukphyu and purchaser of 13 acres of land. An acre of land in the region prior to 2010 reportedly fetched K3 million, but has since sky rocketed to between K15 - 20 million.—Myitma-kha News Agency
Remarks made at opening of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong


Following are the remarks of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Tha, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Kayin National Union Saw Mutu Sai Po, Vice Chairman of the Kachin Independence Organization U N* Ban La, Patron of the National League for Democracy U Tin Oo and Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon made at the opening ceremony of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

**Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint**

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint said that he was grateful to see the reunion of the people in the country being achieved peace and stability. The people were already practicing the spirit of peace and the people are working for the country's stability and progress. The people have hopes for peace and progress, he said.

**Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Tha**

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Tha said that peace and stability are the people's wish. We are committed to the cause of peace and stability, he said.

**Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing**

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that the country's peaceful development is the people's wish. He said that the Tatmadaw will contribute to the cause of peace.

**Estado President U Tin Oo**

Speaking at the opening ceremony, State President U Tin Oo said that the people are in the midst of peace and stability, he said.

**Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon**

Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon said that the people are committed to the cause of peace and stability, he said.

**Remarks made at opening of the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong**

**Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Tha**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Tha blamed lack of peace for socioeconomic deprivation in ethnic regions.

**CMCU Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint**

CMCU Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint said that the United Nations is working for the achievement of peace and stability in the country. The United Nations is working for the cause of peace in the country, he said.

**CMCU Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Tha**

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The Greetings extended by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

In an environment where everything seems according to democracy, all groups need to earnestly notice the fact that putting personal desires at the first place by holding arms to struggles, racism and localism go against the democracy. At present, we are marching on the track of Multi-party Democracy system. Since, this path had been selected in accordance with the desire of the people, we need to maintain the stability and make it more stronger. We have to enhance the further progress of our country through peace and tranquility by learning the lessons from experiences of some democratic countries.

We understand the anxieties of all National races and Ethnic Armies. Armenia’s desire is to ensure in achieving equal social live of our nationalities. To progress the living standards of our society harmoniously, we have to live in peace by doing good things. We will not differentiate and take accounts on the sizes of the States. Regions and rates of populations and natural resources values and diverse of people’s socio-economic. We will make every efforts to share the delights from the benefits of equalities among all the national races. However, it will take certain amount of time for harmonious development. We have to hold open and frank discussions to find out solutions.

Today’s conference is the outcome of frequent discussions held in the meeting of nationalities Federal Council and mutual-trust-building activities. The advantage we have today is the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA unanimously approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (the Union Parliament) in December 2015. Most of the contents in the agreement were mainly based on formulas of ethnic organizations who participated all along the way in drafting the agreement. So, my advice is to firmly keep the NCA as the baseline principle of the Union Peace Conference, the 21st Century Panglong Conference and further meetings. Moreover, I would like to urge all to implement the peace process in a short time.

Chairman of Karen National Union Saw Mutu Sae Po extended greetings at the opening ceremony of Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong

Chairman of Karen National Union Saw Mutu Sae Po extended greetings at the opening ceremony of Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong at Myanmar International Convention Center-2 in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

In his welcoming speech, the KNU Chairman highlighted the importance of peace, national reconciliation and constitutional amendments for ensuring a harmonious development of a society, citing that there can be no peace without national reconciliation and there can be no national reconciliation without reaching agreements and developing procedures to amend the constitution.

He expressed his belief that the Union Peace Conference held this January following the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was the ribbon cutting for a political marathon and the 21st Century Panglong Union Peace Conference was the sound of whistle blowing to start the long race. Despite the NCA not being perfect, it has acted as a bridge that connected all stakeholders into a political dialogue, said the KNU Chairman, adding that the common goal is peace.

He pointed out the need to lay down a work programme involving peace, national reconciliation and constitutional amendment in the country’s peace process, calling for parallel implementation of a constitutional amendment after a constitutional amendment after the 2008 Constitution. He highlighted the need to develop a roadmap for emergence of a democratic federal Union and to bridge the remaining gap between stakeholders on establishment of a democratic federal Union.

He suggested that guidelines that are suitable to the real situations of regions and states should be drawn up after development of a political dialogue framework as Union-level meetings are set to be held after the conference.

He said that the 2008 Constitution has forms of a federal system but its essence is weak, adding that now is the time to realise a constitutional amendment after seeking a compromise on different goals of a federal system with political dialogue.

He highlighted the importance of reducing fighting, dealing with resettlement of internally displaced persons with goodwill and developing humanitarian assistance programmes as a gesture of building trust among all stakeholders.

He called for a ceasefire and establishment of a new political culture. He suggested listening to the voices of political parties that won no seats in the general elections, CSOs and other stakeholders and allowing them to take part in the upcoming political dialogue.

In his conclusion, the KNU Chairman called for making a resolution to build a new, peaceful and harmonious society.

UNFC Chairman U N’Ban La addresses opening of Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong

CHAIRMAN of the United Nationalities Federal Council U N’Ban La, who is also the Vice Chairman of Kachin Independence Organisation, extended greetings at the opening ceremony of the 21st Century Panglong Union Peace Conference held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

In his welcoming speech the KIO Chairman thanked those concerned for organising the conference that brought all stakeholders to work together toward the establishment of a democratic federal Union inspired by putting an end to decades-long armed conflicts.

Recounting the 1947 Panglong Agreement, he expressed his view that the Panglong Agreement, endorsed with Panglong spirit and pledges, was a real milestone for the country that causes it to stand taller in the world despite the fact that the agreement did not include all and a federal Union that provide ethnic minorities with democracy, equality and self-determination has not been realised yet.

He affirmed that no ethnic group wants to secede from the country but want to establish a democratic federal Union on mutual understanding, cooperation and respects. He stressed the need to seek a compromise through negotiations at the first conference and in future without making the Panglong spirit or agreement weaker. He called for qualities of endurance, goodwill, mutual trust, understanding and forgiveness.

It is high time to strive to shape the future of the country which is still poor despite its abundant natural resources, he said.

He also emphasised the need to uphold the interests of the people and highlighted the importance of equality among all stakeholders to work together.

NLD Patron calls for efforts at peace conference to create a secure society for all

A safe and secure society is also a prosperous one, an NLD official said in his welcoming speech at the 21st Century Panglong Conference—21st Century Panglong in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 August.

