Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meets today on electing presidential candidate

Presidency vacancy shall be filled within seven days

A MEETING on electing a candidate for the presidency, which was vacated on Wednesday by U Htin Kyaw, will be held today at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting yesterday, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than urged members to submit their names by 23 March to become members of the Presidential Electoral College, which will scrutinise the vice-president selected by representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw. The president will then be elected from among the vice presidents.

U Htin Kyaw, who resigned from his post in order to take a rest from his duties, was elected by the group of Pyithu Hluttaw representatives about two years ago.

SEE PAGE-2

Rakhine villages to convert to solar power

As part of the National Electrification Plan (NEP), 219 villages in Rakhine State will be connected to solar power electricity in the 2018-2019 financial year, said the Rakhine State Rural Development Department.

U Nay Htet Shein, Director of the Rakhine State Rural Development Department, said the NEP will be carried out in 16 townships and 219 villages in Rakhine State and will be outfitted with 11,333 units of solar electricity within the 2018-2019 financial year.

“The NEP’s plan is to provide electricity to areas that are too far from the main power grid, or above 10 miles away from an 11KV power line, or have been unable to connect with the Electricity Department in 10 years’ time,” said U Nay Htet Shein.

SEE PAGE-3

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convenes today in Nay Pyi Taw as it prepares to elect a new president within seven days. PHOTO: MNA
Amyotha Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meets today on electing presidential candidate

FROM PAGE-1

Before the announcement, Speaker Mahn Win Kyaw resigned also announced that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw documented a message from Acting President U Myint Swe informing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to fill the vacant seat of the President in accordance with Sub-section (b), Section (73) of the Constitution as President U Htin Kyaw has resigned from his post on 21 March 2018.

Sub-section (b), Section (73) of the Constitution says that when a vacancy for the presidency happens during the session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the vacancy shall be filled within seven days.

At the beginning of the meeting of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Speaker Mahn Win Kyaw read out the letter of resignation of President U Htin Kyaw in which U Htin Kyaw said he has resigned from his post of his own volition as he wants to take a rest from his current duties with effect from 21 March 2018. The President or any of the Vice-Presidents shall be allowed to resign from office of his own volition before the expiry of the term of office, according to the Section (72) of the Constitution and Section (133) of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rule.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also documented the resignation of President U Htin Kyaw. — Thura Zaw, Mi Mi Phyoe/MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw elects speaker, deputy speaker

THE 31st-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the meeting hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives first elected U Khin Maung Win of Lannave constituency as the chairman, who then signed the oath document.

Next, the chairman delivered a speech thanking the Hluttaw for electing him and said he was honoured to serve the Hluttaw. The chairman then mentioned how the second Pyithu Hluttaw meetings were held successfully and gave credit to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker for achieving this. He concluded by noting the agenda of the day’s meeting was to elect a speaker for the Pyithu Hluttaw, in accordance with its law and rules.

The meeting then continued after the chairman announced its successful commencement.

Later, Hluttwaw representatives voted to elect the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker. Of the candidates in the fray for the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker, U T Khun Myat of Kutkai constituency secured 280 votes, while U Thaung Aye of Pyawbwe constituency got 141 votes. The chairman announced the election of U T Khun Myat as the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker.

This was followed by Hluttwaw representatives voting to elect the Pyithu Hluttaw deputy speaker, where the candidates were U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein of Nawghkio constituency and Dr. Maung Thiri of Meiktila constituency. The chairman announced the election of U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein as the Pyithu Hluttaw deputy speaker after he received 279 votes against Dr. Maung Thiri’s 143 votes.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein then took the oath of office in the presence of the chairman and signed the oath document.

Following this, the Pyithu Hluttaw chairman transferred the duty to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker. In his speech to the Hlutaw, U T Khun Myat thanked all the Hluttwaw representatives for electing him. “As people’s representatives, our thoughts and actions should set an example for the people who want to experience democratic practices and enjoy human rights,” said the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

“The Hluttwaw representatives need to serve the country and the people by being magnanimous and tolerant, maintaining mutual respect and by displaying the qualities of being forgiving, understanding and cooperative. All are urged to cooperate and work hand-in-hand to form a federal democratic union, establish and create a democracy and raise the human rights in the country. All need to work for the country instead of themselves, and through the successful conduct of our respective duties, we should raise our self-esteem,” said the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

As persons who are writing a new historical chapter for the country, all need to raise the honour and nobility of the Hlutaw. Among the country’s legislative, administrative and judicial authorities, the Hlutaw performs the duty of drawing up and enacting legislations. In addition to this, it also has the duty of assessing if the existing laws, rules, notices and announcements are according to democratic practices, as well as of amending, adding, repealing and drawing up new ones accordingly,” he said.

In conclusion, the Pyithu Hluttwaw Speaker pledged to perform his duties according to the Hluttwaw law, rules, procedure and process without bias to achieve democratic opportunities and basic human rights.

The 32nd-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttwaw is yet to be announced.— Aye Aye Thant/ Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw holds 31st-day meeting

THE seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttwaw held its 31st-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, asteroids were raised and answered by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

Responding to the first question by U Sai San Aung of Shan Constituency (12) on raising the level of education for ethnic nationals in Wa Self-administered Division, the Deputy Minister said a total of 13 school buildings and four staff houses for teaching personnel were earmarked to be constructed in the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY).

The Saku basic education primary school in Namphan Township, Laikha education primary school and Lakaing basic education primary school in Panwaing Township are located on lands that do not belong to the Ministry of Education, and so, the lands must be registered in the ministry’s name first. Only then can the ministry upgrade the schools and construct more buildings for them, said the Deputy Minister.

A school building on a 60x30 square feet plot for the Kaunglan basic education primary school in Metmung Township was, however, built in the 2014-2015 FY, added the Deputy Minister.

On the second question by U Myint Naing of Rakhine constituency (12) on raising the level of education for ethnic nationals in Wa Self-ad- ministered Division, the Deputy Minister said a total of 13 school buildings and four staff houses for teaching personnel were earmarked to be constructed in the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY).

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75 per cent of Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre ready for repatriation

By Kyaw Thu Win and Aye Min Thu

As the union government prepares to receive returnees from Bangladesh, it has completed some 75 per cent of the construction process at Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre. The project comprises 652 housing units, which will accommodate more than 30,000 returnees from Bangladesh, according to an engineer in charge of the centre.

“The Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre is situated in the Hla Phoe Khaung village tract in the Maungtaw Township, where the Construction and Infrastructure Task Force has supervised all the successful construction projects. We are building an eight-compartment wooden house for six family members. Also, all the houses are of the same model and will each receive a supply of 500 gallons of water. Besides two electric bulbs and a pair of sockets, the house contains a toilet and two water pumps. For the convenience of the returnees, arrangements have been made to cook in the kitchen,” the engineer said.

The Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre project began on 13 January 2018, and some 625 houses will be built here. The project is expected to be completed on 31 March 2018, after which some 30,000 returnees can live in the houses.

“This project is aimed at accommodating 30,000 people. Some 75 per cent of the construction has been completed. Efforts are being made to complete all the projects by the end of this month. Formerly, we planned to build on some 640 acres of land in the first phase, but we had to shift to other places due to uneven grounds and hilly regions,” he added.

According to the bilateral agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh, Myanmar has made preparations for the repatriation process and is ready to accept the returnees.

