‘It is progress to disagree without hate’

State Counsellor, Tatmadaw and ethnic leaders negotiate peace issues and implementation of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

A meeting to evaluate the peace process yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw was described as being “of great benefit”, with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, chairperson of the national reconciliation and peace centre, members of the Tatmadaw and ethnic leaders assembled in a hotel conference room to discuss the implementation of a nationwide cease-fire agreement.

“The Coordination Meeting on Joint Implementation of Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement held today is the first-ever meeting in the reign of the incumbent government”, said Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief of the Army. “In the previous government’s tenure there were four meetings held. It is the meeting in consequence of the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement held on October 15, 2016. Till now, 10 per cent of the national populace is still in the warring areas. Likewise, 40 per cent is still in the area of conflicts. Only 70 per cent are enjoying the fruits of peace just in a short period of time, as a consequence of the NCA. It is necessary to include 10 per cent and 20 per cent into 70 per cent or to implement for achieving nationwide peace to the full. And we need to be aware concerning to which extent the part of implementation of the facts included in NCA is very valuable for us. We have disclosed that mutual trust and respect between one group and another, negotiation, cooperation and Panglong spirit are of great importance for 21st Century, in performing the tasks for the peace process.

SEE PAGE 7 >>
Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Indonesia Upper House delegation

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received a delegation led by Prof. Dr. John Pieris, Chairman of Institutional Capacity Development Committee, Regional Representative Council, Upper House of Indonesia yesterday morning at the hall of Amyotha Hlutaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to promoting friendship, legislative affairs and cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hlutaw U Aye Tha Aung, Chairman of Amyotha Hlutaw Commission on Non-Government National and International Organizations Affairs U Min Oo and officials of the Amyotha Hlutaw office.

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives ceremonial Guard of Honour in Austria

COMMANDEER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was welcomed a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the Ministry of Defence of Austria at 10:00 am local standard time yesterday by General Othmar Commenda from Austrian Armed Forces.

Next, the Senior General held talks with the General Othmar Commenda at the Latter’s office.

Afterwards, the Senior General and party visited the Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna at 2:30 pm local standard time on 23 April.

The palace displays the attractive architectural, cultural, and historical of Habsburger monarchs. The Schönbrunn Palace was inscribed in UNESCO World Heritage List in 1996.

Then, the Commander-in-Chief and party visited Donau Tower at 4:10 pm local standard time and viewed the Vienna’s scenic beauties. Then, the Commander-in-Chief and party were hosted dinner by General Othmar Commenda and wife at Marriott Hotel in Vienna.

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Myanmar delegation to observe real estate services in Vietnam

Members of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Committee for the Pyidaungsu Hlutaw pose for a documentary photo before departure for Vietnam. PHOTO: MNA

Tun from M Law Group left Yangon for Vietnam by air yesterday morning.

Myanmar delegation is planned to observe real estate services in Vietnam to be able to help draw up real estate services law in Myanmar.

—Myanmar News Agency

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Yangon Region Hlutaw reviews YBS bus system

KO MOE

In the Yangon Region Hlutaw meeting on 24 April, 26 Hlutaw representatives discussed the YBS bus system currently in place.

“We need to improve the public transportation system and urge the regional government to be transparent to the public when laying down rules and regulations,” said U Wai Phyo Han of Yangon Constituency.

To this, Daw Kyi Pyar of Kyauktada Constituency (1) added, “Although the government implemented the current bus system with good intentions, there are still inconveniences for the public. The policy should be written inclusively with people who ride the buses, otherwise, without them, the policy will be like pouring water into sand.”

She also stated that responsible officials from YRTA should give more consideration for public end users while also encouraging the drivers and spares to adopt the new changes.

The Hlutaw Representatives also stated that at the time of implementing the new YBS system, the system was not submittal to the Hlutaw nor forewarning, but only a few days notice, when modifications of systems should be reported to the Hlutaw well in advance.

The current YBS system had weak prior planning and management, resulting in insufficient vehicles during rush hours leading to jam-packed buses, representatives said.

“After abolishing the old Ma Hta Tha, we have to consider with what policy the YBS system will go forward, because the Ma Hta Tha had the Yangon Region Private Transport Act and we need to consider what legal route the new system will take. After the implementation, we have heard the voice of the public, but where is the voice of the Hlutaw? It’s not good if the voice of the Hlutaw is lost,” said U Kyaw Zaya of Dagon Myothit Constituency (2).

The Yangon Region Government introduced the new bus system on 16 January to reduce traffic jams and organise the buses, but even after three months passengers state they still face difficulties.

The current bus system still suffers from instances of overcharging, speeding by drivers, and failure of drivers to stop at appointed bus stops, similar to the old Ma Hta Tha system.

The regional Ministry of Electricity, Industry, Transport and Communication Daw Nilar Kyaw said the regional government will answer questions posed today on 27 April.

On 17 February, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein stated at a press conference in the regional Hlutaw office building that they will replace the old buses with new ones in the next three months and attempt to improve the system to international standards by the end of the year.

The regional government stated they will review the YBS system every three months and the Yangon Region Transport Authority announced it will transfer the bus lines to public hands during 2017.

According to the YRTA, there are currently 80 bus routes and 3,500 buses in place for the 2.5 million daily commuters in the country’s largest city. Yangon’s population is approximately 6 million.
State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives OCHA Donor Support Group

STATE COUNSELLOR and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received a delegation from United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Donor Support Group (ODSG) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at 4 p.m. on 24 April.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on pertaining to ODSG’s 2017 humanitarian assistance program to Myanmar, current situation of the humanitarian assistant works and cooperation between Myanmar and OCHA.

—Myanmar News Agency

Vice President U Henry Van Thio arrives back from the Netherlands

Vice President U Henry Van Thio and entourage arrived back in Yangon by air yesterday after paying a working visit to the Netherlands at an invitation of Deputy Prime Minister of the Netherlands and Minister of Social Affairs and Employment H.E. Mr. Lodewijk Asscher. The Vice President and entourage were welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials at Yangon International Airport.

Photo: MNA

U Win Naing presents his credentials to Philippines President

U Win Naing, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Philippines, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Republic of the Philippines on 20 April 2017, in Manila. —Ministry of Foreign Affairs

U Hau Do Suan concurrently appointed as Ambassador to Jamaica

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Hau Do Suan, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, New York, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Jamaica. —Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Peace conference to resume on 24 May

The Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong will resume on 24th May, and all participants of the second meeting will make efforts for reaching consensus for a fundamental policy at the meeting.

The announcement was made by U Zaw Htay, the Director-General of the Office of the State Counsellor, following a work coordination meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday on implementing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

The work coordination meeting also called on those organisations which have not yet held national-level political dialogues to step up efforts to draw up specific procedures for unclear matters related to resolutions of the national-level political dialogues.

The participants of the meeting also decided yesterday to discuss the Joint Monitoring Committee’s matters at the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee, as they reached beyond the framework of UPDJC and submitted them to the Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM) after discussion, he added. At the meeting, they also agreed on several issues to be jointly coordinated by both sides during the period from the signing NCA to reaching Union Agreement.

The JICM also agreed to form working group during the period and JMC agreed to settle the disputed issues including demarcation between the Tatmadaw and the RCSS. Both sides also agreed to make more efforts for inclusiveness of the peace process based on NCA paving the ways for non-signatories to include in the peace process.

JICM will also form a joint group to discuss a deadlock for formation of a joint monitoring committee in Chin State.

“There are agreements reached between the government and ethnic armed organisations, and of these, some agreements remained to be implemented and they will be discussed at the meetings held every two weeks at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre”, said U Zaw Htay. —Myanmar News Agency

National Level Political Dialogue for Shan State continues for second day

The National Level Political Dialogue for Shan State continued for second day at the City Hall in Taunggyi, Southern Shan State yesterday morning.

U Khan Maung Thaung, a Pyithu Hluttaw representative, U Kyawme Lon, Chairman of Luah Literature and Culture Association, U Win Myint, former Minister for Inn Ethnic Affairs, U Tun Naing, Chairman of Kokang Literature and Culture Association and U Kan Hla, member of Ta’ang Palaung Literature and Culture Association acted as the Chairman and members of the meeting.