U Tin Oo, Patron of the National League for Democracy, said the purpose of organising the peace conference was to restore peace and order so the country can be rebuilt as a free, just, democratic society.

“It is high time that the people of Myanmar enjoyed a better quality of life,” U Tin Oo said, urging the delegates from different groups to enter their discussions at this meeting with honesty, righteousness, mutual respect, love and sympathy. Collectively, they are these a secure society for the citizens of Myanmar.

“The people living in the conflict areas have had bitter encounters since independence,” he said, describing the loss of trust among the national brethren as one of the most damaging realities. “The existence of a democratic federal and constitutional system as a federal republic is impossible in the absence of mutual understanding and trust,” he pointed out.
FDI in Myanmar hotel and tourism projects soar to US$2,918.5252m

Foreign direct investments (FDI) in Myanmar hotel and tourism projects soared to US$2,918.5252 million, it is learnt from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Currently, there are 52 hotel projects in Myanmar, both FDI and joint investments. Singapore is on the top of the list in FDI in Myanmar hotel sector with an investment of US$1,624.1944 million, followed by Thailand with an investment of US$845.63 million and Viet Nam with US$440 million, it is learnt.

After the Myanmar Citizen investment Law was enacted, permission to build 63 hotels having 9,120 rooms was granted by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), with an investment of Ks1,439,463.12 million. According to statistics from the Hotel and Tourism ministry, there are a total of 1,361 hotels with 5,335 rooms.

KANBAWAZA Bank was named “Best Bank in Myanmar” by London-based Finance Asia at the awards ceremony of “The Finance Asia: Country Awards for Achievement 2016” held in Singapore yesterday.

Organisers said KZB Bank won the award because it had the highest amount of deposits in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, provided businesses with highest number of loans, assisted the quick development of country’s economy, achieved the highest number of branch offices in the country, gained achievements year by year with modern banking services meeting international standards, became the largest taxpayer for several consecutive years and earned plaudits for its efforts at nationwide corporate social responsibility in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. At the presentation ceremony, Assistant General Managers U Zaw Win and Daw Thi Thi Aye of the KBZ Bank Ltd accepted the award. Along with KBZ Bank, ICBC Bank from China, ICICI Bank from India, BUSAN Bank from South Korea, CIMB Bank from Malaysia, DBS Bank from Singapore and Kasikorn Bank from Thailand were also given awards.

London-based Finance Asia is an influential institution in the banking and economic sector that evaluates financial institutions and present awards to them. —GNLM

KBZ Bank crowned Finance Asia’s ‘Best Bank in Myanmar’

RTAD to release imported car’s model year limit this month

THE Road Transportation Administration Department (RTAD) will release the model year limits for cars which will be imported next year, said an official from the Ministry of Commerce.

“We have planned to make the importers, individual sellers and buyers not suffer from this limitation of the car model year,” he added. Starting from early 2017, only high model-year cars will be imported. Therefore, the price of cars granted permission to be imported next year are expected to climb, it is learnt. Myanmar citizens mostly purchase Japanese-made cars. When the model year limit on the cars was first put into practice, car sales jumped, it is learnt. —200

Import of machinery through Htee Khee border trade camp resumes

MACHINERY imported into Myanmar through the Htee Khee border trade camp has been resumed, with permission granted by Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), it is learnt from the Ministry of Commerce.

The permit allowing the import of machinery through border trade camps was halted at the end of 2015. Licensed machinery has been permitted through border areas since May, 2016. The import permit of the machinery has been resumed at the Myawaddy, Tachilek and Muse 105th Mile border trade camps, it is learnt. However, privatized individual import of the machinery is not allowed because the resumed import permission of the machinery is being utilised at the Dawei Special Economic Zone. Those who are in compliance with the requirements for an import licence will be given the green light to import machinery, said an official from the Ministry of Commerce. —200

Over 2,000 low-cost apartments to be sold in eight-year instalments

OVER 2,000 low-cost apartments in Yangon can be purchased under the Hire-Purchase system in September and those who do not own house will be given priority.

The Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development has already handed over the apartments to the Yangon region government. These apartments are located in Hlaingthaya and Dagon Myothit (South). The apartments will be sold around Ks10 million, depending on which floor of the building the apartments are located.

Those who do not own a house are entitled to purchase the apartments in instalments. They have to present evidence that their family income is between Ks3 lakhs and Ks5 lakhs per month. After they provide the necessary documents, they have to open account at the Construction and Housing Development bank so that they can purchase apartments in 8-year instalments. —200
NLD Patron calls for peace conference to create a secure society for all

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U Tin Oo stressed the need for strong legal protection for hu-
man rights and equality to main-
tain and enhance mutual trust. The
rise of federalism will enable the
people of all states and regions
to enjoy peace, harmony and rule
of law, he said.

“A single gunshot not only
takes a human life, but it also de-
prives a society of its rule of law,
peace and development,” the pa-
tron said, calling for a ceasefire to
end the security degradation of the
entire population.

He also called for the trans-
formation from fierce fighting to
heated negotiation at the peace con-
ference. The search for a res-
olution to the disagreements is
through coordination and persist-
ence, he said.

U Tin Oo considered the 21st
Century Panglong Conference to
be a crucial political opportu-
nity for the leaders of the ethnic
groups to renew their efforts in na-
tion building, describing the unity
among political and social leaders
in the restoration of peace as “un-
deniable.”

He pointed out the need for
more prosperous regions to help
the less-developed ones to ensure
equitable development, which he
described as the essence of feder-
alism. He also pointed out the need
to foster the next generation of
leaders to save the country from
the trouble of longing for a hero,
quoting Andrea’s words in the play
“Life of Galileo” by the German
playwright Bertolt Brecht: “Pay the
country that breeds no hero.”

Galileo’s response to Andrea,
according to U Tin Oo: “No, An-
drea. Pity the country that needs a
hero.” —MNA

Secretary-General’s remarks at the 21st Century Panglong Conference in Myanmar

I give you my full respect and gratitude for the United Na-
tions. It is a great honour for me
as Secretary-General of the United Nations to address the great open-
ing of the 21st Century Panglong Conference. Thank you for your
invitation.

This is a historic occasion for
the further democratization of this
country and its development.

The symbolism of this Con-
fERENCE is clear from its title, which
recalls the spirit of the original Panglong Conference convened in
1947 by General Aung San, the Father of Modern Burma.