Rakhine villages to convert to solar power

FROM PAGE-1

The townships included in the plan are Ponnyayun, Pauktaw, Yathedaung, Maungkuy, Kyaukmya, Mebyon, Maungtaw, Buithidaung, Kyaukpyu, Yanbye, Maungsaung, An, Thandwe, Taungup, and Gwa townships. There are 11,333 households in these townships.

The NEP was started in 2016-2017 with support from the World Bank and funds from the Union Government and from the general public as well.

“The public put in 10 per cent, the State put in 39 per cent, and the World Bank put in 60 per cent of the necessary budget,” said U Nay Htet Shein. He said three types (30W, 45W, 60W) of solar home system units will be installed in households, and this will be done with the public’s 10 per cent funds. The State will install units for public facilities such as street lamps, schools, libraries, medical centres, monasteries, religious buildings, and other public places.

In the 2016-2017 financial year, 31,363 households in 549 villages were outfitted with solar power, while public facilities were outfitted with 4,091 units. In the 2017-2018 financial year, 4,492 households in 68 villages and 166 units for public facilities will be outfitted with 60W and 108W solar home systems.—Kyaw Thu Htet

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun visits Sarpay Beikman in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Deputy Minister for Information meets staff from Sarpay Beikman, MRTV (YGN)

U AUNG HLA TUN, Deputy Minister for Information, met with civil servants from Sarpay Beikman and Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), Yangon, yesterday.

The Deputy Minister first arrived at the Sarpay Beikman office, Printing and Publishing Department in Kyauktada Township. He inspected the bookstore, public library, children’s library, and e-library.

The Deputy Minister then met with government officials in the meeting hall and instructed them to conduct seminars and workshops with foreign literary experts, and to be up-to-date with current trends, while developing Sarpay Beikman’s own style.

Deputy Chief Editor U Soe Myint Than then gave a presentation on Sarpay Beikman’s progress. The Deputy Minister provided advice as necessary and then met with the rest of the organisation’s staff.

Later in the afternoon, the Deputy Minister travelled to the MRTV Studio-A on Pyay Road. He met with the staff and told them that MRTV is an important sector that provides people with information, education, and entertainment, and it is important to change with the times to stay relevant.

This was followed by the different divisions of MRTV discussing the requirements of the sector, to which Director-General U Myint Htwe provided explanations. The Deputy Minister then discussed possible solutions with the staff.—Myanmar News Agency

A rooftop solar home system uses a photovoltaic module to provide power for lights in Rakhine State. PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING
EDITORIAL SECTION

South East Asia has been an hub for international gemstone trade, and Myanmar is known as the “jewel of the East” for its commercial gemstones. Therefore, the 9th International Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Expo 2018 will be held at the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Trade Centre on Karabar Aye Pagoda Road, Mayangone, Yangon from 30 March to 2 April, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

The expo will feature 30 firms from five countries — Thailand, Myanmar, Hong Kong, Germany and India. The expo will be mainly sponsored by the Office Express.

At the exhibition, Gema- ny will display its latest jewel- lery-crafting technologies this year. The expo will be a good exposure for entrepreneurs wishing to invest in gems and jewellery for the first time. Moreover, raw gemstones, finished products, rubies, sapphires, pearls and jade will be available for purchase and ob- servation. Myanmar’s gem- stones will also be displayed at the exhibition.—GNLM

Local farmers introduced to Htwtet Toe mobile application

VILLAGE Link, a leading dig- ital service company in Myanmar, has introduced the Htwtet Toe mobile application to local farmers to provide them with information on agricultural technology, said U Thadoe Hein, founder and CEO of Myanmar Awa Group.

The application will provide information on agricultural tech- nology, weather conditions and the price of crops. Moreover, this application will connect farmers and agricultural experts on a single platform.

“His application has been developed to provide agricultural information based on the latest research to local farmers on time,” said U Thadoe Hein.

The Htwtet Toe mobile application was created by the Village Link company, with the support of the Geodata for Agriculture and Water (G4AW) programme, which will assist in further de- veloping the application. G4AW, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is a programme carried out by the Netherlands Space Office and is focused on sustainable food production and water.

The beta version of the Ht- wet Toe mobile application has been available since December 2017, with more than 20,000 farm- ers using the application, which can be downloaded through the Google Play Store. The application will include six functions — question and answer; agricul- tural technology; weather condi- tions; DM code, price of crops, and news and articles.

Myanmar’s agriculture sec- tor contributes to 38 per cent of its gross domestic product and employs more than 60 per cent of the labour force. Myanmar has large swathes of land to grow a variety of crops, compared with other ASEAN countries. Howev- er, its local farmers have the lowest- est agricultural productivity and income in the region, because of the lack of technology and in- formation. Therefore, the Htwtet Toe application was introduced to provide local farmers with in- formation and suggestions from agricultural experts.

“We are glad to receive strong support from the Dutch government to ensure the wide use of the application. We are also planning to update the ap- plication with the latest tech- nology to develop the lifestyle of local farmers,” said U Thadoe Hein.—GNLM

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Taste of Bangkok in Mdy

THE Bangkok night market is open in Mandalay’s Manaw Yannan grounds from 21 to 24 March. People can visit the market and sample zesty Thai food, such as sweet and sour prawn soup or Pad Thai and trendy Thai fashions, said Ma Nan Aye Myat Mon, an organ- izer of the night market.

This is the third time the night market took place in Mandalay. The Thai style night market is comprised of more than 60 stalls, and about five shops are directly from Thai- land where Thai accessories, clothes and food are sold. The previous events were in November and December last year.

“In Mandalay, we do not have many social meeting plac- es where we can walk around with friends or family and see and do different things at night. And I’d like to have a place like the night markets in Bangkok. That’s why we organized the opening of the night market here,” Ma Nan Aye Myat Mon said.

Organizers intend to open BKK night markets in Monywa, Magway, Taunggyi, Sagaing, Magway Regions and Shan State.

The night market will open from 4 p.m to 10 p.m.—MDN

Yangon water bus on Yayle Kyuaktan pagoda route

THE Yangon water bus will ac- cept only 199 passengers on the Yayle Kyuaktan pagoda route in its second week of operations, according to Tint Tint Myanmar Company.

The Yangon water bus is oper- ating between Botataung and Insein as a regular route. Now, it will run on the Yayle Kyuaktan pagoda route every weekend. The weekend day trip by the Yangon water bus started since 17 March.

“More than 200 passengers used the Yangon water bus on the first weekend. We want to provide more services this time. So, we will accept only 199 pas- sengers. They have to sit on their own seats. We are also planning to provide more life jackets,” said an official from Tint Tint Myanmar Company.

This weekend, the water bus will leave the jetty at 7.20 a.m. and reach Yangon Jetty at 1.20 p.m. The boat fare is Ks6,000 per person, inclusive of a lunch box, coffee and drinking water. The tickets for the weekend trips will be available from 22 March at Botataung and Insein jetties.

Myanmar’s first ever Yangon water bus started operations on 6 October. Currently, it is oper- ating between Botataung and Insein with stops at Nanthibar, Lantthi (Lammadaw), Kyemyin- daing and Hlaing jetties. The Yangon water bus is also planning to operate new routes — North Dagon Myothit and Thanlyin Star City routes.— Su Hnin Let

PHOTO: SUPPLIED
Myanmar needs to develop stock market for AEC plans

By May Thet Hnin

The Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) needs more listed companies and heavy investors, if it has to execute the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) plans, said U Thet Htun Oo, executive senior manager of YSX.