First, Chairman of the meeting U Khan Maung Thaung made an opening speech and paper reading session followed. The paper on economy, paper on national level economy, paper on basic principle for regional development, paper on regional development that enables the federal union and paper on basic principle for economic development of the ethnic people based on federal system were read out by the representatives from Langkho District, Keng Tung District, Tachileik District, Lashio District, Muse District, Momeik District, Wa Self-administered Division, Danu Self-administered Zone, Shan Nationalities Democratic Party, USDP and NLD. The papers submitted by Shan Nationalities League for Democracy and Ta’ang National Party were read out by Daw Nan Mya Oo from Shan Nationalities League for Democracy and U Aung Kyaw of the Ta’ang National Party.

The 2nd day meeting was attended by the Shan State government ministers, the chairmen and leading committee members from self-administered division and region, MPs, members of political parties, representatives of ethnic people, members of NCA signatory groups Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO) and Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS), departmental officials, civil society organizations, literature and cultural groups numbering more than 300. A total of 33 papers were read out at the meeting. —Myanmar News Agency
Population of golden deer increases at Chuttthin Wildlife Sanctuary

File photo shows golden deers seen at Chuttthin Wildlife Sanctuary in Kanbalu, Sagaing Region.

PHOTO: STRINGER/KYEMON

THE population of golden deer has increased by almost 230 this year compared with the same period of last year at the Chuttthin Wildlife Sanctuary in Kanbalu township, Sagaing Region, said an official from Chuttthin Wildlife Sanctuary.

According to the survey which was conducted in March, there are 480 golden deer in April, 2016.

“This year, the local hunters cooperate with the authorities in golden deer conservation. Previously, we found many snares in the sanctuary. But, we don’t find any snares this year. The population of golden deer has increased because of improvement of the environmental conservation,” said the official.

The official from Chuttthin Wildlife Sanctuary attributed the increase in deer population to the proper supervision and the assistance of the Sagaing Region government.

Heroin and methamphetamine pills seized

A local anti-drug squad in northern Mandalay seized about 1960 methamphetamine pills and 0.95 kilo of ice from Sai Myo Tun and Nay Linn Aung at Ngwe Hlaing tea shop on 49th road, Zeegon Kywatin Township, in Pathaingyi Township, on 23 April.

After interrogation, the police searched the house of Aung Kyaw Oo from Kayin village, Lashio Township, and found another 135 stimulant pills on 23 April.

The suspects confessed that they bought methamphetamine pills from Artti lived in Nammasouk 2 village, Lashio Township. The police searched Artti’s house and discovered 264 grams of heroin and 5700 methamphetamine pills.

Acting on a tip-off that the drugs will be sent to Win Ko, a local anti-drug squad in eastern Yangon searched Win Ko and the vehicle driven Min Htet Lwin in Hnin- semyaing street on Pyay road, Sawbwargyi Gom ward in Insein Township. In the search, the police discovered 145 stimulant pills and a cell phone.

According to the inspection, Win Ko also has the stimulant pills given by Tun Tun Win who accompanied and got off on the Toyota Success vehicle on Thun Yin the BRB. The squad arrested Tun Tun Win and searched his house in No.61, Thuri Myan street, Sawbwargyi Gom ward in Insein Township and found 2000 methamphetamine pills.

All suspects are charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — Myanmar Police Force

Myanmar citizens granted health care licence

YANGON Region government is granting the private health care services licences only to those holding Myanmar Citizenship Scrutiny Certificates, it is learnt.

Currently, Yangon region government is issuing and taking legal action against the private health care services centers which are owned by foreign investors. Although action is being taken against the foreigners’ owned private clinics and hospitals, the aliens are still engaged in providing health care service under the names of Myanmar citizens.

The regional private health care centers superising committee is cooperating with Hlutaw representatives to take legal action against those who are illegally providing health care services.

According to section 31 of chapter 15 of The Law Related to Private Health Care Service, anyone who opens a private health centre without license shall be given of a minimum sentence of one-year imprisonment and a maximum sentence of five-year imprisonment and fine. — 200

Crop insurance to be introduced in Shewo, Pyay townships

STATE-OWNED Myanmar Insurance said it will start implementing a pilot project to introduce crop insurance in two townships to protect farmers from financial losses due to untimely weather occurrences.

With the technical assistance of Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance Co, the Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank (MADB) and Myanmar Insurance (MI) will initiate the new scheme in Shewo Township in Sagaing Region as well as Pyay Township in Bago Region.

No exact date has been fixed for the launch of this service. However, the development of a crop insurance system is projected to be implemented this year, said an official from MI.

In collaboration with the Japanese insurer, MI is now developing the necessary policies and appropriate methods to successfully launch the new plan, which will then be submitted to the Insurance Business Regulatory Board (IBRB). The insurance authority will introduce the plan after getting the permission from the IBRB.

Crop insurance plays an essential role in the agriculture sector because erratic weather common and thus a big challenge for growers and investors. Crop insurance will cover the losses caused by natural disasters such as torrential rains and flooding.

For the time being, the MI is studying weather conditions in the project areas and discussing the scheme with the providers.

Based on the results of the pilot projects, the service will be expanded to other regions and states — 200

Invitation to World Intellectual Property Day

The 2017 World Intellectual Property Day’s celebration organized by the Ministry of Education (Science and Technology) will be held on 26 April from 9 am to 4 pm at the Myanmar Convention Center (MCC) on Min Dhamma Road, Yangon.

At the celebration, discussions dealing with copyright, displaying of local products, meals and conferring of remembrance gifts will be included.

Everyone who is interested in the event can register and enrol at the following contact phone numbers: 09-261882588, 09-421727020, 09-43004093 and 09-73060343 — Myanmar News Agency

Education Ministry invites students to apply for ASEAN scholarship award

THE Ministry of Education announced that outstanding students who completed at least Grade 9 are eligible to apply for the ASEAN scholarship award.

The scholarship award winners will be able to study overseas in Singapore.

The scholarship is for studies in selected Singapore schools from Secondary Three to Pre-University Two and is renewed annually, subject to the satisfactory performance of the scholar. After the four-year programme, they will receive the Singapore-Cambridge General Certificate of Education Advanced Level (O/A-Level) of equivalent certificate.

Proficiency in English and a good record of participation in co-curricular activities are essential for the applicants. Short-listed candidates for the selection test and interview to be conducted in Yangon will be notified one week ahead of time.

Eligible citizens born between 2001 and 2003 may send their application forms to the respective region/state education offices no later than 26 April.

“The ASEAN Scholarships aim to provide opportunities to the young people of ASEAN to develop their potential and equip them with important skills for the 21st century,” according to the scholarship provider. — Shwe Khine

Submission of IEE Study of 2D Regional Seismic Surveys in Onshore Block MOGE-3 by PTTEP SA

PTTEP South Asia Limited (PTTEP SA) plans to conduct a 2D onshore regional seismic survey for Block MOGE-3, located in Magway Region, Myanmar. The survey is approximately 300 line-km and scheduled to commence in mid of 2017.

An Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) Study for the proposed activity has been prepared by PTTEP SA and Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and was submitted to the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) on April 11th, 2017. The report is publicly available at the following location:

- PTTEPSA’s office in Yangon: 2 Sai-Myaung Yeikha Lane, 8½ Mile Road, Mayagone Township, Yangon, Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- Magway District General Administrative Department Office, Magway Region
- Thayet District General Administrative Department Office, Magway Region
- On PTTEP’s website as follows: www.pttep.com

Feedback on the report can be submitted to PTTEP in writing by contacting the following e-mail address: TinNilarsoe@pttep.com
**Business**

**Ayeyawady farmers remain to repay over Ks286 billion of loan debt to MADB**

MYANMA Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) reminded farmers from Ayeyawady Region they have over Ks286 billion of loan debt to repay.

The farm debt has been accumulating from 2012 to 2016. Nearly Ks300 billion remained to be paid off for the past four years. Law enforcement is attempting to get loan repayments, with limited success, said U Than Htay Aung, a manager of Ayeyawady Region MADB (branch).

“The loan debt will continue to increase as long as law enforcement remains weak and so, a penalty should be exercised on those who fail to repay the loan, he added.

The main reason for loan debt is attributed to the weakness in financial management of the farmers, said U Win Myint Hlaing, the chairman of the Regional Rice Federation. “Farmers spent loans on current needs rather than cultivation, which forces them to take out loans from both private and public lenders. When they have to repay loans from the private sector together with heavy interest, they usually use the loan from government meant for cultivation in the coming season. In this way, they are suffering a vicious cycle for loan payment”, he continued.