But today, we also look to the
future. This conference is bringing
together Myanmar’s different eth-
ic groups in a joint commitment
to a federal union based on equality,
democracy and self-determination.

I congratulate all sides for the
patience, endurance, determination
and spirit of compromise you have
demonstrated in support of nation-
al reconciliation.

There is a long road ahead,
but the path is very promising.

This is the first time that such
a peace process has been initiated
in the seventy-year history of con-
flict and division between the Un-
ion Government and armed ethnic
groups.

Today’s meeting marks a his-
toric step forward towards former
President U Thein Sein opened the
doors to democratic reforms six
years ago.

Around the world, we have
seen the tragedies that can ensue
when leaders deny the need for
democratic change.

Myanmar shows what is
possible, when leaders listen to
their people’s genuine aspirations,
genuine concerns of the people
and genuine dreams of where this
country should proceed.

The United Nations has been
a steady partner in support of My-
anmar’s reforms, in particular the
national reconciliation process.

We will continue our efforts
to smooth differences, lower ten-
sions and move parties towards
better understanding and dialogue
in line with the goals and values of
the United Nations Charter.

Distinguished delegates, la-
dies and gentlemen,

The long civil war has cost
numerous lives and robbed succes-
sive generations of their dignity,
tranquility and normalcy. It is now
clear that there can be no military
solution to your differences.

I urge you to accept that no party
involved in this reconciliation
process can expect to achieve all
its aims. Conversely, every side
must now do something if the process
is to succeed.

This will require goodwill
on all sides, and a recognition that
success is in the vital interest of all
the people of Myanmar, regardless of
ethnicity, religion, political affili-
ation or socio-economic status.

It is encouraging that the dif-
ferent ethnic armed organizations
with divergent interests and as-
pirations came together to form a
single team to negotiate the Na-
tionwide Ceasefire Agreement last
year.

This agreement was crucially
important, and the new Govern-
ment has undertaken efforts to
make it more inclusive. The 21st
Century Panglong Conference rep-
resents the result of those efforts.

I urge all of you, as you walk
along this path with Daw Aung
San Suu Kyi, to demonstrate the
wisdom needed to address com-
plex and unresolved issues, and to
pave the way for a unified negoti-
tion table that is inclusive of all
interests and constituencies.

This will require sensitivity
and flexibility, and respect for both
signatories and non-signatories.
You will need to be truly compas-
sionate if you are to reach sustaina-
bility solutions.

In this connection, I urge you
to ensure that women make up at least 30 per cent of the representatives at all levels of
dialogue.

Distinguished delegates,
Every transition (carries) risks.

But refusing to embark on
transition may carry the greatest
risk of all. We see tragic evidence
of this around the world.

I urge you all to continue to
face up to your responsibilities,
particularly to the youth and chil-
dren of Myanmar – the future of
this wonderful country.

I urge you to offer them to work
for a better tomorrow, in which
they can fulfill their dreams and as-
pirations in peace and prosperity.

Ladies and gentlemen.

This is my fifth visit to My-
nanmar as Secretary-General. From
Cyclone Nargis in 2008 to the winds of change gripping the coun-
try today, I have worked to mobil-
ize the full support of the United Nations system for Myanmar.

In my meetings with the au-
thorities and with representatives
of the wonderfully diverse peo-
ples of this country, I have always
found inspiration in your determi-
nation to advance towards reform,
peace and stability.

The United Nations will re-
maintain your respectful partner as this process
depthens.

I wish you every success.
Let’s work together for peace.
Thank you.

—Myanmar News Agency

Pyithu Hluttaw hears Health & Sports Ministry’s answers to parliamentary questions

THE Pyithu Hluttaw held its
24th-day session yesterday with
Union Minister for Health and
Sports Dr Myint Htway respond-
ing to questions regarding the
upgrading and opening of sports
and health facilities.

To a call for the upgrading of
the Mandaung sports ground from
township-level sport facility in
North Okkalapa Township, the
Union minister replied that		
the ministry has no plan to up-
grade the sports ground, adding
that it is required to inform the
Myanmar Football Federation
which has the responsibility of
the sports ground management in
accordance with terms and condi-
tions of a lease agreement.

According to the Union
minister, the omus on is on the
MFF and Hannathawady United FC
upgrading and maintaining the sports
development, said the Union min-
ister, adding that that Department
for BANRD will take care of the
construction project.

The Union minister then re-
sponded to a call in regard to the
construction of Pyinpyu dyke in
Ponnagun Township of Rakh-
hine State, saying that construction
work will kick on the dyke
following an agreement with local
farmers regarding the location for
the dyke and its floodgates.

In the project will use K373.50 million
from the regional government’s
fund for the 2017-2018 FY.

Likewise, Deputy Minister for
Transport and Communica-
tions U Kyaw Myo answered a
call for the implementation of nec-
essary measures against riverbank
erosion in Minbya Township of
Rakhine State.

The deputy minister pledged
to take care of the issue in accord-
ance with the budget allotment
and the ministry’s priority list,
saying that Directorate of Water
Resources and Improvement of
River Systems will provide tech-
nical assistance to riverbank ero-
sion control measures.

Next, Union Minister for
Electricity and Energy U Pe Zin
Tun replied to a question regard-
ing operation of coal-fired power
plants, saying that the ministry
allowed coal-fired power plants
to operate in accordance with en-
vironmental impact assessment
-EIA procedures of the Ministry of
Natural Resources and Envir-
onmental Conservation.

The Tikity coal-fired boiler
power station was leased to a
Chinese firm under a long-term
contract, said the Union minister,
adding that the firm is conducting
EIA/SIA procedures and public
and media consultation meetings
and preparing to install desulfa-
rization equipment, denitrification
equipment and online monitoring
equipment.

He went on to say that coal-
-fired power stations in Kaw-
thaung and Nawngkhio are being
operated under the management of
the regional governments.

—Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw hears answers to parliamentary questions

A VILLAGE-to-village road with
11 bridges along its way will be
built in Kyauktaw Township
during the next fiscal year, Union
Minister for Agriculture, Live-
stock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu
told the Amyotha Hluttaw yester-
day.

Construction of the road will
be implemented with the use of the
funds of the Department for Rural
Development and bridge construc-
tion be carried out with the use
of the funds of the Department for
Border Areas and National Races
Development, said the Union min-
ister, adding that that Department
for BANRD will take care of the
construction project.

