Gale storm kills one, damages over 800 houses

STRONG winds hit the Bago, Ayeyawady and Sagaing regions on 15, 16 and 17 April, killing one person and damaging more than 800 houses.

The gale winds hit four village-tracts in Paungde Township, Bago Region, on 16 April destroying 34 houses and ripping off the roofs of some 500 houses and four monasteries. One man died in the disaster.

The gale storm also hit three village-tracts in Nattalin Township in the same region on 16 April, damaging more than 150 houses and destroying two houses and five monasteries.

On 17 April, strong winds tore off the roofs of some 50 houses in seven village-tracts in Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady region.

The winds tore off the roofs of some 156 houses in three village-tracts in Homalin Township, Sagaing Region, on 15 April.

The Disaster Management Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided cash and supplies worth more than Ks7 million to the victims of the disaster.

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department issued a severe weather warning three days ago, asking the public to be alert to the possibility of thunderstorms, lightning, gale storms and hail in April and May.

Such weather patterns follow the movement of cumulus clouds in the pre-monsoon period. —GNLM

Authorities assist Bangladeshi families in Maungtaw, Rakhine

A delegation representing the Union Government assisted in providing accommodation to 35 Mro and Daing Net families from Bangladesh at Thitonna Gwason Village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, yesterday.

The delegation led by Dr. Win Myat Aye, the Chairman of the Committee for Implementing Recommendations on Rakhine State and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, comprised of Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and other officials, flew to the village yesterday by helicopter and met with Mro ethnic people.

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SEE PAGE-2
SIXTEEN villages in the Naga Self-administered Zone are expected to get access to electricity and water within six months of this budget year, according to the Department of Rural Development in Sagaing Region. The department is going to conduct village development programmes between April and September this year. The Sagaing Regional Government allocated Ks.127.250 million of funds to be used for a project to provide water to six villages and another project that will furnish electricity to 10 villages is using union funds. The department will distribute 60 watt solar panels to more than 900 households in 10 villages and execute projects that will supply electricity to the same 10 villages within six months, the department said.—MDN

**From Page 1**

After the meeting, the Union Minister inspected the progress of construction of housing for the Mro ethnic people and for their resettlement at the village.

Following the visit to Thitonna Gaason Village, the delegation went to Khontaing Village and inspected the progress of construction of houses by the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and Ministry of Border Affairs. The Daw Khin Kyi Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization that seeks to achieve its goals of promoting the health, education and living standards of the people of the country irrespective of ethnicity, race or religion. In the afternoon, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and officials visited Ngakhuca Village, which saw a fire outbreak on 12 April, and inspected a temporary settlement for the fire victims. At the meeting with the fire victims, the Union Minister pledged that his Ministry would assist in rebuilding houses for them as soon as possible. During the visit to the village, the authorities also inspected the Ngakhuca Reception Centre. The delegation also visited the Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre and inspected its readiness for repatriation and progress in completing the remaining houses for returnees.

When the delegation arrived back in Maungtaw, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and other officials met with a five-member family, which had recently returned from Bangladesh at the Maungtaw District General Administration Department and provided cash assistance to them.

During his tour of Sittway, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and party visited the Khuangdok camp for displaced persons and held a meeting with officials of the camp over closing the camp and resettling displaced persons.

In the evening, the Union minister held a meeting with the Rakhine State Cabinet and departmental officials at the state government’s meeting hall relating to development matters in Rakhine State. He called for local authorities to step up efforts for the closing of the camps for IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons), which were opened in 2012, and for raising awareness about the benefits of holding National Verification Cards in the state. Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and local authorities also discussed promoting efforts for better education, resettlement, livelihood and farming for NV card holders in the state. They also discussed matters related to implementation of projects to which the Indian government would fund US$5 million annually for five years.—Myanmar News Agency

**Authors assist Bangladeshi families ...**

**Maungtaw celebrates Rakhine traditional Thingyan festival**

DESPITE the unseasonal rain, Maungtaw celebrated the second day of the Rakhine traditional Thingyan festival yesterday.

Artists from Yangon and local Rakhine vocalists entertained the revelers with songs and music. “It is a lovely custom of this region that local damsels grind the sandalwood with water to make a fragrant liquid first, and then clean the Buddha images before celebrating the water festival,” said singer Athin Chay.