The MADB grants Ks100 million of loan per acre to every farmer holding a Form 7 Farmland Work Permit Certificate, for up to 10 acres per farmer.

According to the by-laws of MADB, farmland or crops can be confiscated from those farmers who fail to repay the loan.

The government has a plan only to extend the term loan period, it is reported.—Myo Min Paing (AMIA)
Ministries hold press conference on performances in one year

A press conference on performance during the one-year term of the incumbent government was held yesterday at 1 p.m. at meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

Attending the press conference were Union Minister U Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Permanent Secretaries from Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, departmental officials and responsible persons and media personnel from local and foreign media.

Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win said two checkpoints currently operating are arranged to inspect 2-4 cars simultaneously and inspection time for each car is for a few minutes only. Furthermore, inspection is based on solid information received so there is no interruption or stopping in the flowing of goods.

He went on to say that combined groups of personnel from each ministries at the inspection gates were not misbehaving and conducting their duties responsibly as plans were put in place to reward such government employees.

If there is an increase in tax, it will be at a level that is fair and within bearable level for the people and the changes in the tax system were made after consultation and coordination with local and foreign experts.

Of the changes, the first is increasing the Aung Ba Le lottery ticket charge to 500 Kyat. The prize money set at lakh 10,000 is sizable enough for the winner to properly utilize. The Ministry is arranging loans not only for planting but also for providing capital input into the agriculture sector.

A plan is drawn up to enable employee ownership of their home by the time of retirement. In addition to arranging up the project and finance related matters for this plan, coordination with other ministries were made to conduct direct and indirect work with the implementation of this plan. Furthermore, attempts are made to use satellite in the ministry’s work. Implementing a plan for setting up a pilot scale using DATA IT Card system will be started in 2017-2018. Plans are drawn to increase the power generation to 3000 MW in the coming year.

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win said Myanmar Economic Bank provided agricultural loan of 1,500,000 Kyat to each farmer totaling Kyat 1,792,811 billion in the fiscal year 2016-2017 through Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank. On the matter of Two Step Loan, in the fiscal year 2016-2017, 175 business owners were provided with Kyat 36,750.43 million through KBZ, AYA, MAB, CB and SMIDB Banks.

Internal Revenue Department charged 5% commercial tax on phone calls in accordance to the 2016 Union Tax Act for fiscal year 2016-2017 and up to 2016 April collected Kyat 7,454 billion and was transferred to use it in the education sector.

For quick clearance of goods, Customs Department starts using Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) in Yangon ports and airport on 12 November 2016.

Financial Regulatory Department granted operating license to 170 financial institutions and 170 of them support the uplifting of the socio-economic situation of the 70% of the people in Myanmar.

During fiscal year 2016-2017 financial services amounting to Kyat 2,354 billion in loan and Kyat 140 billion in savings were provided to 15,986 villages with a population of 2,519 million.

Afterward U Thet Naing Oo, Director General, Settlement and Land Records Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock &Irrigation said that during this year 53,941 farmers and 109,572 land owners were issued form 7 for 41,758 acres.

Irrigation and Water resources Management Department provided 4,196 irrigation channels to provide water to 17,400 acres. It conducted 1,126 preventive and responsive works to natural disasters. Drip irrigation system started on a pilot scale with an 8-inch-sets with 7157 members. 20 service villages, NyaungU Township is notable.

Agriculture department set up 47 pilot production points and 10,561 acre of seed producing area was developed in 206 townships with 318 farmers. According to rural development of Korea, a project of new village movement, “Myanmar Saemaul-Undong” with the US$ 22 million subsidy from KOICA for 5 years is being implemented in 100 pilot model villages in 9 states and regions.

Agriculture Mechanization Department ploughed 885,000 acre, harvested 42,000 acre, and planted 7,000 under the machine rental system and it was 587,902 acre more than the plan for this year. Private sector is also complementing by providing 39 services in this area.

390 more cooperatives were formed in fiscal year 2016-2017. Transformation to mechanized agriculture and upgrading of the farms were implemented to 27,949.99 acres for 550 cooperatives with 7157 members. 20 service providing cooperatives, 29 branches of service-providing cooperatives, 107 tractors and other helpful services were created while 1816 small sized industries were registered.

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department conducted pig lottery livestock count with the help of FAO-LIFT Fund project in 4 townships from Kyaukse districts, 3 from Monki district and one from Myingyan district.

Department of Fisheries issued 617 Catch Certificate and 3,821 Health Certificate for marine products exported to 13 countries. Site Network Certificate was obtained for conservations of Ayeyawady dolphins and Thamalacsa and sea turtles.

Department of Rural Development expanded Emerald Village Project to 2107 villages and is currently benefiting 5,831,000 people. The plan of new villages project and 11,1018 acre in the ferrous metal sector, Kachin State had 8,047 acre making up a total of 1187492 acres of new rural development.

In his answer to the questions raised by reporters, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win refuted the information that the ministry would double the salary of the employees of the Internal Revenue Department.

He clarified that the ministry has a plan to give bonus to dutiful employees in accordance with the financial rules and regulations.

The ministry, however, would make assessment on efficiency, transparency and efforts for tax collection of the employees every three month, he said.

Regarding the State Lottery issue, the deputy minister said 60 percent of the income from the lottery tickets sales are spent on prizes and 40 percent is collected as tax by the state.

U Maung Maung Win also disclosed that the ministry is working on amending the lottery law to run e-lottery system in the country. When the e-lottery system comes into operation, the lottery might be held every two weeks.

Regarding the allocation of revenues, 15 percent of the commercial tax is allocated to regions and states, said the deputy minister, adding that the ministry is studying revenues sharing system in democratic federal countries.

Regarding the tax collection, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win stressed the need to fight tax evasion.

Director General U Thet Naing Oo from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation stated that anyone wishing to truly utilize vacant, inactive and wastelands can submit proposals with the proper forms.

Union Minister U Kyaw Win (centre) at press conference on performance during the one-year term of the current government at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw. Photo: MNA

Perennial Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation said that by coordinating with Ministry of Commerce, import and distribution of chain saw were banned to prevent illegal logging; 50,026 tons of illegal teak, hardwood and other woods were detained and Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT VPA) is implemented with the help of European Union (EU) to prevent illegal imports of illegal logs in exporting to EU countries.

Reforestation of depleted forests is conducted with a aim for long term conservation of the environment; maintaining the eco system, reducing climate change and sustainable forest management.

Arrangements are being made to have Khakaborazi area, the far north of Myanmar designated as the world heritage zone; designation of Indawgyi Lake region as UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) and inclusion of Thamalacsa Island as Ramsar Site.

Limited mining of minerals and gems was allowed but permit to mine new sites were suspended with effect from 1 March 2016. Starting from 1 April 2016, it was strictly prohibited to renew mining permit and on 26 July 2016, the ministry was permitted to mine new sites were totally stopped.

In determining mineral reserve, in the coal sector, there are a total of 1,168,345 acres of which 865,442 acre is in Sagaing Region and 302,903 acre is in Magway Region. In the graphite sector plans to mine 12,000 acre and in the ferrous metal sector, Kachin State had 8,047 acre making up a total of 1187492 acres of new rural development.

In this answer to the questions raised by reporters, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win refuted the information that the ministry would double the salary of the employees of the Internal Revenue Department.
‘It is progress to disagree without hate’

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Hence, we need to carry this out to gain success as described in the NCA’.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her opening address, noted that the successful and necessary national-level meetings held by the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPCU), a signatory to the NCA.

“This is the first-ever held joint national coordination meeting on the NCA’, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said. ‘Firstly, I want to congratulate Saw Mutu Say Poe. We were greatly rejoiced for our KNU to have successfully held the nationwide meetings. The majority of people from such peace meetings is to achieve the eternal peace in our country. In any parts of discussion points, we hope that we will be always with the ideas as to how successfully, smoothly and effectively we will finish. Our all participate in the peace process, the can peace be achieved’.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi went on to say that the discussions have been made in a respectful manner, without rancor, which gave her great confidence that we can achieve the Panglong meeting to be held next month.