The Union minister then re-
sponded to a call in regard to the
construction of Pyinpyu dyke in
Ponnagun Township of Rakh-
hine State, saying that construction
work will kick on the dyke
following an agreement with local
farmers regarding the location for
the dyke and its floodgates.

The project will use K373.50 million
from the regional government’s
fund for the 2017-2018 FY.

Likewise, Deputy Minister for
Transport and Communica-
tions U Kyaw Myo answered a
call for the implementation of nec-
essary measures against riverbank
erosion in Minbya Township of
Rakhine State.

The deputy minister pledged
to take care of the issue in accord-
ance with the budget allotment
and the ministry’s priority list,
saying that Directorate of Water
Resources and Improvement of
River Systems will provide tech-

Flood damaged infrastructure to be repaired

A BUDGET request of K1,167.42 million has been submitted to the central Department of Rural Development in Naypyidaw to finance repairs to 11 roads and 52 bridges which were destroyed throughout 19 townships of Bago Region during flooding which swept the region during July and August, inflicting damages worth K4,227.33 million, the Bago Region of Department of Rural Development has informed Myitmyaung News Agency.

The budget included K76.44 million for repairs to a combined length of 1.5 miles of damaged roads from within six townships, and K100.98 million for the re-building of 52 bridges across 14 townships.

“We’ve made separate [budget] submissions for roads and bridges which were destroyed by this year’s flooding. The amount requested is greater than the cost of the original bridges as we’ve requested such bridges, that were built out of bamboo and steel by residents, be rebuilt with concrete. If damage is minor, repairs will be carried out with the maintenance fund. But if they are indeed major, the union budget will be used. For the time being, our department has erected temporary bridges in place of those destroyed to allow people to move around,” said Daw Su Su Hlaing, assistant director of the Department of Rural Development for Bago Region.—Myitmyaung News Agency

Banana plantation in KyaukparaungTsp enjoys healthy profits

BANANA growers across Kyaukparaung Township in Mandalay Region received a handsome profit from the selling of their products this season, local farmers say.

Bananas manufactured from the Popa area are mainly transported to Pakokku, NyaungU, Myingyan, Taungoo, Ngahtogyi, Meiktila, Natmauk, Myothit, Magway, Pwintpyu, Salin, Chauk, Gangaw, Yaw in central dry regions as well as some townships in Chin State.

Nearly 100,000 branches of edible fruit have been sold a month during this monsoon season. The volume is over 30 per cent more compared with the same period last monsoon,” said a banana seller. Several banana plantations in Yenangyaung, Magway and other townships were badly destroyed by a recent severe flood. That is why the growers in Kyaukparaung Township earned a high price for their undamaged products.

Over 300 banana plantations have been developed in Kyaukparaung Township this season.

The current price of a branch of bananas is between K700 and K900. Bananas are one of the most widely consumed fruits in the world because of their health benefits.

The bananas help reduce the risk of cancer and asthma, and is also known to lower blood pressure. Bananas are grown in over 100 countries.—Kyu Kyu

Business discussions to be held between Finland and Myanmar entrepreneurs

A BUSINESS discussion will be held between Myanmar and Finland entrepreneurs this month in Mandalay Region to create new business networks between the two parties.

The meeting is planned to take place on 8 September at the headquarters of the Mandalay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with plans to discuss promotion of bilateral trade between the two countries, said U Win Htay, vice president of the MRCCL.

The Finland investors show great interest in the country’s construction industry and technology sector as well as environmental impact, renewable energy, education, mining, health and medicine. They want to conduct those businesses in collaboration with local entrepreneurs.

Interested parties have been invited to attend the business event.—Kyu Kyu

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party leave for Brunei Darussalam to pay good will visit

A MYANMAR Tatmadaw delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla left Yangon International Airport to pay a good will visit to Brunei Darussalam at the invitation of Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Maj-Gen Dato Paduka Seri Mohd Tawih Bin Abdullah yesterday.

The Senior General and wife and party were seen off at the airport by Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Hsan Oo, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, the Yangon command commander, the Brunei ambassador to Myanmar and officials. Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Mya Tun Oo and senior military officers left for Brunei on the same flight.

It is the Commander-in-Chief’s first visit to the country after establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties. During his trip, the Senior General will meet the Head of State of Brunei Darussalam, the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and officials.—Myawady

Myanmar athletes to take part in Rio Paralympic Games

MYANMAR athletes will take part in the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games to be held between 7 and 18 September in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Paralympics Games are held every four years. Among 23 sports categories, the local athletes will compete in track and field and swimming.

The six-member Myanmar team left Yangon for the host country on Wednesday. They were seen off at Yangon international Airport by officials from the Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities.—200

PUBLIC finance course to be introduced this month by MIF

THE Myanmar Institute of Finance, a private professional institute in Myanmar, will introduce this month its public finance course, which targets staff from government and related business organizations and companies.

In addition to those in the financial field, anyone whose job is concerned with politics should also attend this short course that is scheduled to be opened between 3 and 5 September.

The three-day course will offer knowledge on public finance management, relationships between political and fiscal policy, budgeting, taxation policy, income distribution, resource allocation, recognizing the difference between private and public goods.

The MIF was founded in October with the aim of enhancing the country’s financial industry by raising the standards of education in the area of economics.

Both certificate and diploma levels of banking, insurance, finance and accounting courses have been conducted by the MIF.—GNLM

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UEC announces termination of letter of complaint

UNION Election Commission terminated the letter of complaint against MP U Tin Nu, also known as U Tin Nu Aung, from the Manaung Constituency, Rakhine State, who was elected as MP for the Pyuthahtluat.

Termination of the complaint letter followed the death of U Aung Sein, the candidate of the same constituency from the Union Solidarity and Development Party who lodged the complaint against U Tin Nu to the tribunal of the UEC on 28 July and the UEC terminated the case three days later, according to a statement released by the UEC.

However, according to the Pyuthahtluat Election Law, those eligible persons who want to lodge a complaint letter against the defendant can apply to the UEC within 15 days, said the statement.—Myanmar News Agency

Heads of services organisations transferred, approved and appointed

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred, approved and appointed the heads of services organisations yesterday.