This is because an underdeveloped stock market is one of the key challenges for Myanmar, U Thet Htun Oo added.

“More companies must be listed on the stock market, while its investor base must be expanded. Currently, the number of investors is few,” said U Thet Htun Oo.

It is hoped the AEC will bring foreign investors to the stock market, and they will soon be authorised for stock trading, in line with the Myanmar Citizens Law. Local companies need to expand their businesses to keep up with international companies. If needed, preparedness plans, setting up public companies, involving joint ventures, and combining companies for mergers and acquisition should be done, he noted.

An underdeveloped stock market is one of the challenges in implementing the AEC plans, said Daw Saw Kalaya Su, director of Foreign Economic Relations Department, operating under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, at the AEC 2025 Workshop Forum held early March.

Besides these, other challenges for Myanmar are the lack of capital and technology for small and medium enterprises, less knowledge about AEC and the need to formulate an e-commerce law, she added.

Myanmar’s stock exchange market will soon complete two years. Currently, there are only five listed companies: First Myanmar Investment, Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings, Myanmar Citizens Bank, First Private Bank and TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd.

Some 300 to 500 investors trade daily on the YSX. Some 10,000 shares are traded daily on an average, with their estimated value being Ks70 million. The value of share trading plunged by Ks30 million this year, compared with last year.

The decline in the stock trading value is attributed to the poor general economic climate, low income and the lack of knowledge about the stock market, said U Thet Htun Oo.

In a bid to attract more investors, YSX will double its matching time from the previous two sessions to four.

Additionally, officials from the YSX, under the guidance of the Planning and Finance Ministry, will conduct awareness campaigns about the stock market in Yangon and other towns outside Yangon, in cooperation with securities companies.

Five more companies, including Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPCO) and Great Hor Kham Public Co. Ltd., are preparing to be listed on the YSX, which is also ready to allow foreign investments in the existing listed companies.

The Yangon Stock Exchange needs more listed companies and heavy investors, if it has to execute the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) plans, said U Thet Htun Oo, executive senior manager of YSX.

Thai-Myanmar border trade increases by $89 million since April

Trade through the Thai-Myanmar border gates was worth some US$1.43 billion from 1 April to 9 March this fiscal year (FY), registering an increase of some $160 million compared with last FY.

Of the seven Thai-Myanmar border gates, Myawady gate is the main point for Thai-Myanmar trade, but the value of trade here was $31.7 million less than last FY.

Similarly, Tachilek also showed a slight decline in trade. The other border gates showed an increase. Exports via Kawthoung and Myeik checkpoints significantly surpassed imports.

The border trade values were worth $79.7 million at Tachilek, $834 million at Myawady, $184 million at Kawthoung, $247 at Myeik, $84 million at Hteeke, $6.6 million at Mawtaung and $0.8 million at Maese. High volumes of fishery products are exported daily through the Myawady gate. Nevertheless, the import of vehicles through the checkpoints ceased, owing to changes in the new automobile policy, and therefore, many trucks and vans are stranded in Myawady.

Industrial machinery, trucks, agricultural equipment, tractors, motorcycles, cars, food and beverages, cosmetics, fuel oil, fertilisers, cement, construction materials and sugar for re-export are imported through the Thailand-Myanmar border checkpoints, while fish, prawns, crabs, onions, sesame, turmeric, herbs and forestry products are shipped to Thailand.—Htet Myat

Tomato farmers face loss

Since almost all farmers in the region grow seasonal crops such as tomatoes, cabbages or chilies, the supply is higher than the consumer’s demand which could result in lower prices, some people noted.—Ko Lwin

The crops of tomatoes this season is abundant in Yaydashay Township in Bago Region.

It is a good sign for consumers, but tomato growers are facing losses. They did not earn enough to cover their production costs.

“If I sell tomatoes at wholesale rates at the market, I get Ks100 a viss. If I sell tomatoes around villages, I get Ks. 500 for three viss,” said a tomato grower from a village in Yaydashay Township.

“However I can sell hundreds of viss of tomatoes at negotiation ceremonies and make more money,” he added.
Campaign launched to end physical violence against children

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye officially launched a campaign to end physical abuse against children in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. In his address, Dr. Win Myat Aye expressed hope that the programme would help end physical and sexual violence in Myanmar.

Violence against children is a challenge for every country, and Myanmar is also facing the same challenge over its eradication, said the Union Minister. After assuming office, the new government has made efforts to improve the livelihood of people, so they can enjoy basic human rights and live with integrity.

Myanmar has been working with local and foreign organisations to end sexual abuse against children and rehabilitate them, he added.

As the Child Law enforced in 1993 was ineffective, the law was rewritten by the new government, and the new law is expected to be enacted soon, said Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye.

A campaign is being carried out by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Re-settlement and the World Vision for five years to end physical and sexual violence against children.

As part of the campaign, World Vision Myanmar will work together with its partner and civil organisations to raise awareness about violence against children, according to Suresh Bartlett, resident representative of World Vision Myanmar.

World Vision Myanmar will form committees to carry out educational activities targeting some 500,000 parents, teachers and children, as part of the efforts to prevent crime in Myanmar and fulfill the rights of children.—Khin Yadana

Amyotha Hluttaw holds 31st-day meeting

FROM PAGE-2

Daw Myat Thida Tun of Mon State constituency (5) suggested setting up meetings with Hluttaw representatives of states and regions to discuss problems arising from the confiscation of lands. Based on these discussions, suggestions and coordination should be provided to the states and regional governments or the central land assessment committee through the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker; and if required, a motion must be tabled in the Hluttaw. Only then can the Hluttaw help resolve the issue to a certain extent, the Hluttaw representative said.

Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency (10), on her part, commended the committee for participating in amending the Vacant, Fallows and Virgin Lands Management Law. “Now, is the period when ceasefires are being made, and the country is headed towards a federal democracy union through the establishment of peace. Some ethnic organisations have their own land policies. The land sector issue is very important in the peace process, and the committee is urged to coordinate and combine the land policies and compile a report to the Hluttaw representatives for information,” she said.

U Shayrel Shu Maung of Kayah State constituency (2) and U Tin Aung Tun of Magway Region constituency (5) also joined the discussion on the report.

Amyotha Hluttaw Farmer Affairs Committee member U Lin Tin Htaw then tabled a motion in the Hluttaw to approve and accept the committee report.

Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee report on questions asked and motions tabled during the second Amyotha Hluttaw’s sixth regular session were then read, after which Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaiing Than requested the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the report to enrol their names.

Similarly, the Amyotha Hluttaw’s Health, Sports and Culture Committee’s report on its works was read by committee member Daw Lawe Zar; and the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker called on the Hluttaw representatives to register and discuss the report.

The 32nd-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 23 March.—Aung Ye Thwin

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 41/2018
6th Waxing of Tagu, 1379 ME
22 March, 2018

Permission to register as a political party

National United Democratic Party (N.U.D) headquartered at No. 2319, at the corner of Chindwin Street and Khatta Street, Shwe Kyar Pin Ward, Zabuthiri Township, in Nay Pyi Taw, has been permitted to register as a political party in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 22 March 2018. The registration number of National United Democratic Party is 109.

Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Union-Attorney General attends 4th Judiciary Meeting

THE 4th coordination meeting between the Union-Attorney General and Region and State Advocate Generals, and Region and State Magistrates was held at the Union-Attorney General’s Office yesterday.