“Groups which were not at the round-table meetings in the past have come to the round-table talks, sitting together,” she said. “This has shown that some ideas, matters and opinions reached the state all can accept. We hope that all, that is those present at the meeting, can listen to the ideas as to how they can support the peace process, how they support for the development, and how they will perform for the success.”

Present at the meeting were Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Chairman of Peace Commission Dr Tin Myo Win, Union Attorney General Tun Oo, deputy ministers, Lt-General Yar Pyae, Lt-General Min Naung, Lt-General Tin Maung Win, Chairman of Karen National Union, U Khin Maung Maung, and a leader of the peace-process steering team Saw Mutu Say Poe and members—Dr Naw Kam Hang, Hoo, Sai La, Khaing Soe Naing Aung, Khun Okkar, Puin Kyone, U Than Khe, Saw Mu Shae and responsible officials.

Among the issues to be discussed were a code of conduct that would be followed by armed ethnic groups as well as the Tatmadaw, an important step in the ongoing peace process. "As for the Tatmadaw, there have been six principles for internal dialogue, such as the code of conduct and principles to be kept on the army”, said Vice-Senior General Soe Win. “Provided that agreements among all groups will perform by strictly abiding by the facts concerning their respective opinions, groups which did not sign yet will be capable of joining the group that had signed the agreement. If so, we will be able to reach the state of gaining the eternal peace as expected by the whole populace, as soon as possible.”

Saw Mutu Say Poe, the chairman of the Karen National Union and leader of the peace process steering team, said that the dialogue during which negotiation and compromise might take place was essential for moving forward. “According to the nature of the peace process, without dialogue, it will be ordinary political negotiation, producing no results. So, we must try our best for unnecessary matters not to come into existence. And we should not forget that there are different things among our human societies. On the other hand, it is necessary to have an official political platform for us to negotiate our differences among us. We are required to find solutions from this general coordination meeting, without holding their respective opinions dogmatically. Instead, it needs to find out the common principles in NCA. If we measure NCA with a measurement unit, all have been different in small and another. If the difference goes uncorrected right now, the difference will be bigger as time goes past. So, it must be reassessed deeply.”

Hence, we urge to re assess the implementation of NCA and bilateral agreement. We demand to review is conducted after the temporarily halted until a thorough review is conducted after the completion of the new mineral mining law is released.

Managing Director U Aung Nyunt Thein from Myanma Gems Enterprise said mining for precious gems will only be granted to local ethnic-run companies while foreign-based companies will only be allowed to run businesses dealing in finished products of gems and gemstones. Director General Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw from Department of Forestry stated progress is being made in preserving the forests so that by 2030 around 30 per cent of the country’s forest can be marked as permanent forestry areas. Progress is also being made in increasing environmental conservation areas up to 10 per cent of the country’s area. Logging is no longer permitted and efforts are being made to restore existing forests to their original glory so that the next generation of trees can be planted as well as restore barren lands to forestry areas. —Myanmar News Agency

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Daw May Thwe Hlaing, I.B., I.B.M., (H.G.P.)
For AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd.
No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Byogue Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Boncafe International Pte Ltd, a company registered under the laws of Singapore, which is located at 208 Pandan Loop Singapore 128491, is the sole owner of the following trademark:

In respect of Class 29: Milk, milk-based beverages, milk products, dairy products, drinks made from dairy products including yogurt and frozen yogurt.

In respect of Class 39: Coffee, coffee-based beverages, coffee flavourings, coffee beverage with milk, ice creams and frozen confectionery.

In respect of Class 32: Mineral and aerated waters and other non-alcoholic drinks, namely: soyu bean beverages being non-alcoholic beverages, isotonics drinks, fruit juices and fruit drinks, fruit concentrates for use in preparation of carbonated and non-carbonated drinks, syrups and other preparations for making beverages, all included in Class 32.

Boncafe International Pte Ltd claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the mark as mentioned above. Boncafe International Pte Ltd reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, I.B., I.B.M., (H.G.P.)
For Boncafe International Pte Ltd

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This article is dedicated to the “Earth Day” which falls on 22nd April every year since 1970. The first Earth Day April 22, 1970, attracted 20 million Americans from all walks of life and is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement. The passage of the landmark Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and many other groundbreaking environmental laws soon followed. Twenty years later, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage. Earth Day Network is the world’s largest recruiter to the environmental movement, working with more than 50,000 partners in nearly 195 countries to build environmental democracy. More than 5 million people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic event in the world.

Clean water is essential for human survival and the health of the whole world is concerned for the availability of clean drinking water, clean domestic water and clean-water resources including “clean ocean” which is indispensable for the health & growth of marine bodies, fish and other marine lives.

Many environmental bodies around the world are concerned about the contamination of seas by wastes including plastics. Plastics are essential for modern way of life in many different forms. Perhaps, we modern people, cannot survive without plastic. The majority of accessibility, home appliances we use everyday, are made of plastics; such as bags, cups, spoons, boxes, food packages, trash bins, TV, telephone handsets, computers, laptops, containers, toys, shoes, many components in cars, motorcycles and you name it. The plastic starts when we dispose of used official plastic accessories. According to the research and studies, just 5% of plastic waste is effectively recycled at plastic plants in the world. Where the rest of plastic waste goes? Of course, many plastic wastes are dumped on the ground (or landfills) or the oceans and seas in the world. This is a well-known fact that people ingest contaminated fish and mammals, directly or indirectly. So how dangerous are these plastics?

Humans ingest contaminated fish and mammals. There are different types of ways that these chemicals are ingested by animals in the ocean, this is not good for humans. We humans ingest contaminated fish and mammals. These are different ways of plastic is dangerous for humans. Distress toxins from plastics come from lead, cadmium, and mercury. These toxins have also been found in many fish in the ocean, which is very dangerous for humans. Other toxins in plastics are directly linked to cancer, birth defects, and other childhood development issues. Part of the problem is that we don’t recognize how this issue starts with the individual. There is an obvious life style change we can make to solve the problem. We just have to be willing to accept this truth and look past our denial. The government also needs to make regulations on plastics if anything is going to change. Separately, there is little to no information on governmental websites about pollution in the oceans. Perhaps they are too afraid to address the problem; it is too costly. However there have been some treaties formed to minimize the amount of trash entering the oceans. This is a difficult task.

The grassroots organizations are vital to the promotion of the oceans, spreading information and awareness about this tragic pollution. We should really be involved because it is everyone’s responsibility. Let’s make these changes before it is too late and we kill all our ocean life, or even our own in a major report issued few years ago – Marine Life: A Vital Challenge. We need human actions, accidental or intentional, that are the key to survival. The marine organisms don’t have sources include merchant shipping, cruise lines, fishing boats, and even plastic debris. Some offshore oil and gas platforms and drilling rigs, and aquaculture. On land, waste includes trash, debris, plastic, and construction materials located on the coast, as well as rivers, lakes and ponds that are used as illegal dump sites, and sometimes even as the by-products of natural gas processing.

Improving the plastic design stage can make recycling easier. It would also make it more probable than sending plastic waste to landfill.

Underpinning these three actions, say the report’s authors, is the issue of how plastics are made. A lot of plastic is currently derived from crude oil. But it doesn’t have to be. Switching to renewable sources such as natural gas or the by-products of natural gas processing wouldn’t bring us very far, say the researchers. Instead, they argue, we should invest in the development of plastic technologies that can be made from biodegradable sources, such as sea plants, or from waste products.

A diagram in the report shows a life cycle analysis at the ratio of “greater than 1/3” by weight in 2010 to 2015 to 2020.

According to “Ocean Conservancy” organization, 15 countries contribute the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian Oceans and Mediterranean Black Sea-produced 2.5 Billion Metric Tons of solid waste in 2010. An estimated 8 Million Metric Tons of plastic entered the oceans that same year. Out of 2.5 Billion Metric Tons of solid waste, 2.75 Billion Metric Tons are plastic waste. 2 Billion people living within 50 miles of the coast are exposed to 100 years of plastic waste. Ocean Conservancy staff members are scientists and conservationists and advocates, that they are also surfers and divers, fisherman, and kayakers, who live the sea and oceans. www.oceanconservancy.org

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1. Improve the way we design, recycle and re-use plastics. About 30% of the plastics are currently derived from oil (or the oceans). The report urges a fundamental rethink of how we design packaging, in order to make what happens to it, after we’ve used it, a little less hard on the environment. We risk losing many species in the ocean as humans to be irresponsible about cleaning up after our litter. We can do this to decrease the amount of trash entering the oceans.