“This year’s celebration has attracted more revelers than last year,” said Rakhine ethnic singer Win Ko Khaung. Local people from rural areas and wards in Maungtaw Township erected small pandals to celebrate the festival.—Aung Kyaw Oo

**Naga villages to get water and electricity in 2018**

UNION Minister U Ohn Maung inspects CBT in Nyaung Shwe

HOTELS and Tourism Union Minister U Ohn Maung, Shan State Hotel and Tourism Department Director U Hein Aung Naing and other officials inspected community-based tourism (CBT) in Star Village in Nyaung Shwe township on 16 April. The CBT committee members from Star Village welcomed the minister and other officials and explained their activities. The union minister inspected the CBT buildings and highlighted the requirements.

CBT was implemented in Star Village, Nyaung Shwe, in 2016. In the 2016-2017 fiscal year (FY), Star Village accepted some 400 visitors. In the 2017-2018 FY, the village received some 546 visitors. The union minister and his delegation watched the traditional boat race of the local people and gave away cash prizes to the winners. The union minister then visited Phayar Taung Village in the evening.

Phayar Taung Village implemented CBT in 2016. It welcomed 326 visitors in 2017 and 187 visitors, as of April 2018. Star Village and Phayar Taung Village is located to the south of Inle Lake. The region government can earn revenue by implementing CBT in these villages. Besides creating job opportunities for the local people, CBT has helped revive boat racing, fishing and traditional massages, which had almost disappeared from these villages.—GNLM

**Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets senior army officials in Pyin Oo Lwin**

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met senior army officials attending the Law Officer Diploma Course at the Defence Service Administration School in Pyin Oo Lwin yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the Senior General said that the Tatmadaw was a legally armed organisation, its officials should obey the law and ethics of soldiers, including those stipulated in the Geneva Convention. He said it was inexcusable for Tatmadaw officials to be ignorant of military and civilian laws.

He said the Tatmadaw would recruit only those who were above 18 years of age.

The Tatmadaw is handling the cases in Rakhine according to the Geneva Convention and taking action against army personnel breaking the laws.

The Tatmadaw has been criticised severely by some international organizations, he noted.—Myanmar News Agency

**Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivers the speech at the Defence Service Administration School in Pyin Oo Lwin. PHOTO: MNA**
Ministry of Health and Sports discusses pharmaceutical distribution

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe delivered the keynote speech during a coordination meeting on pharmaceutical distribution, which was held at the meeting room of the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union Minister noted that medicines must be purchased, stored and distributed to people punctually by incurring minimal costs.

One of the objectives of the meeting was to plan the purchase and storage of medicines by ensuring minimum wastage in the first six months of the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The meeting intended to provide detailed answers on the ministry’s processes, as his answers during the Myaungmya peace talk on 10 April were not satisfactory.

The Union Minister said it was difficult to establish a perfect system in any area, and therefore, it must be constantly reviewed and monitored to keep it up to date and effective. He asked the audience to not view the decisions made at the meeting as final, but as points of discussion for smaller meetings in their respective fields and organisations, while factoring in the needs of the patients and the actual field of work of the employees, as well as the means to reduce wastage of medicines and additional expenses.

Shifting of hospital records, storage of medicines and relaying of hospital information to a computer networked infrastructure will provide faster and more precise data, he said.

The purchasing and distribution department under the ministry was formed during the incumbent government’s administration, and it has contributed by reducing the wastage of medicines.

The Union Minister said the ministry was working to ensure hospitals will be able to provide essential medicines at no cost to patients, and vendors in hospitals sell branded or tender-purchased medicines at the correct price, and they are of high-quality. These vendors will be under the administration of the hospital’s support team.

He said the ministry would also work on reducing the spread of infectious and non-infectious diseases among the public and raise the standard of health for the people.

Later, Head of Department of Public Health from Union territory Dr. Myat Wunna Soe and Deputy Director-General of the Purchasing and Distribution Department Dr. Win Naing explained the various processes for the purchase and distribution of medicines.