The Union-Attorney General delivered the opening speech, in which he said the judiciary sector must do its utmost to uphold rule of law, legal fairness, responsibility and accountability in accord with the national policy.

“Everyone in the judiciary system must follow the law to deliver an equal justice system. If everyone in the judiciary system treats each case with fairness and equality, and completely abstains from bribery, then the public will grow to trust the justice system”, he said.

The meeting will include discussions on the obstacles and progress made by judici ary officials in their respective Regions and States. The Union-Attorney General said a guidebook on drafting new laws will soon be published to help coordination in legal reviews.

The meeting will be continued today. Attending the meeting are 136 participants including the Deputy Attorney General, Region and State Advocate Generals, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, Deputy Director-Generals, Directors, Region and State Magistrates, and District Magistrates.—Myan mar News Agency
Sai Din Bridge in Rakhine State to be opened at the end of March

THE Department of Bridges under the Ministry of Construction is building several bridges that will help regional development in Rakhine State, officials said yesterday.

The bridge projects include the Sai Din Bridge, which is nearly completed and will facilitate travel between Ponnagyun and Buthidaung. It was learnt that arrangements are being made to finish the bridge by the end of the month.

The construction of Sai Din Bridge began in December 2016. The bridge is a two-way concrete bridge measuring 600 ft in length, 24 ft. in width and 9 ft. in height. The bridge is being constructed with 150 labourers to complete the project within the designated time.

"It was targeted to complete construction in March, at the end of the open season prior to monsoon season. On completion of the bridge, development along the region will be gained. In the past, local people used to depend only on waterways. On completion of the Ponnagyun-Yathedaung-Buthidaung Road, regional development will rise up remarkably. Transport plays an important role for the regional development", said U Wai Myint Thu, official of the Bridges Department.

There are four other bridges being constructed — Yathedaung Bridge, Thaungdara Bridge, Nga San Paw Bridge and Ywa Haung Bridge. The spans are targeted to be completed by the end of March, the end of the budget year and before the monsoon season. —Kyaw Thu Win

Union Civil Service Board’s coordination meeting held

THE first three-month coordination meeting of the Union Civil Service Board (1/2018) was held at the meeting hall of the Union Civil Service Board yesterday.

During the meeting, Chairman of Union Civil Service Board Dr. Win Thein delivered a speech.

At the meeting, permanent secretary, directors-general, rectors and deputy permanent secretary of the Union Civil Service Board, Chairman’s Office, departments and central institutes of the civil service explained reviews of the works performed during three months, from December 2017 to February 2018, and plans to be implemented from April to September 2018. Dr. Win Thein concluded the meeting with a speech about the reviews and plans.

Also present at the meeting were members of the Union Civil Service Board, such as U Win Maw, U Than Tun, Dr. U Pwar, U Saw Valentine and other officials. —Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar-Laos bilateral security and rule of law ministerial-level meeting held

A DELEGATION, led by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, arrived in Laos on 18 March to attend the Myanmar-Laos bilateral security and rule of law ministerial-level meeting.

On the morning of 20 March, high-ranking officials, led by Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Aung Win Oo, attended a preliminary meeting at Lao Plaza Hotel where top officials, led by Lao People’s Democratic Republic Ministry of Public Security Permanent Secretary Police Brig-Gen Sisavath Keomalavong, were also present. The meeting discussed matters relating to bilateral border security, the rule of law, anti-narcotics works and immigration.

Later in the afternoon, a Myanmar-Laos bilateral security and rule of law ministerial-level meeting was held at the Laos Ministry of Public Security. A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and a Laos delegation led by Laos Minister for Public Security Police Maj-Gen Somkeo Sylavong were present at the meeting. At the meeting, matters relating to cooperation in bilateral security, rule of law and stability, sharing of information, increasing border liaison office processes, anti-drugs and anti-human trafficking works, illegal crossing of borders, learning of languages for easier and smoother communication and raising bilateral cooperation were discussed in detail. The ministers from the two nations signed the minutes of the meeting.

The Union Minister called on President of National Assembly of Laos H.E. Mrs Pany Yathotou at the National Congress Office in Laos on 21 March. — Myanmar News Agency

Correction

A news story on Page 7 in the 21 March edition of The Global New Light of Myanmar contained errors. In the story headlined “Joint patrols along Myanmar-Bangladesh border”, the headline should read, “Coordinated patrols along Myanmar-Bangladesh border.” The third line of the first paragraph should also read “…Border Police forces conducted a coordinated patrol along the…”"
If you or someone you know have been bitten by a rabid animal, then make sure to wash the infected area with clean water and soap for at least 15 minutes before applying an antiseptic (such as betadine). If you or your pet contract rabies, it is important to receive treatment as soon as possible. Rabies can be a severe and potentially fatal disease, and early treatment can greatly increase the chances of survival.

The figure showing the different costs were actual costs and the information was obtained from the total number of the MSD team. The calculated cost did not include personal costs of the volunteers. The total numbers were then used to calculate the VIVA ratio.

The average wage rates were based on the most current wage rates in Myanmar. The employees’ average wage rates are substantially lower than the average salary. The average wage rates of market and other national NGOs in Myanmar should be the standard. However, in the private sector, the economic value of volunteering would be obviously higher. First Aider was the most commonly performed and was a part of the Red Cross operations. First aiders provided first aid services and refer other cases to the appropriate officers.

The average number of volunteers involved in Red Cross operations in Yangon and outside of Yangon was 280 volunteers. The volunteers deployed in Rakhine State for the work of the 320 volunteers, the average wage rates were based on the most current wage rates in Myanmar.

Conclusion

The VIVA ratio calculation method was based on the assumption that vaccines are two years old and hence the opportunity of obtaining a vaccine was reduced.

In order to carry out the work of the volunteers, the Red Cross Department had to consider the following factors:

1. Full-time staff equivalent to the total number of volunteer hours

This value of volunteers study shows that 45 full time equivalents are required to carry out the work provided by the volunteers. The volunteers provided help to 3851 people in total during the 2013-2014 period. They must be given more support to stay capable of this work.

2. Per capita costs and contributions

The volunteering of Red Cross volunteers was very noble work and it value more than anything else. It would work for Red Cross till the end of my life!

3. Equivalent full time staff

For the region’s three high-burden member countries, as well as those that have eliminated or are on the cusp of eliminating the disease, the requirements of key tools and strategies cannot be overemphasized. WHO

Let us make malaria extinct

Eliminating malaria is both possible and necessary. Here’s how to accelerate progress

The World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region has made dramatic progress in malaria prevention and control. In 1980, 121 countries and territories, including 25 in the WHO South-East Asia Region, had recorded fewer than 10,000 cases, while Bhutan and Timor-Leste reported zero deaths since 2013 and 2015, respectively. The regional eliminator countries, where malaria is not endemic or occurs in a small area within a large part of the country, will be those with zero cases for at least three years in a row. The region has reduced malaria cases by 99% since 2000, with 11 countries eliminated, 10 substantially reduced and four with new cases. To make that happen region-wide by 2020, high-burden countries such as India, Indonesia and Myanmar must continue their forward trajectory.

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Tatmadaw and KNU to meet in Kyaukkyi for engagements in Papun area

By Ye Kaung Nyunt

THE second day meeting of 15th Union Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) was held yesterday morning in the National Reconciliation and Peace Center on Shweli Road, Yangon.