2. For all at least 20% of plastic waste, reduce, re-use and economically attractive options. New and creative design models to prevent packaging reliance on a conventional economic opportunity to the tune of 30 billion, according to the report.

3. For the remaining 50% of plastics, we need to make recycling easy. Improving the packaging stage at the design stage will make recycling easier. It would also make it more probable than sending plastic waste to landfill.

“Every three years, we see some trend which is difficult to concentrate. Leave your worries at the door”, that is what they say Keep the ‘Five Precepts’. Promise to yourself not to kill, not to take intoxicating drinks or drugs, not to tell lies, not to steal and not to commit adultery. Once we have promised ourselves to keep these five precepts a lot of our worries will vanish. Step two: this step involves what is known as ‘meditation’. ‘Meditation’ is achieved by focusing the mind on one meditation object such as the breath, an object or a candle flame or a white disc. The objective is to drive out unwanted thoughts by fixing the mind on one meditation object. Step three: this is the step where you gain knowledge. In Pali it is called Panna. It is at this stage that you will get the knowledge. We are not supposed to have any problems, any worries or influences concentrating on the chain of cause and effects. All things have their own nature.

In the West, there are many other ways of doing meditation. Methods are different. The best is how Buber, and especially in Buddhism, the word meditation does not mean contemplation, although it may play a minor part. To get the maximum benefit from the thinking process we need to begin by following some occasional guidelines.

First of all we need to be in the proper frame of mind. If we are been in some trouble we find it difficult to concentrate. Leave your worries at the door”, that is what they say Keep the ‘Five Precepts’. Promise to yourself not to kill, not to take intoxicating drinks or drugs, not to tell lies, not to steal and not to commit adultery. Once we have promised ourselves to keep these five precepts a lot of our worries will vanish. Step two: this step involves what is known as ‘meditation’. ‘Meditation’ is achieved by focusing the mind on one meditation object such as the breath, an object or a candle flame or a white disc. The objective is to drive out unwanted thoughts by fixing the mind on one meditation object. Step three: this is the step where you gain knowledge. In Pali it is called Panna. It is at this stage that you will get the knowledge. We are not supposed to have any problems, any worries or influences concentrating on the chain of cause and effects. All things have their own nature.

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US, Philippines scale back next month’s military drills, no more ‘war games’

MANILA.— About 5,000 American and Philippine troops will hold humanitarian exercises next month instead of annual war games, scaling back military drills in response to President Rodrigo Duterte’s disdain for their longstanding defence alliance.

Troops taking part in “Balikatan” will simulate a response to a devastating super typhoon in the central Philippines, modeled on typhoon Haiyan in 2013, which killed at least 6,300 people and left more than 200,000 families homeless.

“Balikatan” is designed to meet current challenges facing the Philippines,” US embassy press officer Molly Koscina said in a statement on Monday.

Duterte has made no secret of his grudge against the United States and believes a US military presence of any kind in the Philippines puts his country at risk of being dragged into conflict.

He threatened to abrogate defence treaties with Washington, has threatened to abrogate US military presence of any kind in the Philippines, and practiced an amphibious landing on a Philippine beach near an area of the disputed South China Sea.

US marines also used for the first time in the Philippines a long-range truck-mounted multiple rocket launcher. A Philippine army spokesman said the down-sizing of the exercises was in response to Duterte’s dislike of war games with Washington.

“We made some adjustments, based on the pronouncements of the president that such exercises should be focused on humanitarian operations,” Major Frank Sayson told reporters. “Just to make it clear, this is not a war game.” Sayson said the two sides agreed to scrap two major military drills — Amphibious Landing Exercise or “Phiblex” and Cooperation Afloat and Readiness Training (CARAT) geared toward external and maritime defence.

He said the two armies would work on marksmanship and defusing of home-made bombs, as part of counter-terrorism exercises.

—Reuters

Thailand approves $393-mln purchase of Chinese submarines

BANGKOK — Thailand’s cabinet has approved the first of three planned submarine purchases from China worth $393 million, a government spokesman said on Monday.

The plan to buy the three Chinese-built submarines worth 36 billion baht ($1.05 billion) was confirmed in July, signalling warming ties with the regional superpower since relations with the United States cooled after a May 2014 military coup.

The first submarine purchase was approved last week. “The cabinet approved one submarine purchase on 18 April,” spokesman Sansern Kaewkammart told Reuters, adding that a budget of 13.5 billion baht ($393 million) has been earmarked for the Yuan Class S20T submarine over a six-year period.

The media were not told about the purchase following a cabinet meeting last week because it was a matter of national security, he added.

Public criticism and questions have arisen as to whether Thailand really needs new submarines.

“In the current situation, where the government cannot successfully solve economic problems, buying expensive submarines is completely unnecessary,” Watchara Petchthong, a politician with the Democrat Party, told Reuters.

Navy spokesman Admiral Jumlop Loonpipikan said the Thai navy owned four Japanese submarines nearly 60 years old, so new submarines were necessary to protect the country’s maritime interests. “Thai people can rest assured that the navy’s submarine spending will be worth it and beneficial to Thailand,” Jumlop told Reuters.

Thailand’s navy chief, Admiral Nara Arreeritch, will visit China soon to finalize the government-to-government purchase, a source at the defence ministry, who declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter, told Reuters.

Maritime security is a hot issue in Southeast Asia, given competing claims over the South China Sea, but Thailand is not a claimant in that dispute.—Reuters
HUNDREDs FLEE Mosul FIGHTING AS OTHERS RETURN TO FORMER IS AREAS

MOSUL, Iraq — Heavy two-way traffic of carts carrying children, clothes, and the elderly crowded the main Baghdad-Mosul road on Sunday as hundreds of Iraqis fled heavy fighting or made their way back to areas seized back from Islamic State. Families paid no heed to the sound of heavy mortar, artillery and machine gun fire raging in the background as US-trained Iraqi forces battled Islamic State some two km (about a mile) away.

Some had walked miles to a government checkpoint where the men were placed in army trucks and sent for security screening to ensure no militant sleeper cells get out of the city. Women and children were found put in broods and sent to camps housing hundreds of thousands, some displaced since the offensive to retake the Islamic State stronghold began in October. “We left because of darkness, hunger, and death. There are bullets and air strikes. We were injured, our children were injured,” said Younnes Ahmed, who was fleeing al-Thura district with his family, their clothes all piled on a cart. There was a deep bullet wound on his hand. A group of young men further inside the city sat on the street as soldiers gave them back identification cards they had taken to conduct background checks before letting them go.

Most houses were reduced to rubble, either because of air strikes or Islamic State bombs. Cars were low on fuel.

“Islamic State blew up my house with TNT to shield against air strikes,” said Hossam Saleh who now lives in rubble because he has nowhere to escape. Others were walking back into the city, eager to reclaim their homes after their neighbourhoods had been retaken from Islamic State by US-backed security forces. “We left because of the air strikes but have now returned. But we want the government to restore services like electricity and water and to allow us to drive instead of using carts,” said Mosaab Mohamed who was walking back into Mosul with his family. Iraqi forces have taken much of Mosul from the militants who overran the city in June 2014. The military now controls the eastern districts and are making advances in the west. Islamic State fighters, holding out in the Old City, are surrounded in the northwest and are using body traps, sniper and mortar fire to defend themselves.

Three policemen were killed in a suicide attack south of Mosul. A group of about 10 assailants, including four suicide bombers, had tried to infiltrate a Federal Police helicopter base in Al-Arej, a police captain told Reuters. Those who have returned say the government has been slow to restore services even to western districts that had been retaken a while ago.

“We are besieged in the Resala area. There are stray bullets from other areas where there is fighting; three children have died,” said Mohamed Sobhi. “Water and aid cannot reach us. I call on the government to redistribute the aid to people in areas like ours into other safer areas in Mosul.”

Hundreds fleece Mosul fighting as others return to former IS areas

Hundreds flee Mosul fighting as others return to former IS areas

Al Qaeda chief urges jihadists to use guerrilla tactics in Syria

AMMAN — Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri has called on Syrian Sunni jihadists to wage guerrilla war against enemies ranging from Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his Iranian-backed allies to Western powers.