The President has transferred Director-General of Myint Thau of Strategic Studies and Training Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the ASEAN Affairs Department as Director-General of the Department of Electric Power Transmission and System Control of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy as Director-General of the same organisation under the same ministry, Deputy Director-General of the Management and Development Department of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces under the Ministry of Defence and Energy as Director-General of the same organisation under the same ministry and Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Information as Director-General of No (2) Heavy Industry under the same ministry on probation from the date they assumed charge of their duties.—Myanmar News Agency
THE LEGENDARY CITY OF HANOI RETAINS MUCH OF ITS OLDER CHARM OF BYGONE ERAS

By Nwe Nwe

Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, is a city that has evolved through centuries of changes and upheavals. It has managed to preserve much of its older charm amidst modern development, making it a fascinating place for visitors. This article explores some of the city's attractions and highlights its enduring appeal.

The Presidential Palace

The Presidential Palace is a masterpiece of colonial architecture and is a must-visit for any visitor to Hanoi. The palace was built in 1863 for the French governor and then served as the residence of the President of Vietnam from 1945 to 1975. It now houses the Office of the President of Vietnam and the Office of the Government.

The Old Quarter

The Old Quarter, also known as the Hoan Kiem Lake Area, is a bustling and vibrant part of Hanoi. It is home to over 3,000 small businesses, including street vendors, cafes, and souvenir shops. The streets are narrow and crowded, and the atmosphere is lively and energetic.

Hoan Kiem Lake

Hoan Kiem Lake is a popular spot for both locals and tourists. It is located in the heart of Hanoi and is surrounded by several historic landmarks, including the Temple of Literature and the Museum of Fine Arts.

The Museum of Vietnamese History

The Museum of Vietnamese History is a large and comprehensive museum that provides a comprehensive overview of Vietnamese history. It covers a wide range of topics, from prehistoric times to modern times, and offers a wealth of information about the country's culture and traditions.

Con-Numitaire Art Museum

Con-Numitaire Art Museum is a unique and fascinating museum that showcases contemporary Vietnamese art. It is housed in a historic building and features a collection of modern and contemporary artworks.

The Mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh

The Mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh is a significant tourist attraction in Hanoi. It is a memorial to the country's most famous leader, who led the fight for independence from French colonial rule.

The Ancient City

The Ancient City is a reconstruction of a traditional Vietnamese village from the 19th century. It is a popular destination for tourists and offers a glimpse into the country's rich cultural heritage.

Conclusion

Hanoi is a city that has managed to preserve much of its older charm amidst modern development. Its rich history, cultural landmarks, and natural beauty make it a must-visit destination for anyone interested in Southeast Asian culture and history.
Social organizations needed to attend to clean up technology training

TO protect the historic temples, Regional government currently prohibited the other social organizations to clean up damaged Buddhist temples and monasteries by last week’s earthquake, said U Soe Tint, Nyaung U District General Administration Department.

The social organizations need to inform to District General Administration Department if they want to clean up the historic Buddhist temples.

Thirty-four Buddhist temples have been prohibited. We will prohibit if we find they are cleaning in other damaged temples without permission. The members of pagoda board of trustees were patrolling around the temples. We will allow only the social organizations led by a staff member of department of archaeology,” he added. Currently, the authorities are working on temporary restoring and taking the photo of the damaged temples and monasteries as a record. Then, they will clean up the debris.

Presently, Department of archaeology is compiling the document and after that they will allow the social organizations to clean up the temples. The social organizations need to give the name list to attend the cleaning up of antique technology training which will be provided by the UNESCO in first week of September. According to the Ministry of Religion and Culture, 396 pagodas and monasteries were affected and 33 were badly damaged in Bagan. Currently, authorities covered the badly damaged pagoda which is going to repair as soon as possible. The traditional painting wall collapsed in Art Nandar Pagoda in Bagan. —Aung Thant Khine

A long quene of the needy children being seen. Photo: Nay Myo Aung (Lewetha)

Fire breaks out at warehouse in Insein

A fire broke out at a warehouse at a road transportation branch office in Da Nyin Gone ward, Insein township on Wednesday. According to the investigation, the warehouse was rented by CJ Korean Express. Aye Ko, 20, a labourer, was welding some iron items using a gas cylinder tank. A firefighter said a spark from the welding flame ignited the gas cylinder.

A basic education school has opened within the compound of the monastery to provide better education services for those children.

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Three Chinese men arrested for selling fake gold

Three Chinese men arrested being seen with the fake gold. Photo: Ko Ye

Needy children seek donor for daily survivals

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A LOCALL philantropic organization in Nay Pyi Taw is looking for donors to provide necessary care to orphans and needy children. Since its establishment in 1990 by two Buddhist monks, the home for needy children has hosted about 700 children from poor backgrounds.

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Police arrested illegal knives holder

POLICE have arrested a man who was allegedly holding illegal knives in his house at Shwe Pyi Thar township, Yangon on 30 August. The police raided a house of one U Nwe Win alias U Pho Haung. The police found Khant Zaw Nay together with a 19 inches knife and 10 inches knife. After continuous search, the authorities discovered a cache of several knives in his room. Action is being taken against Khan t Zaw Nay under section 19(A) of weapons law. — Ko Ko Naing (Shwe Pyay Thar)

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Police arrested illegal knives holder

Local police wanted ten members of gang

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The local police wanted ten members of gang for assaulting another three men who were coming back home after watching football match at a tea shop. The accident occurred on Sunday midnight at Taungdwin road, Magwe town.

According to investigation, Than Htet Soe, 15, Sithu Ohn Myint and Pyat Phyo from Myin Kin village were heading home with Motorbike around 10:30 pm after watching football match at the tea shop. Then, ten members of gang stopped the motorbike and hit three of them for no reason. Also, they destroyed their motorbikes and ran away. Three of them were taken to the Magwe General Hospital, where they were treated for wounds. The police are still searching ten suspects for taking of action. — Kyaw Zay Ya

Police arrested gamblers in Bago

POLICE arrested four people who were allegedly playing the cards in a house at Shwe Taga ward, Pyay town, Bago region on 29 August. The police searched the gambling house owned by Daw Hsan Htay, 59, and found the documents which are related to gambling and a stake amounting to Ks 18,100. Local police filed charges against Daw Hsan Htay, Daw Hsan Myint, 53, Daw Pyay Pyay, 20, and Aung Myint Oo, 34, under section 13(A)/14(A) of the gambling law. — Myanmar Police Force
Australia foreshadows expanding role in fight against Islamic State in Syria and Iraq

SYDNEY — Australia will expand its military action against the Islamic State militant group in Syria and Iraq after amending its domestic laws, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said on Thursday.