After the meeting, JMC-U secretary (1) Dr. Shwe Kha and JMC-U secretary (2) Col. Wunna Aung met with local and foreign media to explain about two days discussion in the JMC-U and engagements between Tatmadaw and Karen National Union (KNU) Brigade 5 in Papun district that started on 5 March.

There had been engagement between Tatmadaw and KNU Brigade 5 in Papun District starting from 5 March as Tatmadaw was constructing a road to send provisions to Tatmadaw front-line headquarters in Lwe Mu Plaw and Khay Pu before the onslaught of the raining season.

Speaking about the engagements, Col. Wunna Aung said “Our front-line headquarters are in Lwe Mu Plaw and Khay Pu and we are arranging to stockpile provisions before the rain starts. In order to do this a road for vehicles to transport the provisions had to be built. There are about eleven Kayin villages between Khay Pu and Lwe Mu Plaw. After sending the provisions, Tatmadaw (vehicles) will return to their own places. The existence of a road would be very beneficial for regional development. It will permit motorcycle transport. But the other side is concerned of what we’ll do with this road. On the one side, regional development and good administration is required. It means we need to coordinate more. That is why this was discussed in detail today and civilians mediate between the two sites. It is decided for Tatmadaw, KNU and KNLA (PC) leaders to meet in Kyaukkyi.”

After the second day meeting of 15th JMC-U, civilian representatives from different levels of JMC formed a coordinating team to resolve the engagements that had occurred and decided for leaders from Tatmadaw and KNU-KNLA (PC) to meeting in Kyaukkyi. leaders to meet in Kyaukkyi.”

After the second day meeting of 15th JMC-U, civilian representatives from different levels of JMC formed a coordinating team to resolve the engagements that had occurred and decided for leaders from Tatmadaw and KNU-KNLA (PC) to meeting in Kyaukkyi. The aim was to setup a meeting between the commanders of the two sides. Good results were achieved.”

In the meeting scheduled for end March in Kyaukkyi, Township leaderships from Tatmadaw will participate whilst from the KNU side, Brigade 5 as well as central level commanders will part take in it said Dr. Shwe Kha.

“On this matter Tatmadaw explained clearly that it is simply building a road that was not intended for offensive action or to disrupt the peace. Some from the KNU side said this is a preparation for an offensive. This can be resolved if the commanders of the two sides meet and attempts were made for the commanders to meet. This is a very good outcome,” said Dr. Shwe Kha on the skirmishes that had occurred.

At the 15th JMC-U meeting held today, it was decided to hold the fourth meeting of JMC civilian representatives during the second week of July 2018 in Papun, Kayin State to strengthen the peace process and to achieve more progress.
World sees rapid upsurge in extreme weather

PARIS — A world addled by climate change has seen a four-fold increase in major flooding events since 1980, and a doubling of significant storms, droughts and heat waves, Europe’s national science academies jointly reported Wednesday.

In Europe, where precise data reaches back decades, the number of severe floods has jumped five fold since 1995, according to the report, which updates a 2013 assessment.

“There has been, and continues to be, a significant increase in the frequency of extreme weather events,” said Michael Norton, environmental programme director for the European Academies’ Science Advisory Council.

“They underline the importance of avoiding greenhouse gases, which are fundamentally responsible for driving these changes,” he told AFP.

For impacts that cannot be avoided, he added, “this makes climate proofing all the more urgent.”

In Europe, efforts to shore up defences against river flooding have proven effective: despite an increase in frequency of such events, economic losses on the continent have remained static.

“Rather than just coping with disasters after they strike, we need to shift to proactive management of all drivers of risks,” commented Munich Climate Insurance Initiative director Soenke Kreft, who did not contribute to the report.

In the United States, however, the damage wrought by storms doubled, on average, from $10 billion in 1980 to $20 billion in 2015, adjusted for inflation, according to the report, based in part on data from insurance giant Munich Re’s NatCatSERVICE.

The update also assessed new findings on possible changes in the Gulf Stream, powerful ocean currents running between the Arctic region and the Caribbean that warm the air in northwestern Europe and the US eastern seaboard.

Climate ‘hotspots’

The weakening of the Gulf Stream “is now a credible hypothesis,” said Norton.

“Some of the underlying drivers of extreme weather which were speculative four years ago are looking less speculative.”

The prospect of the Gulf Stream — also known as the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) — slowing, or even shutting down entirely, “must be taken as a serious possibility,” he added.

Scientists have estimated that winters in Britain and much of western Europe would be several degrees Celsius colder under such a scenario.

The study also examined recent disruptions of the polar Jet Stream, a band of west-to-east winds that circulate at bullet-train speed some 10 kilometres above Earth’s surface at the upper boundary of the troposphere.

Recent research has linked severe winters in North America and Europe, as well some extreme summer weather, to Jet Stream fluctuations possibly driven by global warming in the Arctic, where temperatures have risen twice as fast as for the planet as a whole.

“The linkage between climate change and individual weather events — such as the ‘Beast from the East’ — in inherently uncertain,” commented Phil Williamson, a climate researcher at the University of East Anglia.

But the new report “is fully consistent with global trends,” he added. “For example, there have been roughly ten times more warm record-breaking winters in North America since 1980, and a doubling of severe floods in Europe on Thursday delivered hot food to thousands Eastern Ghouta citizens

EASTERN GHOUTA — Specialists of the Center for Reconciliation of the Warring Sides in Syria on Thursday delivered hot food for 8,000 citizens in Eastern Ghouta, a Damascus suburb, a spokesman for the center Maj. Gen. Vladimir Zolotukhin said.

“The Russian service men delivered hot food to 8,000 citizens of Eastern Ghouta, and 2,500 food parcels were handed out,” Zolotukhin said.

The reconciliation center focused on providing medical assistance, delivering hot food and also distributing sleeping bags and other essentials among refugees at the checkpoints and camps.

The citizens continue leaving Eastern Ghouta.

Daily five-hour humanitarian pauses have been in effect in Eastern Ghouta since 27 February, after the UN Security Council passed Resolution 2401 at Russia’s initiative calling for an end to hostilities in Syria. Militants disrupted humanitarian pauses in the first several days, shelling the corridor and holding civilians hostage. However, later on, the situation in Eastern Ghouta stabilized. On 13 March, the Russian Defense Ministry reported that hostilities had ended in the city of Douma. That made it possible to ensure civilians’ exitus to the areas controlled by government troops.

According to the center’s latest data, more than 87,000 citizens left the area during the humanitarian pauses. — TASS
Texas bomb suspect blows himself up, leaves confession

TEXAS — A man suspected of carrying out a series of bombings in the Texas capital Austin blew himself up Wednesday, leaving behind a recorded video “confession” that police said portrayed “challenges in his personal life.”

Police said they surrounded Mark Conditt, a 23-year-old white male, outside a hotel in city suburbs, where a series of bombings that began on 2 March killed two men, both black, and injured several others. The suspect detonated a device in his car and later died, Austin police chief Brian Manley said, bringing a dramatic end to the massive manhunt involving hundreds of federal agents and local police. Police recovered a roughly 25-minute recording from a phone that was in Conditt’s possession when the explosion occurred, and Manley said he “would classify this as a confession.”