In an audio recording posted online on Sunday, Zawahri called for the rebels to be patient, saying they should be prepared for a long battle with the Western-led coalition in Iraq and Syria and Iranian-backed Shi’ites fighting alongside Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s government.

“Our people in Sham (Syria) prepare yourselves for a long battle with the Crusaders and their allies the Shi’ites and Alawites,” the successor to Osama bin Laden said.

Sunni militants consider Shi’ites and Alawites heretics.

Zawahri said jihadists were targeted by their enemies because they sought to impose Islamic rule in Syria, adding that the West and its allies were doing everything they could to prevent an “Islamic” wave that was sweeping the region.

It was not clear when the recording, in which the militant leader also said holy war (jihad) in Syria was not just the prerogative of Syrians but all Muslims, was made.

He also warned insurgents not to turn the conflict into an internally intersecting Syrian one.

Syria’s former al Qaeda branch Nusra Front now spearheads an alliance of Islamist brigades known as Hayat Tahrir al Sham which is leading battles against Syrian government forces and their Russian and Iranian-backed allies on most of the main fronts in the country.

This alliance plays a key role in the control of most of Idlib province, although US-led coalition strikes have killed dozens of its leaders in recent months. — Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINA BUMAH VOY. NO (008)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINA BUMAH VOY. NO (008) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P. CONTINENTAL SHIPING LTD.

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

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Swedish think tank puts Russia in world’s top three biggest defence spenders

STOCKHOLM — With military expenditures of $69.2 billion, Russia ranks third in the list of the world’s biggest defence spenders in 2016, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in its survey published on Monday.

The top 15 countries with the highest military spending in 2016 were the same as those in 2015, although some changes have been made in their ranking. The United States topped the chart with last year’s military expenditures estimated at $611 billion (up 1.7 percentage points year-on-year), which is nearly three times the level of China with $215 billion (up 5.4 percentage points year-on-year). In 2016, total US military expenditure of $611 billion is over one-third (36%) of world’s total military expenditure.

Russia is third with $69.2 billion (up 5.9 percentage points year-on-year). Saudi Arabia slashed its military financing by impressive 30% and was down to the fourth place in 2016, with a defence budget of $63.7 billion.

“As a result of an unexpected increase in Russia’s military expenditure in late 2016 and large cuts to Saudi Arabia’s military budget, Russia moved above Saudi Arabia to the position of third largest spender in 2016,” SIPRI said.

Russia’s military spending in 2016 was 5.3% of its GDP—the highest proportion since the breakup of the Soviet Union and the seventh highest military burden globally.

According to the report, “this increased spending and heavy burden on the economy comes at a time when the Russian economy is in serious trouble due to low oil and gas prices and the economic sanctions imposed since 2014.”

“It was originally expected and planned that the Russian Government would reduce its spending, including military spending,” the report reads.

“However, late in 2016 actual spending was pushed substantially higher by a decision to make a one-off payment of roughly $11.8 billion in government debt to Russian arms producers. Without this debt repayment, Russia’s military spending would have decreased by 12.6%,” SIPRI said.

US military spending grew by 1.7% between 2015 and 2016, the first increase after five consecutive years of decline. Despite this slight growth, US military expenditures remain 20% lower than their peak in 2010.

The small upturn in 2016 can be attributed to legislation adopted in 2013 and 2015, which eased the budget limits imposed in 2011.

However, given the context of the presidential election and the inability of the US Congress and the White House to reach agreement on a budget to be implemented on 1 October 2016, there is uncertainty about short-term developments in the country’s military expenditure.—Tass

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.4.2017 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 on Claim’s Day. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

MV INNWA STAR VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV INNWA STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 on Claim’s Day. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.4.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 on Claim’s Day. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.4.2017 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 on Claim’s Day. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

Thailand reaches for the stars with new Michelin Guide

BANGKOK — Thailand will be the latest country to have a Michelin Guide, its state tourism agency said on Monday, taking its place on the culinary world map just days after authorities announced they would shut down Bangkok’s vibrant street food scene.

The dining publication was introduced by the French Michelin tyre company in 1900 to encourage people to take road trips. Its star system began in the 1920s.

The guide to hotels and restaurants, which will be released in Thai and English, will be the company’s sixth in Asia. It has guides for China, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore.

The news comes days after authorities in Bangkok said they would banish some of its world-famous street food vendors as part of a clean-up drive by the military government, outraging foodies and threatening the livelihoods of the city’s road-side cooks.

The guide could end up featuring some ofBangkok’s street food. In 2016, Singapore made history when two modest food stalls—one serving chicken rice and the other pork noodles—were among dining venues featured in the Singaporean guide.

“Bangkok is one of the world’s culinary capitals,” Lionel Dantiaq, president and managing director of Michelin East-Asia Oceania at Michelin, said in a statement.

As well as its famous street food, the Thai capital is home to a burgeoning fine dining scene, attracting an increasing number of world-class chefs.

“The guide will also inspire local restaurants to improve their quality and raise the bar in terms of gastronomic excellence,” said Yuthasak Supasorn, governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand. This year Gaggan, an innovative Indian restaurant in Bangkok, nabbed the top spot for the third year running at the Asia’s 50 Best Restaurants awards sponsored by S Pellegrino and Acqua Panna.

—Reuters
Le Pen attacks Macron on security ahead of French presidency runoff

PARIS — French far-right leader Marine Le Pen on Monday accused Emmanuel Macron, her inexperienced opponent in next month’s runoff for the presidency, of being weak in the face of Islamist terrorism.

Global markets reacted with relief to Sunday’s first round of voting, which broke the dominance of established parties of the centre-left and centre-right but still left a pro-European Union centrist and former economy minister in pole position to become France’s next leader.

The euro briefly reached five-month peaks while European shares rose sharply.

The latest opinion polls indicate that Macron, a 39-year-old who has never held elected office, will win at least 61 per cent of the vote.

Those figures soothed investors who have been unnerved by Le Pen’s pledges to ditch the euro, print money and possibly quit the EU and were nervous of another anti-establishment upheaval to follow Britain’s “Brexit” vote and Donald Trump’s election as US president.

Le Pen, 48, has also touted her pledges to suspend the EU’s open-border agreement on France’s frontiers, and to expel foreigners who are on the watch lists of intelligence services, as the right response to a series of Islamist attacks in France.

Seeking to exploit Macron’s lack of experience in the area, she told reporters in her northern stronghold of Henin-Beaumont: “I’m on the ground to meet the French people to draw their attention to important subjects, including Islamist terrorism, on which Mr Macron is, to say the least, weak.

France has seen a series of attacks by Islamist militants in the past two years which have killed more than 230 people; only three days before Sunday’s vote, a policeman was shot and two others were wounded in central Paris in an attack claimed by the Islamic State jihadist group.

But despite this, opinion polls consistently found that voters were more concerned about the economy and the trustworthiness of politicians.

Macron’s internal security programme calls for 10,000 more police officers, and 15,000 new prison places. He has recruited a number of security experts to his entourage, and noted that Le Pen has less experience of national government than he does. Macron won 23.74 per cent of votes in the first round against Le Pen’s 21.53. A Harris survey saw Macron going on to win the runoff against her by 64 per cent to 36. An Ipsos/Sopra Steria poll gave a similar result while a new poll by Opinionway on Monday put the margin at 61 per cent to 39 per cent. Others in Le Pen’s campaign took aim on Monday at what they see as further weak spots: Macron’s previous job as an investment banker and his role as a deregulating economy minister in the discredited Socialist government of the outgoing president, Francois Hollande.

“Emmanuel is not a patriot. He sold off national companies. He criticised French culture,” Florian Philippot, deputy leader of Le Pen’s National Front, told BFM TV.

Analysts say Le Pen’s best chance of overthrowing Macron’s big lead in the polls is to paint him as a part of an elite aloof from ordinary people. Macron, for instance, was never in prison.

“Number of our security partners put those arrangements in place. With this particular proposition there’s a balance between inconvenience for passengers, many of whom live off their laptop on the one hand, but on the other hand it’s making sure that the flying is safe,” English said.

On 25 March, the United States banned electronic devices larger than a mobile phone from passenger cabins of direct flights from eight countries in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey, including Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Britain followed the same day with similar measures, including banning larger electronics on flights from some Middle East countries but not Qatar and the UAE where it instead requested additional security checks.