Australia joined the US-backed coalition against Islamic State in September 2014, and has steadily increased its military participation against the group that has repeatedly called for attacks against the United States and other Western countries.

However, Turnbull said Australia’s role had been hamstrung by differences between domestic and international law, a loophole that his government would close with new legislation. Australian law currently only allows the targeting of people who were playing an active role in hostilities, which Turnbull said was more restrictive than international law.

“This legal risk posed a major challenge to the effectiveness of our operations. It meant that the [Australian Defence Force’s] targeting base in Iraq and Syria was restricted, and we could not operate as freely as our coalition partners,” Turnbull told the Australian parliament. Turnbull said military operations could expand to target “a broader range” of Islamic State combatants once the law was changed.—Reuters

Calm seas, Libya’s lawless state open door for migrant flows

ROME/TRIPOLI — Calmer seas and Libya’s lawlessness have opened the way for smugglers to ship thousands of migrants across the Mediterranean this week, in a striking reminder of how far Europe is from ending the migrant crisis.

In just four days, Italy’s coastguard and European vessels pulled 13,000 migrants from packed wooden boats and rubber dinghies crossing from Libya’s coast through the Strait of Sicily, one of the shortest routes from North Africa.

Images from rescue vessels showed migrants crammed into fragile boats, some in orange life jackets, others jumping into the water to swim as rescuers shouted for them to stop. Many were women and children, most of them Sub-Saharan Africans.

Some 1,800 migrants were saved in 12 rescue missions on Wednesday, 3,000 migrants on Tuesday, 6,600 on Monday, 1,600 on Sunday and 500 on Saturday, according to the Dignity 1 rescue ship, operated by the Spanish NGO Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS). On Monday they came out into the water to swim as rescuers shouted for them to stop. Many were women and children, most of them Sub-Saharan Africans.

“In the 10 days before this weekend, we didn’t rescue anyone, or very few. It wasn’t bad weather, but there were 1 metre to 1-1/2 metre waves.”—Reuters
Japanese bonito flake maker opens factory in France

A NOBEL peace prize winner, Mother Teresa, was one of the most influential women in the Church’s 2,000-year history, acclaimed for her work amongst the world’s poorest. After lifetime with the poor, Mother Teresa speeds to sainthood just 19 years after her death. She became a nun at 16 and moved to India in 1929, creating her mission in 1950. In her adopted India, a primarily Hindu nation, she’s identified with the Church’s 2,000-year history. As a resident of Kolkata for the dying and said untrained carers failed to recognize when some patients could have been cured. Kolodiejchuk said her detractors missed the point of her mission, arguing that she had created a place to comfort people in their final days rather than establish hospitals. "We don’t have to prove that saints were perfect, because no one is perfect," he said.

In her adopted India, a primarily Hindu nation, Mother Teresa has been accused of looking to convert its poverty being glorified into its deepest recession in economi- cally and its sta- ny region of northwestern Brazil, to provoke dried bonito shavings made with Japanese artisan skills to restaurants and stores throughout Europe. "I hope this factory becomes a place from which katsuobushi will spread its wings around the world," said untrained carers failed to recognize when some patients could have been cured. Kolodiejchuk said her detractors missed the point of her mission, arguing that she had created a place to comfort people in their final days rather than establish hospitals. "We don’t have to prove that saints were perfect, because no one is perfect," he said.

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Russia honours first British Arctic convoy, 75 years on

ARKHANGELSK, (Russia) — British and Russian World War II veterans gathered on Wednesday in Arkhangelsk, 75 years to the day since Britain’s first Arctic convoy of military supplies steamed into the northern port.

Britain’s Princess Anne has been among those attending events honouring those who sailed, and the thousands who died, protecting supply convoys dispatched to aid the Soviet Union against Nazi Germany.

On 31 August, 1941, two months after Hitler’s surprise attack on his erstwhile ally prompted Josef Stalin to seek support from Britain’s Royal Air Force in aerial battles with the Luftwaffe and the German-Soviet wartime alliance, the six British and American-Soviet wartime cooperation merchant and naval ships would claim more than 3,000 Allied lives over the next four years as U-boats, aircraft and mines sank 101 merchant and naval ships.

“The most dangerous part was being on an Arctic convoy and not knowing what was going to happen with the submarines, the aircraft and the mines,” Elkingston said.

“But the operation in the air, there was no real danger because we were used to fighting Messerschmitts. We were used to that. And it was quite exciting to shoot an aircraft down.”

The convoys were “the worst journey in the world” in the words of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who used them to forge an uneasy anti-Nazi alliance with Stalin that would last until the victors fell out, ushering in the Cold War.

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.9.2016 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.

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.

SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Five dead after two planes collide mid-air in Alaska

SEATTLE — Two small planes collided in mid-air over southwest Alaska on Wednesday, killing all five people aboard both aircraft, authorities said.

The crash occurred around 11 a.m. local time (1900 GMT) about 60 miles (96 km) north of the city of Bethel, Alaska National Guard spokeswoman Candis Olmstead said in a statement.

The single-engine planes were a Cessna 208 Caravan with three individuals on board, and a Piper PA-18 Super Cub carrying two people, Olmstead said.

The Cessa belonged to Hageland Aviation Servicelines, a regional airline, and the Piper was operated by Renfro’s Alaskan Adventures, she added. Renfro’s offers wilderness hunting trips out of Bethel, according to its website.

Alaska is a sparsely populated US state more than twice the size of Texas, and residents in remote areas rely on small planes for travel, recreation and mail delivery.

Alaska State Troopers said in a statement that rescue workers searching the crash site found no survivors aboard either aircraft, and said an investigation was continuing.—Reuters
Musical about L.A. dreamers opens 73rd Venice film festival

VENICE — Damien Chazelle’s “La La Land”, a musical comedy-drama about the joys and pains of pursuing one’s dreams, opened the Venice film festival on Wednesday, kicking off days of screenings, parties and red carpet glamour.

The movie, starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, tells the story of a struggling jazz pianist, Sebastian, who falls in love with Mia, an aspiring actress in modern day Los Angeles. Sebastian is trying to get people, young and old, to care about traditional jazz, while Mia hopes one of her many auditions will finally land her an acting gig.

“Young people have fallen into a lot of cynicism, are making fun of things and pointing out the flaws in everything and this movie is anything but that,” Stone told journalists at a news conference. She said the movie reminded her of her own “humiliating auditions” when she first arrived in Los Angeles.