On the recording, Conditt describes seven explosive devices, and “we have accounted for the devices that we have known about,” the police chief said. Manley said that on the 25-minute video, Conditt “does not at all mention anything about terrorism, nor does he mention anything about hate.” “Instead, it is the outcry of a very challenged young man talking about challenges in his personal life that led him to this point,” he said. Conservative views

Police zeroed in on Conditt over the past 24 to 36 hours as evidence came in from video footage and witness accounts, Manley said. A sealed federal arrest warrant and criminal complaint had been filed Tuesday night, charging Conditt with one count of unlawful possession and transfer of a destructive device, the US Department of Justice said. Law enforcement officers searched a home in the Austin suburb of Pflugerville identified as Conditt’s residence. Police evacuated a five-block area, and more than 80 Austin Fire Department members were in from video footage and witness accounts, Manley said.

Conservative views

Police zeroed in on Conditt over the past 24 to 36 hours as evidence came in from video footage and witness accounts, Manley said.

Law enforcement officials put on protective gear as they investigate the place where the suspected package bomber blew himself up in suburban Austin. PHOTO: AFP

The Houston Chronicle reported that Conditt grew up in a religious family, was homeschooled and briefly attended a local community college. Police could not say how he had learned to build explosive devices. News organizations found a 2012 blog with six postings attributed to Conditt, who would have been a teenager at the time of their publication. On it, Conditt described himself as “conservative.”

The posts, apparently part of a class assignment, argued against gay marriage, saying homosexuality was “not natural,” supported the death penalty, and criticized the sex offender registry. Conditt’s family released a statement to CNN saying they were unaware of “the darkness that Mark must have been in.”

“Our family is a normal family in every way. We love, we pray, and we try to inspire and serve others. Right now our prayers are for those families that have lost loved ones, for those impacted in any way, and for the soul of our Mark.” — AFP

IS militants kill four border guards in western Iraq

RAMADI — The Islamic State (IS) militants on Thursday killed four border guards in an ambush near the Iraqi border with neighboring Jordan, a security source said.

The incident occurred after midnight when the extremist militants opened fire on the car carrying the border guards, who were in civilian uniform, and killed them all on the main road near Trebil border crossing with Jordan, Major Mohammed al-Obeidi from the Border Guards Command told Xinhua.

Iraqi security forces launched a search campaign in the area looking for the attackers, Obeidi said. During the past few months, dozens of IS militants fled their former urban strongholds near the borders of Syria and Jordan, as well as in other Iraqi provinces in north of Baghdad after the Iraqi forces carried out major anti-IS offensives.

However, remnants of IS militants resorted to hideouts in the vast desert in western Iraq and rugged areas in north and east of the country to continue their almost daily attacks against civilians and Iraqi forces.

On 9 December, 2017, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi officially declared full liberation of Iraq from IS militants after Iraqi forces recaptured all the areas once seized by the extremist group.

However, small groups and individuals of IS militants regrouped and are carrying out attacks against the security forces and civilians despite operations from time to time to hunt them down. —Xinhua

Saudi-led airstrike kills two Yemeni civilians

SANAA — Two men were killed and three women wounded late on Wednesday when a Saudi-led warplane hit a pickup truck laden with wood in Nihm district northeast of the Yemeni rebel-held capital Sanaa, a security official and residents said.

The airstrike hit the car in Maswarah area, few kilometers away from the battlefront near the central province of Marib, where combat is taking place between the dominant Houthi rebels and coalition-backed government forces of exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

The targeted family members were collecting wood for cooking due to acute shortage of cooking gas, the official and residents said.

Nihm is about 50 km northeast of the capital Sanaa. The attack was the latest in a series of airstrikes conducted by the US-backed Saudi-led coalition air force since the start of the war in Yemen three years ago.

On 8 March, the coalition airstrikes hit a farm and a popular market in the Red Sea port city of Hodeidah, killing eight civilians, according to the local officials and residents.

The Saudi-led coalition intervened in the Yemeni conflict in March 2015 to roll back the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels and to support the internationally-recognized President Hadi, who was forced into exile by the Houthis.

The war has killed over 10,000 Yemenis, mostly civilians, displaced 3 million others and triggered the worst humanitarian crises. — Xinhua

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 27th (Tuesday) March 2018 “ ARMED FORCES DAY ” under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Hotline Ph: 09-974424848

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 27th MARCH 2018 ( Armed Forces Day ). Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

23 MARCH 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
Peru’s embattled president Kuczynski announces resignation

LIMA — Peru’s President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski announced his resignation Wednesday in an address to the nation, the day before he was to face an impeachment vote in Congress.

The 79-year-old former Wall Street banker, under fire over his links to Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht, denied allegations of bribe-taking but said his resignation was “the best thing for the country.”

Kuczynski is the first president to lose his job over the scandal in which US President Donald Trump and others leaders of the Western Hemisphere are expected April 13-14.

“The best thing for the country is for me to resign the presidency of the republic,” he said in the televised address, which showed him seated at a polished conference table with his cabinet standing grim-faced behind him.

“I do not want to be an obstacle, for the country to continue suffering with the uncertainty of these recent times,” said the president, who survived a previous impeachment vote in December.

The Congress said it would debate the resignation on Thursday and vote on Friday on whether to accept it.

Vice President Martin Vizcarra, who is currently serving as Peru’s ambassador to Canada, is likely to replace Kuczynski to avoid early elections at a time of widespread voter discontent with political parties.

Vizcarra, who is expected in Lima on Thursday, would hold the post until July 2021, when Kuczynski’s mandate was due to end.

Pressure built on Kuczynski to resign throughout Wednesday after the opposition alleged the embattled president was trying to buy votes ahead of the impeachment ballot.

Lawmakers from Keiko Fujimori’s Popular Force party released recordings of her brother Kenji and others apparently negotiating public works contracts in return for votes, and said it was proof that Kuczynski was trying to buy votes.

“This government thought it could buy everything. There will always be brave and worthy Peruvians who are not for sale. It’s time to tell Mr. PPK that he’s leaving, and NOW!” Keiko Fujimori tweeted, using the president’s initials.

The videos, dating from December, were filmed ahead of the previous impeachment vote, which Kuczynski survived with Kenji Fujimori’s help.

Days later, Kuczynski pardoned the Fujimoris’ imprisoned father, ex-president Alberto Fujimori, in what was widely seen as a payoff for support.

The government denied vote-buying. — AFP

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MLV YANG TZE NOVA VOY. NO. ( - )
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YANG TZE NOVA VOY. NO. ( - ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-3-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPT-5 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COMET SHIPPING AGENCIES PTE, LTD.
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MLV DA ZHONG VOY. NO. ( 160 )
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V DA ZHONG VOY. NO. ( 160 ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-3-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPT-4 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCOL (HK) INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT CO, LTD.
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MLV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. ( KHSA 0078 N/S )
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. ( KHSA 0078 N/S ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-3-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Troma guru Lloyd Kaufman: my career in the slumelight

LOS ANGELES — With a library of 800-plus movies, a cult following and a record for giving stars their break, Lloyd Kaufman could be the biggest rock-star mogul you’ve never heard of.

For half a century, the 72-year-old co-founder of Troma Entertainment — the world’s oldest independent film studio — has been the enfant terrible of comedy horror, a low-budget Abbot and Costello for the gross-out crowd.

Troma’s iconic B-movie back catalogue includes such squelchy, sanguinary delights as “The Toxic Avenger,” “Surf Nazis Must Die,” “Poultrygeist: Night of the Chicken Dead” and “Tromeo and Juliet.”

The movies — mainly shown these days in art house theatres and on college campuses — haven’t made money since the 1990s but Troma’s mutants have become icons of American schlock culture.

“Troma has left a big mark on the countryside of the moving images industry. But we are not that well-known,” laments Kaufman, who describes the studio he founded with university friend Michael Herz as “jalapeno peppers on the cultural pizza.”