Additional security measures required by New Zealand would affect passengers flying from Dubai in the UAE and Doha, Qatar, where carriers Emirates and Qatar Airways, respectively, fly direct to New Zealand.

The CAA said in a statement that it was routinely monitoring security screening in international airports.

“The comments by the Minister of Transport in Dubai refer to routine activity at last ports of departure to New Zealand — assurance that security screening meets the expected standards for flights in-bound to New Zealand,” said Mike Richards, CAA manager of communications and safety.

The agency said there was no specific timeframe for when a decision would be made.

The additional security measures by the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia were made based on intelligence suggesting flights could be targeted for attack.

Last week, Emirates said it was cutting flights to the United States after new restrictions weakened demand.

Bridges said he is scheduled to meet with Emirates Chairman Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed al-Maktoum this week where he would make clear that New Zealand is open to additional services.

New Zealand considering restricting laptops on flights from Middle East

DUBAI/WELLINGTON — New Zealand is considering restrictions on laptops and other large electronic devices on flights from some Muslim-majority countries in the Middle East, the country’s prime minister said on Monday.

The new rules would follow similar measures introduced last month by the United States, Britain and Australia.

The New Zealand leader elaborated on comments made by transport minister Simon Bridges, who told Reuters in an interview in Dubai on Sunday that the country’s Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) “is assessing the evidence to determine what is appropriate”.

Prime Minister Bill English told reporters in Wellington that the aviation agency was considering the issue and would make a decision on whether to restrict large electronic items on flights from the Middle East independently of the government.

“A number of our security partners put those arrangements in place. With this particular proposition there’s a balance between inconvenience for passengers, many of whom live off their laptop on the one hand, but on the other hand it’s making sure that the flying is safe,” English said.

On 25 March, the United States banned electronic devices larger than a mobile phone from passenger cabins of direct flights from eight countries in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey, including Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Britain followed the same day with similar measures, including banning larger electronics on flights from some Middle East countries but not Qatar and the UAE where it instead requested additional security checks.

Additional security measures required by New Zealand would affect passengers flying from Dubai in the UAE and Doha, Qatar, where carriers Emirates and Qatar Airways, respectively, fly direct to New Zealand.

The CAA said in a statement that it was routinely monitoring security screening in international airports.

“The comments by the Minister of Transport in Dubai refer to routine activity at last ports of departure to New Zealand — assurance that security screening meets the expected standards for flights in-bound to New Zealand,” said Mike Richards, CAA manager of communications and safety.

The agency said there was no specific timeframe for when a decision would be made.

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In addition to New Zealand’s action, Britain and the United States have introduced last month by transport ministers from some Middle East countries but not Qatar and the UAE where it instead requested additional security checks.

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More information about the proposed activity can be found on PTTEPI’s website as follows: www.pttep.com.

Questions and comments can also be submitted to PTTEPI in writing by contacting the following e-mail address: TinNilarSoe@pttep.com

EIA Study of Zawtika Phase 1C and 1D Development in Offshore Block M9 by PTTEPI

PTTEP International Limited (PTTEPI), following the success of Phase 1A and 1B Development, plans to develop the Zawtika Phase 1C and 1 D in Offshore Block M9. The development of Phase 1C consists of 4 remote well head platforms ZWP6 - ZWP12 - ZWP19 including associated pipelines. The first platform is expected to install quarter of 2017. The development of Phase 1D consists of 8 remote wellhead platforms ZWP11 including associated pipelines. The tentative plan for commencement will be in 2020.

Regarding the Scoping Report which was submitted to Environmental Conservation Department (ECD), PTTEPI and Environmental Resources Management (ERM) are currently undertaking an EIA Study which includes associated stakeholder engagement. The EIA will be conducted in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015).

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Los Angeles — “The Fate of the Furious” is racing to defend its title at the top of the box office, while a number of new releases including “The Promise” and “Unforgettable” are being left in the dust.

Universal’s eighth installment in the Fast and Furious franchise proved to be a global box office titan when it opened last weekend to a record-shattering $352.5 million. This time around looks to tell mostly the same story — while domestic grosses slipped 61% from its first to second weekend, the movie is still easily topping the box office with $38.7 million from 4,329 locations.

But slipping domestic earnings (and lower US grosses than “Furious 7,” which pulled over $250 million in its first two weekends versus “Fate’s” current sum of $163.6 million) are majorly overshadowed by the movie’s international appeal. A bankable, diverse cast including Dwayne Johnson, Vin Diesel and Chiwetel Ejiofor is leading the film, directed by F Gary Gray, to a two-frame total of $744.8 million and worldwide sum of $908.4 million.

While studios wait for summer season to commence, there are no surprise hits to come of this weekend’s releases, Warner Bros.’ “Unforgettable” seems to have slipped audiences’ minds, earning $4.8 million in its first weekend from 2,417 theaters.

“It just didn’t resonate with the intended audience,” said Jeff Goldstein, the president of domestic distribution at Warner Bros. Goldstein stressed that the movie was made for a moderate price, and the marketing was “targeted and appropriate” for the audience.

The directorial debut of Denise Di Novi stars Katherine Heigl as a scorned ex-wife, and Rosario Dawson as a woman who is newly engaged to the same man. In his review for Variety, critic Peter Debruge lauded Heigl’s “terrific” performance, and wrote that her casting “savvily exploits the actress’s prickly reputation within the industry.” “Unforgettable” joins a string of so-so to disappointing releases from Warner Bros so far this year, including “Chips” and “Fist Fight.” At least the Heigl movie had a low production budget (about $12 million) to minimize losses.

“The Promise,” too, couldn’t follow through, despite a social media push from stars including Leonardo DiCaprio, the Kardashians and Cher. The movie, from Open Road Films on behalf of Survival Pictures, looks to round out the weekend with about $4.1 million from 2,251 locations — barely cracking the top ten for the weekend.

While “The Promise” could be considered a massive disappointment for its $90 million price tag, the film’s backers hoped it would raise awareness more than earn money. Oscar Isaac, Charlotte Le Bon and Christian Bale make up the central love triangle in the movie directed by Terry George (“Hotel Rwanda”). The film is set during the ArmenianGenocide, and bankrolled by the late businessman Kirk Kerkorian who wanted to bring visibility to the systematic extermination to 1.5 million Armenians at the order of the Ottoman empire in 1915 — a politically fraught subject that Turkey continues to deny happened. All proceeds made from the movie will be donated to charity.

“We certainly hoped for a better box office result,” said Open Road’s president of marketing Jonathan Heigl, adding that the film’s mission was not purely box office-related. “It was about bringing the world’s attention to this issue,” he said. “And looking at the amount of conversation it’s undeniable that there’s been more focus and attention in the past two weeks than the past hundred years since the atrocity took place.”

Disney’s latest animal documentary “Born in China,” a co-production between Disneynature and Shanghai Media Group, is making $5.1 million from 1,508 theaters. Narrated by John Krasinski, the docu earned more than previous films “Monkey Kingdom” ($4.6 Million) and “Bears” ($4.8 Million), and is the highest grossing Disneynature opening since 2012’s Chimpanzee ($10.7 million).

Cineole’s “Phoenix Forgotten” opened at 1,592 theaters to an estimated $2 million this weekend. A24’s “Free Fire” raked in only $1 million from 1,070 spots in its first weekend. In its fourth frame, Fox’s “The Boss Baby” will bottle up $12.8 million from 3,697 locations, putting it in second place behind “Fate.” Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast” should hold onto third with $10 million from 3,315 theaters.

Warner Bros. “Going in Style” should slide into fourth with $5 million from 3,038 spots. The heist comedy starring Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine and Alan Arkin is targeting an older demo, and saw only a 20% decline in ticket sales from its second to third weekend. “Born in China” looks to round out the top five. — Reuters
TAKAMATSU (Japan) — A pair of English teachers from a Kagawa Prefecture language school are promoting to foreign visitors “sanuki udon” noodle bowls, an udon dish popular in the western Japan prefecture, through a poster explaining the intricacies of eating at a local noodle shop.

More than 200 copies of the poster, titled “An English Guide to Sanuki Udon” and made by American Jeremy Lanig and his British coworker Gary Wilkinson, have been distributed to udon eateries in Kagawa.