“This is what I hope young people will do: work hard to achieve their dreams.”

The musical is one of 20 US and international vying for the Golden Lion that will be awarded on 10 September.

British director Sam Mendes, known for James Bond movies “Skyfall” and “Spectre” and who heads this year’s jury, said he is looking forward to seeing each movie with as little knowledge as possible, adding he had no criteria for what made one excellent.

“I will know it when I see it,” he said.

“La La Land” opens with a chorus music scene set during a morning traffic jam on a Los Angeles motorway, where drivers jamming away to tunes in their empty cars suddenly jump out of their vehicles and dance on the roofs, all to the beats of a big band.

Chazelle said the movie builds on all the clichés people may have about Los Angeles, including the “traffic, the terrible parties, the celebrity culture, the shallowness”, but then shows that “there is something very poetic about the city that’s just built by people with these unrealistic dreams”. The 31-year-old Chazelle said he had known for writing and directing “Whiplash”, which earned him five Academy Award nominations and won three Oscars. — Reuters

Taylor Swift makes donation to hospital that saved her godson

LOS ANGELES — Singer Taylor Swift has made a donation to Cedars-Sinai Hospital on behalf of actress friend Jaime King’s son, who suffered from a congenital heart defect.

King, 37, revealed that 26-year-old Swift made the donation to her child Leo’s behalf. The mother of two is filled with gratitude for the singer’s tribute gift, reported Aceshowbiz.

“Dear all, at 20 weeks our son was diagnosed with Transposition of the Great Arteries AKA TGA,” King opened up on Instagram. “He had a major heart surgery, that was terrifying, and traumatic for us as parents, for our family. Only a few of our best friends knew. I felt that I had to protect him in fear of the unknown, fear he would not make it. We felt isolated & confused.”

@taylorswift does so many selfless acts that go unnoticed because she does them silently, from such a great place of unconditional giving. As the Godmother of Leo Thames for his birthday she gave an incredible donation to the people that saved his life,” the actress wrote.—PTI

Gender and emotion examined in artificial intelligence tale ‘Morgan’

LOS ANGELES — The struggle to replicate human emotion in artificial intelligence is often explored in movies, but what happens when an artificial being is too emotional?

“Morgan,” out in theaters on Friday, is set in a near future reality where a group of scientists from a corporate AI company breed a synthetic baby.

Aged 5 but growing faster than a human child, Morgan, played by 20-year-old Anya Taylor-Joy, looks like female teenager and is a highly intelligent being with outbursts of deadly anger.

When Morgan is told by her human minder that she is no longer allowed outdoors and instead must stay in a caged underground room where she is constantly observed, she stabs her in the eye. In comes the impossibly groomed corporate agent Lee Weathers (Kate Mara) to determine whether Morgan should be terminated.

“I had to hold back on most emotions because my character is rather unemotional and very even-keeled and calculated, very focused,” Mara said in an interview. The film centers on its three lead female characters who include “Game of Thrones” actress Rose Leslie as Morgan’s closest friend, and Morgan’s struggle with gender identity. Half the scientists identify the being as “her,” while the others half including Lee Weathers coldly refer to Morgan as “it.” — Reuters
Tomatoes come to town: Bunol prepares for La Tomatina

LLOSA — The ripe, round, red fruit tumbles out of crates and is piled high on trucks, while people cover balconies in plastic sheets and board up houses and shopfronts. Preparations for the annual ‘La Tomatina’ festival have begun. About 150,000 kilos of tomatoes were transported to Bunol, west of the Spanish city of Valencia, ahead of the festival on Wednesday, when thousands of revelers will throw them at each other on a narrow street in the town.

The massive food fight lasts for an hour, with around 20,000 people expected to attend this year.

The tomato fight has been a tradition in Bunol since the end of World War II and has drawn a large international following in recent years.—Reuters

Macau gambling revenue breaks two-year downward trend with one per cent August rise

HONG KONG — Macau, the world’s biggest casino hub, posted a 1.1 per cent rise in gambling revenue in August, the first positive monthly year-over-year growth in more than two years, after the opening of Wynn Macau’s $4 billion resort in the southern Chinese territory.

August marks the first upward tick for the former Portuguese colony since May 2014, after monthly revenues plummeted to five-year lows due to slowing economic growth in the country’s second-largest economy. A major anti-graft campaign also kept the very rich from openly flaunting their wealth.

Macau, the only place in China where casino gambling is legal, is set for another multi-billion dollar resort this month with US billionaire Sheldon Adelson’s Sands China’s $3 billion Parisian resort. Improving visitation over the summer helped bolster the mass market segment, which has become a key focus after a dearth of VIP gamblers on Macau’s plentiful baccarat tables.

Gambling revenue was 18.8 billion patacas ($2.4 billion), government data showed on Thursday, at the top end of analysts’ expectations that varied from a drop of 3 per cent to a 1 per cent growth.

A swift rebound is unlikely, say analysts, who caution the new properties, which include a scale version of the Eiffel tower and an aerial gondola ride, will be impacted by slow market growth and infrastructure bottle necks.—Reuters

Flying pigs and prisms: Pink Floyd expo to open at London’s V&A

LONDON — A pink inflatable pig the size of a bus floated above London’s venerable Victoria and Albert museum on Wednesday but unlike an infamous outing above Battersea Power Station in 1976 it did not break free and ground planes at Heathrow.

Instead, it perhaps slowed traffic a bit, but most certainly caused passers-by to exclaim: “The pig!”

One of the many globally recognisable emblems of Pink Floyd, along with prisms and marching hammers, the pig was flying to mark the launch of “The Pink Floyd Exhibition: Their Mortal Remains”, a retrospective to be hosted at the museum next May.

That date marks 50 years since the band released its first single “Arnold Layne”. The group then went on to massive worldwide acclaim, including two of the most successful albums of all time, “Dark Side of the Moon” and “The Wall”.

The exhibition is designed to celebrate that, along with Pink Floyd’s achievements in graphics, design, architecture, staging, lighting, film and photography.

Nick Mason, drummer and a founding member, said the exhibition is really a paean to the band’s longevity. “It’s the fact that we still sort of exist and we still seem to interest people after 50 years in an industry that was seen as entirely ephemeral by all of us when we first started,” he told Reuters at the launch.