Troma was a stepping stone to Oscars glory for Oliver Stone and Kevin Costner as well as a filmmaking hothouse for James Gunn (“Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 1 and 2”) and Trey Parker and Matt Stone (“South Park,” “Team America”).

Other luminaries whose early work can be found in Troma’s library of self-produced and acquired movies include Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman, Vincent D’Onofrio, Samuel L. Jackson and Eli Roth.

Not for the thin-skinned or politically correct, the filmography is a Pandora’s box of cannibalism, radiactive goo, bodily fluids and pneumatic breasts, not to mention relentlessly mocked racial, religious and sexual stereotypes.

AFN caught up with Kaufman at his oceanside hotel as he visited Los Angeles for the west coast premiere of his latest opus, the enormously-titled “Return to Return to Nuke ‘Em High: AKA Vol. 2.”

- Disco-dancing chicken -

The second part of an $800,000 revisiting of Troma’s 1986 classic Class of Nuke ‘Em High,” it deals with environmental degradation, bullying, anti-LGBTQ prejudice and school shootings, all in the inimitable Troma style.

The movie reunites fans with Tromaville’s most famous residents and lovers Chirsy and Lauren, who battle fellow students who have turned into vicious mutants after eating contaminated tacos as part of a corrupt school meals program.

“Poultrygeist,” a satire of the chemical-industrial food complex, focuses on a fast food restaurant built on a native American burial ground that sparks a disco-dancing chicken-human hybrid zombie apocalypse.

“The Toxic Avenger,” considered by most to be Kaufman’s finest work, stars 98-pound (40-kilogram) weakling Melvin Junko, who falls into a vat of chemical waste and emerges as Toxic, New Jersey’s New super hero.

Pretty much ignored upon its release in 1984, it eventually proved to be Troma’s breakout through into the mainstream consciousness, celebrated by arthouse types from Greenwich Village to Tokyo.

It has spawned three sequels, a stage musical, a Marvel comic, video game and a children’s cartoon series, and is due to be inducted into the US Library of Congress this year.

“The people in Tromaville are... perfectly capable of running their own lives but they suffer,” Kaufman says.

“They are victims of a conspiracy of the labor elite — labor leaders who make millions of dollars while the constituency is eating dog food.”

To say Kaufman is outspoken would be to under-sludge the radioactive pudding. A twinkle in his eye, he enjoys pulling the rug from under establishment figures he considers pompous or corrupt.

The Troma hashtag for the ballet dress-wearing Toxie — #MeToo — is a provocative nod to the entirely serious #MeToo movement against sexual harassment that is likely to offend as much as it amuses.— AFP

Vampire Weekend re-emerge for Lollapalooza festival

CHICAGO — Vampire Weekend, whose indie rock fusion has found critical and commercial acclaim, will play their first full show in four years at Chicago’s Lollapalooza festival as the band readies a new album.

Announcing the lineup on Wednesday for the 25 August festival, Lollapalooza — conceived in the 1990s as a celebration of alternative culture — named headliners who are among the biggest mainstream names.

Bruno Mars, the funk revivalist who swept the latest Grammys, and R&B sensation The Weeknd top the billing for the festival in Chicago’s Lakeside Grant Park, which will also feature high-decibel garage rocker Jack White, indie rock favorites The National and rappers Travis Scott and Logic.

But the name that caught particular attention was Vampire Weekend, whose members have been saying for two years that they are working on their fourth album.

Vampire Weekend, former Columbia University students who have merged world music into their indie pop, last released an album in 2013. PHOTO: AFP

Vampire Weekend, former Columbia University students who have merged world music into their indie pop, last released an album in 2013. PHOTO: AFP

Columbia University students who have merged world music into their indie pop, last released an album in 2013 — “Modern Vampires of the City” — which won the Grammy for Best Alternative Music Album.

The band has not played full concerts since 2014, although it made two brief appearances in 2016 to campaign for leftist presidential candidate Bernie Sanders.

Frontman Ezra Koenig has said, perhaps jokingly, that the next album will be called “Mitsubishi Macchiato” and in September tweeted that it was “80% done but the last 20% is always the hardest.”

The album will be the first since the amicable departure of keyboardist and co-songwriter Rostam Batmanglij, who last year put out a solo album that brought an ethereal feel while delving deeper into sonic experimentation.— AFP

Australian media firms fail in Rebel Wilson bid

SYDNEY — Six Australian media companies seeking to join the battle against a record Aus$4.5 million (US$3.5 million) defamation payout to Hollywood star Rebel Wilson had their case knocked back Thursday.

The “Pitch Perfect” star was awarded the damages against magazine publisher Bauer last September over articles claiming she lied about her age and background to further her career.

The allegations were made in Woman’s Day, Australian Woman’s Weekly and OK Magazine in 2015, which Wilson said damaged her reputation. She won the case and vowed to give the payout to charity.

Last month newspaper publishers News Corp. and Fairfax, radio station owner Macquarie and television broadcasters ABC, Seven and Nine joined forces to back Bauer’s appeal against the country’s largest defamation payout.

They argued the size of the damages could stifle public-interest journalism. PHOTO: AFP

But Justice Pamela Tate of the Supreme Court of Victoria on Thursday rejected their bid to intervene, agreeing with Wilson’s defence that the arguments of the six firms did not differ enough from those of the Bauer appeal.

Wilson took to social media afterwards, saying the firms should be “embarrassed” for colluding with Bauer.— AFP

Six Australian media companies seeking to join the battle against a record Aus$4.5 million (US$3.5 million) defamation payout to Hollywood star Rebel Wilson have had their case knocked back. PHOTO: AFP
Colorful Thingyan Makeup Creation Contest 2018 brings out the best in make-up designer

CITY Mart Supermarket’s Thingyan Makeup Creation Contest 2018 was held at City Mart in Myaynigone Township on 18 March 2018.

The makeup artist Nyi Nyi Maung (Sanchaung) chose the three finalists Ma Su Lae Yi, Ma Zin Mar Cho and Ma Ei Thazin Pwint. The competition sponsored by Bella, GARNIER, KANEO, LOREAL, MAYBELLINE, NIVEA, POND’S and REVLON. Health & Beauty Fair is held at all City Mart branch from 8 March to 28 March.—GNLM

YouTube follows Amazon into movie theaters

LOS ANGELES — YouTube has announced it is making a movie in-house to be released in theaters, in a development seen as a step towards the model of new-media innovator Amazon.

“Vulture Club,” which is in post-production, stars Oscar winner Susan Sarandon (“Dead Man Walking,” “Thelma and Louise”) as an emergency room nurse whose son is been kidnapped by terrorists. Directed by Iranian-American Maryam Keshavarz (“Circumstance”), the thriller also stars Edie Falco (“The Sopranos,” “Nurse Jackie”) and Matt Bomer (“Magic Mike,” “American Horror Story: Hotel”). “Vulture Club” follows the singular journey of a woman abandoned by her government who finds community in the most unexpected places,” Keshavarz said in a statement. “It’s an honor to work with Susan Sarandon, Edie Falco and Matt Bomer who are the incredible talents and an innovator like YouTube to tell this timely story.” Online entertainment magazine IndieWire hailed the move by YouTube Red — the Google-owned company’s $10-a-month streaming service — as “a significant strategy shift.”