The idea for the poster came from Lanig, a 37-year-old udon enthusiast. Upon arriving in Japan in 2006, he faced the complex system of ordering udon noodle bowls at shops in Kagawa.

The noodle bowls, for example, come in different serving styles, such as “kake” (basic, in hot broth) and “kamatama” (just out of pot, eaten with a raw egg and soy sauce). Eager to simplify the ordering process for newcomers, Lanig and 31-year-old Wilkinson started working on an infographic poster last July. Their effort resulted in a colorful illustrated guide about the kinds of udon bowls offered at a typical shop and how to order them.

Lanig said he struggled with some Japanese words that cannot easily be translated into English, while Wilkinson, who handled the illustrations, said he used vivid colors so the poster would stand out.

They began distributing posters in October and the response has been positive, with some shop owners finding them useful to learn English themselves. The duo has also received inquiries about the poster from shops outside the prefecture.

“The poster is useful not just for overseas customers but also for us to learn how to explain (the dish) in English,” said Shimepi Yonetsu, who runs an udon restaurant in Takamatsu. Lanig said he hopes their efforts will lead to him also being able to understand and experience the world of sanuki udon noodles.

—Kyodo News

Ancient bamboo slips for calculation enter world records book

BEIJING — A set of bamboo slips dating back more than 2,300 years were officially recognized Sunday by the Guinness Book of World Records as the world’s earliest decimal calculation tool.

“The significance is that it’s decimal, not duodecimal as seen in other countries. Decimal did not appear in Europe until the 15th century,” said Li Xueqin, head of the Research and Conservation Center for Excavated Texts of Beijing-based Tsinghua University.

The 21 slips, crafted around 305 BC during the Warring States Period, are 43.5 centimetres long and 1.2 centimetres wide each.

When arranged together as a multiplication table, the slips can perform multiplication and division of any two whole numbers under 100 and numbers containing the fraction 0.5.

The slips have inscribed numbers and holes, where threads used to go. A user would pull the threads corresponding to numbers needed to be calculated in order to see the result.

The owner of the slips remains unknown, according to Li. “Our guess is that the tool might be used in trade, or measurement of land in the kingdom of Chu.”

In July 2008, Tsinghua acquired a rare collection of 2,500 slip bamboo items from the late Warring States period, which had been smuggled out of China, including the multiplication table.

—Reuters

TOKYO — Sony Corp will launch a mirrorless single-lens digital camera capable of photographing silently at high speed, targeting professionals and bird watchers who want to shoot without distracting their subjects.

The new model, Alpha 9, can continuously shoot up to 20 frames per second with the help of a CMOS image sensor to process data up to 20 times faster than previous Sony full-frame mirrorless cameras.

The Japanese electronics giant will start taking orders Thursday ahead of the product’s release on 26 May. The CMOS sensor allows the camera to stay focused on athletes without a pause, helping capture them in motion during competition.

The silent shooting function helps photographers operate in noise-sensitive environments, such as around wild animals, or when a golfer is playing a shot.

The camera body weighs about 673 grams, including its battery. An expected retail price for the body is around ¥50,000 yen ($4950), according to the company.

—Kyodo News

Sony to launch high-speed, silent mirrorless camera

Re-enactment of WWII Battle of Berlin staged in Moscow

MOSCOW — More than a hundred stunt men, trophy German armored vehicles and restored Soviet tanks of World War II times took part in historical reconstruction of the Berlin offensive operation of Red army in Moscow’s “Patriot” park. According to the Russian Defense Ministry, during the re-enactment the participants used two T34-85 tanks, two self-propelled artillery units, four BM-13 “Katyusha” launchers — from the Soviet side, four PzKpfw IV tanks, two PzKpfw III tanks, a PzKpfw VI tank, a Sturmgeschütz self-propelled gun, armored vehicles on the side of the Wehrmacht and two Messerschmitt Bf-109 E. The audience saw performed tank fights, aviation duels, as well as infantry clashes.—Tass

Participants storm a Reichstag building. Photo: TASS

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Participants storm a Reichstag building. Photo: TASS
Myanmar to host invitational Chinlone contest prior to 29th SEA Games

MYANMAR will host an invitational Chinlone (cane ball) competition prior to the 29th Southeast Asian Games, a multi-sport event to be held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, next August, according to organisers.

Jointly organised by the Asian Chinlone Federation and the Myanmar Chinlone Federation, the invitational tournament is due to take place on 5-8 May in the capital Nay Pyi Taw. The host country Myanmar will participate in the contest together with counterparts from four ASEAN member countries — Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Myanmar athletes arranged to take part in four categories of men’s cane-ball events, which are planned to be included in the 29th SEA Games.

Since 2013, the Myanmar Chinlone Federation has organised the invitational competitions on a yearly basis with the aim of providing platforms to improve the skills of participating teams as well as promote the players’ friendly relationship between Myanmar athletes and those of neighbouring countries.

“This is part of the preparation for the upcoming Kuala Lumpur SEA Games 2017 and those players would have a golden opportunity to continue improving themselves in all tactical, technical and physical aspects of the sport,” a spokesperson of the MCF said.

Chinlone, the national sport of Myanmar, was first introduced in the 27th SEA Games hosted by Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw.

2017 General Aung San Shield to be celebrated

THE 2017 General Aung San Shield Knockout Football Competition will be held starting from May 2nd and will be organized by the Myanmar Football Federation. It is the league cup competition started in every Myanmar football season. The Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) is planning to rename the tournament as the General Aung San Shield after several years of being known as the MFF Cup.

In the first round, ten clubs competing in 2017 MNL-2 and two clubs which were promoted to 2017 MNL, twelve teams in total, will be playing at a neutral ground with six teams to emerge as winners. Round one match will feature two games a day and will start from May 2nd.

In the second round, twelve clubs competing in 2016 MNL and the six winners from the first round, sixteen teams in total, will be playing at a neutral ground with eight teams to emerge as winners. The games of Round two will start from 10 May. The Quarter-finals will still be played as one-legged matches but the Semi-final will be contested as two-legged (Home and Away) matches.

All tournament games will be played either at the Aung San Stadium or Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon and the final match will be played at the Aung San Stadium for the dignity of General Aung San.

The cup winner will receive K30 million (US$30,000) and is guaranteed a place in the 2018 AFC Cup. The first runner up will take K15 million and the beaten semi-finalists will get K7.5 million accordingly.

Messi’s 500th Barca goal sinks Real Madrid in thriller

Madrid — Lionel Messi scored his 500th Barcelona goal with the last kick of the game to snatch a stunning 3-2 win at Real Madrid and put the two teams level on points at the top of La Liga.

James Rodriguez appeared to have rescued a point for the hosts with an 86th minute strike to make it 2-2 after goals by Messi and Ivan Rakitic had overturned Casemiro’s opener.

Madrid captain Sergio Ramos was sent off for a two-footed lunge on Messi in the 77th minute and that left Barcelona in a strong position, until Rodriguez fired home at the near post.

But Messi’s second goal in the final minute of added time earned Barca a vital win in the title race that leaves both sides with 75 points, although Madrid have a game in hand.

Nadal claims record-extending 10th Monte Carlo title

MONTE CARLO — Rafael Nadal claimed a record-extending 10th Monte Carlo Masters title as he geared up for his belov ed French Open with a 6-1, 6-3 victory against fellow Spaniard Albert Ramos on Sunday.

The fourth seed, who is also targeting a 10th Roland Garros trophy this year, was always in command as he claimed his first ATP title since triumphing in Barcelona a year ago.

The 14-times grand slam champion had won his two previous encounters against Ramos and the 15th seed failed to snap that run on Sunday.

“It has been an amazing week on one of the most important events on the tour. I played well here, which helps me a lot to start the claycourt season with confidence,” said Nadal.

Nadal won three break points in the second game as Ramos levelled for 1-1, only for the claycourt king to win the next five games to bag the opening set. With Nadal’s topspin working with devastating effect, Ramos struggled to stay close to his baseline.

Barcelona's Lionel Messi in action with Real Madrid’s Casemiro during the Spanish Liga Santander at Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid, Spain on 23 April, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

File photo shows Magway Football Club celebrate with their shield after winning of 2016 General Aung San Shield. PHOTO: POOH THIN ZIN

Kyaw Zin Lin