“I’m fond of reminding people that Ringo thought that he’d open a chain of hairdressers when the Beatles came to an end ... I don’t think we saw any 50 years ahead of us when we kicked off,” The V&A is promoting an immersive experience when the exhibition opens, with concert footage not seen before, a laser light show designed for the event, new stage designs, 350 different objects plus some items from the museum’s own collection. It will be the museum’s third recent foray into the rock world. It held a critically acclaimed exhibition on David Bowie in 2013 and opens “You Say You Want a Revolution? Records and Rebels 1966-1970” in September.—Reuters

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**Myanmar TV**

**MRTV Myanmar International**

**Entertainment Channel**

(2-9-2016, Friday)

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**Today Fresh**

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**Prime Time**

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- 08:03 Am Channel
- 08:26 Am Channel
- 09:03 Am Channel
- 09:26 Am Channel
- 09:47 Am Channel
- 10:03 Am Channel
- 10:26 Am Channel

**Legacy of Golden Days**

- 00:00 Am - 06:00 Am Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Am - 06:00 Am)
- 06:00 Am - 12:00 Am Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Am - 06:00 Am)
- 12:00 Am - 04:22 Am Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Am - 10:22 Am)

**Cruising To Precious Islands (Part-2)**

- 04:20 Am Channel
- Executive Myanmar Rattan Industry
- Kambawzathardi Golden Palace - A Treasured Remains
- Toddy Palm Product Shop
- Myanmar Masterclass - Aung Thida

**For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmartv.com/schedule**
**Nadal completes ‘roof’ double at US Open**

Rafael Nadal of Spain after beating Andreas Seppi of Italy on day three of the 2016 US Open tennis tournament at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre in New York, NY, USA, on 31 August 2016. Photo: REUTERS

NEW YORK — Rafa Nadal boasted after his first-round US Open match that he had a video recording of being the first player to hit a ball in practice under the new roof at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

On Wednesday, the fourth-seeded Spaniard achieved the double as he hit the first ball in competition under the $150 million roof after rain briefly interrupted his second-round match against Italian Andreas Seppi.

The crowd looked skyward at the spectacle of the high-tech closure and roared in approval when the two sides met above the court in five minutes, 35 seconds.

Play resumed seven minutes, 22 seconds after the stoppage with Nadal serving at 3-3 in the second set before he completed a 6-0, 7-5, 6-1 victory over Seppi that lifted him to a third-round match against Russian Andrey Kuznetsov.

The Spaniard was aglow after his victory and being part of the first match played under the Arthur Ashe Stadium roof.

“I was very happy to be the first player to play in the competition with this fantastic roof closing,” he said. “Amazing, unbelievable.”

Nadal’s mood was in stark contrast to women’s French Open champion Garbine Muguruza, who had preceded her compatriot onto the Arthur Ashe Stadium court and was upset by 48th-ranked Anastasia Sevastova of Latvia 7-5, 6-4 in the second round.

Muguruza and Sevastova played with the roof open, but both complained about the noise from the boisterous fans, which appeared to be exacerbated by the roof support structure trapping the sound.

Unsurprisingly, Nadal’s win continued to appeal to the crowd to be quiet, but that did little to lower the noise.

“This is New York.” US Tennis Association executive director Gordon Smith said. “Yes, there is crowd noise and yes, we want the crowds to come, to be excited. ‘We want them to cheer. We think that over time the fans will adjust and the players will adjust.’

“This is a learning year for us ... we’ll look at doing things in the future to deal with that.” —Reuters

**Mourinho laments timing of international break for derby**

LONDON — Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho said the international break has made his plans for the Manchester derby a bit more “complicated” than he would have liked, especially with his South American players returning a day before the clash.

With a bulk of the United squad away on international duty and striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic being given an extended break, Mourinho has been left with almost none of first team players to work with since Saturday’s last-gasp win over Hull City.

The former Chelsea and Real Madrid manager will also have first-choice right back Antonio Valencia and squad players, goalkeeper Sergio Romero and defender Marcos Rojo, arrive at the club’s training ground, 24 hours before the 19 September fixture.

“We keep eight outfield players and Sam Johnstone as the goalkeeper. We are going to lose the others and we don’t know the way they train, the way they recover, the life they are going to have with their national teams,” Mourinho said MUTV. “Some are coming back on the Monday before the Manchester City match but some are coming back on Friday. The day before Man City, we will still have Sergio Romero, Marcos Rojo and Valencia arriving.

—Reuters

**Muguruza US Open hopes dashed on Ashe**

Garbine Muguruza of Spain returns a shot to Elise Mertens of Belgium on day one of the 2016 US Open tennis tournament at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre in New York, NY, USA, on 29 August 2016. Photo: REUTERS

NEW YORK — Garbine Muguruza was once again left to sift through the remains of another failed US Open campaign after the third-seeded Spaniard suffered a shock 7-5, 6-4 second-round upset by unheralded Latvian Anastasija Sevastova on Wednesday.

The French Open champion has never found the same success on the Flushing Meadows hard courts as she has on Parisian clay, where she claimed her first grand slam title in May by beating Serena Williams in the final.

In four visits to the US Open, the 22-year-old has yet to advance to the third round in New York and the Spaniard was unable to overcome her 48th-ranked opponent this time in a sloppy contest littered with service breaks.

Muguruza came into the year’s final grand slam with a chance to usurp Serena Williams at the top of the world rankings if she could win the tournament, but she was already claiming it was not like I won the tournament.

“I thought, ‘Why do they put me on Ashe at 7pm?’ I mean, I think they thought it should be a good match.

“It feels great, but it’s still not like I won the tournament. It’s only second round.”

It was certainly not the high quality match one might have been expected to see at prime time on one of the sport’s biggest stages. Sevastova committing a whopping 34 unforced errors but outdone by an even sloppier Muguruza with 38.

Muguruza did take a majority of her chances, converting five-out-of-six break point opportunities, but Sevastova was able to capitalise on seven of the 12 the Spaniard presented to her in the error-prone contest.

While Muguruza needs to go back to the drawing board, the victory could serve as a key stepping stone in Sevastova’s rehabilitation after the Latvian retired in May 2013 due to a chronic run of injuries before launching a comeback last year.

“I think I had to work on it when I took the time off,” said Sevastova, who will face Ukraine’s Kateryna Bondarenko in the third round. “I think I manage it better now that I stay in the moment. It’s tough to not look ahead.

“We can enjoy it today but tomorrow is a new day. You have to think forward.” —Reuters