The platform showed Barbara Kopple documentary “This Is Everything: Gigi Gorgeous” on limited New York and Los Angeles theatrical runs ahead of its March YouTube Red release.

But the company appears to have changed direction since telling IndieWire last year it was not making movie theaters a linchpin of its release strategy.

Oscar winner Susan Sarandon — shown here at the premiere of “Bodied: The Hedy Lamarr Story” during the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival in New York — will star in “Vulture Club,” the first movie produced by YouTube for theatrical release. PHOTO: AFP

*Powerful perspective*

YouTube Red, founded in 2014, has distributed around a dozen feature-length fictional movies for its subscribers and is working on a handful more.

It moved into films for the general movie-going public with sci-fi comedy “Lazer Team” in January 2016, but that was a low-budget project with unknown actors that failed to make a dent at the box office.

“Vulture Club,” with its all-star cast, belongs in a different league alongside two other recent YouTube Red acquisitions — Eminem’s satirical hip-hop drama “Bodied” and Morgan Spurlock’s “Super Size Me 2: Holy Chicken!”

While the Eminem movie is also bound for theatrical release, YouTube dropped the Sparlock sequel after the filmmaker admitted to sexual misconduct and harassment in the past.

In “Vulture Club,” Sarandon — recently nominated for Emmy, Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild awards for FX miniseries “Feud: Bette and Joan” — plays a mother who struggles to free her kidnapped journalist son.

After running into roadblocks with government agencies, she discovers a clandestine community of correspondents and advocates who might be able to help the war reporter, played by Julian Morris (“Pretty Little Liars”). “This emotional drama grapples with relevant issues journalists around the world face today,” said Susanne Daniels, YouTube’s global head of original content. “Maryam Keshavarz lends her powerful perspective as an Iranian-American filmmaker, and Susan Sarandon’s moving performance immediately drew us into this compelling film.”

Sanctity of cinema

YouTube Red said principal photography on “Vulture Club” was complete, but gave few details on its theatrical release other than confirming its big-screen debut would precede its streaming release.

Netflix has shown little regard for the perceived sanctity of cinema, annoying some filmmakers — notably Christopher Nolan — and sparking calls for bans from film festivals by debuting its movies online only or at the same time as in theaters.

Amazon Studios, on the other hand, has partnered with Bleecker Street, Lionsgate and other entertainment companies to give its original movies a theatrical window of several weeks ahead of their internet release.

The company is now accepted in the industry as a conventional movie studio, its back catalogue including Oscar nominees and winners such as “The Big Sick,” “Manchester by the Sea” and “The Salesman.” The company plans to average approximately one movie a month and its upcoming in-house theatrical slate includes Luca Guadagnino’s horror remake “Suspiria” and Gus Van Sant drama “Don’t Worry, He Won’t Get Far on Foot.”

“We don’t have any news to report on a theatrical partner at this stage. Perhaps later once we identify a partner,” a YouTube Red representative told IndieWire of “Vulture Club.” —AFP

Claudia Cardinale stars as Tunisia opens City of Culture

TUNIS — Claudia Cardinale, the Tunis-born Italian movie star, was the guest of honour on Wednesday as Tunisia inaugurated a long-awaited complex to showcase its cultural wealth.

The richly equipped City of Culture complex, launched a decade ago but long stalled, incorporates a modern art museum, a 1,800-seat opera, two theatres, a cinema, library and studios to host festivals.

“Every Tunisian should be proud of this project, culture is the main tool with which we will fight terrorism,” President Beji Caid Essebsi said at the opening ceremony. “Tunisians have to dream and have confidence in themselves.”

The project was initially launched under president Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, who was overthrown in a 2011 revolution. Located in central Tunis, the nine-hectare (22-acre) Cite de la Culture with its iconic glass dome is estimated to have cost 130 million dinars (more than $49 million). Culture Minister Mohamed Zine el Abidine told reporters at the opening that it is “the largest cultural complex in the Maghreb, the Arab world and Africa.” The project, held up by financial disputes, had been abandoned after the revolution but was revived in March 2016.—AFP

23 MARCH 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR SOCIAL

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

A makeup artist carefully applies eyeliner to a contestant at City Mart’s Thingyan Contest yesterday.
Kyrgyzstan defeats Myanmar to secure the qualification in 2019 AFC Asian Cup

Kyrgyzstan's second goal was made by Anton Zemlianukhin. Myanmar tried to mount an offensive using speedy play after the two goals, but could not pass effectively against the big and fast players of Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyzstan's great tackling and wide play bothered Myanmar and caused many mistakes in the defence line in the first half.

In the second half, Myanmar changed tactic in the attacking line, which seemed to improve the offensive attack. Myanmar's play was much better, but there was still loose play in the defence line.

Myanmar missed a golden opportunity to score when Aung Thu's shot was blocked on a rare foray forward 18 minutes into the second half. Zemlianukhin then claimed the third goal for Kyrgyz at 63 minutes before Vitalij Lux tapped in the fourth and Bekzhan Sagynbaev scored a fifth to move the Kyrgyz Republic five points clear of Myanmar with just one game remaining.

Myanmar never gave up and Kyaw Ko Ko scored a single and late consolation goal for Myanmar in the late minutes before the final whistle.

In the snow without Neymar, Brazil brace for Russia

MOSCOW — Training between mounds of snow without Neymar, Brazil may be forgiven for feeling out of their element as they prepare to face hosts Russia in their penultimate World Cup warmup.

The most expensive football player on the planet is back home, celebrating his sister’s birthday with his famous right foot recovering from surgery in a protective boot. But things are deadly serious in Moscow, where the Selecao play on Friday at the Luzhniki Stadium in which they will hope to lift a record sixth World Cup trophy on 15 July. Coach Tite will try to make sure his superstar have learned from the unmitigated disaster of their 7-1 drubbing by Germany, whom Brazil play on Tuesday, on home soil back in 2014. That fateful World Cup semi-final four years ago was played without the injured Neymar or suspended centre-back Thiago Silva. Now, as then, Brazil are looking vulnerable in defence and missing their 26-year-old hero. Paris Saint-Germain forward Neymar “is a different player. He is one of the top three in the world,” said Tite. “But a strong team should not depend on specific names.”—AFP

Myanmar squad ready for U-15 football tourney in Hong Kong

MYANMAR national U-15 football team has released its team list for competing in Jockey Club International Youth Invitational Football Tournament 2018 that will held at Po Kung Village Road Football Pitch in Hong Kong from 23 to 25 March.

There are a total of 20 selected footballers from Mandalay Football Academy, Pathein Football Academy and Tatmadaw Football Academy.

The team will be headed by its Head Coach Mr. Takuma Koga.

Selected Goal Keepers are Hein Htet Soe, Htet Arkar Win.

Defenders are Aung Paing Zaw, Htun Htun Win, Myo Myint Htwe, Kaung Zay Bo, Phyo Min Paing.


Strikers are Yan Naing Tun, Htet Myat Lwin, Min Khant Thu, Moe Swe and Soe Myat Min. Myanmar will play against Hong Kong U-15 on 23 March, Malaysia U-15 on 24 March and Singapore U-15 on 25 March respectively.

All matches will be played on Single Round Robin basis.

Each match shall last 90 minutes, comprising two periods of 45 minutes, with an interval of 15 minutes in between from the whistle ending the first period to the whistle starting the second period.

Admission for tournament is free of charge. Tickets are available for collection at the reception area of respective venue during match days on a first-come-first-serve basis according to the tournament’s officials.—KyawZin Lin