This was followed by a discussion on various topics. Also present at the meeting were permanent secretary, directors-general and deputy directors-general of the ministry, heads of Department of Public Health, from regions and states, Medical Superintendents, project managers and other officials from various hospitals.

Ministry rectifies error regarding salary increase in President’s Speech

ON an order from the President’s office, authorities have released 92 prisoners from Sin Phyu Shin Agriculture, Livestock and Vocational training camps in Taninthayi Township, Tein Khun Village tract, Htone Khar Village, on Tuesday afternoon.

Of the 92 prisoners, some nine were released from Section 15, 55 from Section 16 (C) of the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law; eight from 15/16 (C) of the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law and 20 from the Defence Services Act.

The labour money earned by the prisoners totalled Ks9,966,400.—

Press Conference on visit to Cox’s Bazar to be held at NRPC today

A MYANMAR delegation, led by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, visited Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, recently.

A press conference on the visit will be held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon at 10 a.m. today.

Local and foreign media are invited to cover the event.
Road accidents drop 30% on Yangon-Mandalay highway

The number of road accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay highway has dropped 30 per cent following the enforcement of the traffic law, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

The number of road accidents has declined on the Yangon-Mandalay highway in 2017, compared with the same period last year, said Police Lt-Col Khin Maung Shwe of the traffic police force.

The police launched a probe into the case in order to arrest the suspects.
Foreign companies to enter Myanmar insurance sector

FOREIGN insurance companies will be allowed to operate in Myanmar for the development of the Myanmar insurance sector, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

The Myanmar insurance sector is different from others, as it lacks experts. Foreign insurance companies that are allowed to operate in Myanmar are expected to bring in investment, technology and expertise. Moreover, the Myanmar insurance sector will also develop rapidly.

“arabors the Myanmar insurance sector in the country, we need to conduct awareness training regarding insurance for the local people. The local insurance companies must try their best to compete with foreign companies after the authorities grant permission to foreign insurance companies to enter the country,” said U Thaung Han, secretary of Myanmar Insurance Association.

Currently, the Insurance Business Regulatory Board has already granted licences to some 1,200 agencies in the country. However, the numbers are few compared to neighbouring countries.

Comprehensive motor insurance, fire insurance, life insurance, health insurance and travelling insurance topped the list of insurance bought from among 48 types of policies. Myanmar Insurance is also planning to provide more awareness training regarding the benefits of insurance to the local people.

Myanmar earns just 0.67 per cent income from insurance services. Only 86 in 1,000 people have insurance.—GNLM

Sino-Myanmar border trade up by $457m last FY

THE border trade between Myanmar and China in the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY) reached US$6.75 billion, increasing by $457 million compared with the 2016-2017 FY.

Among the five checkpoints between Myanmar and China, the Muse border gate conducts the largest volume of trade. Trade through the Muse border point was valued at $3.82 billion, including $4.1 billion in exports and $1.7 billion in imports.

Between 1 April and 31 March in the 2017-2018 FY, the Sino-Myanmar border gates — Muse, Lwejel and Kanpiketee — showed an increase in trade. Meanwhile, Chinsawhehaw and Kengtung showed a slight decline against the previous FY.

The value of trade was some $235 million at Lwejel, $572 million at Chinsawhehaw, $117 million at Kanpiketee and $1.9 million at Kengtung.

Rice, various types of peas, sesame seeds, corn, fruits and vegetables, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals and animal products are exported to China, whereas machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer goods and electronic tools flow into Myanmar.—Het Myat

Myanmar-Philippines trade exceeds $40 million in 2017-18 FY

THE external trade between Myanmar and the Philippines reached US$41.670 million before the end of the 2017-18 fiscal year (FY), according to the Commerce Ministry’s monthly data report.

The total trade between the two ASEAN member states, from last April to this January, included $15.789 million in exports and $25.811 million in imports.

The Commerce Ministry’s yearly statistics show that the Myanmar-Philippines bilateral trade amounted to $56.483 million in the 2016-17 FY, $28.998 million in the 2015-16 FY, $28.2 billion in the 2014-15 FY, $32.535 million in the 2013-14 FY, $44.012 million in the 2012-13 FY and $48.959 million in the 2011-12 FY.

Myanmar chiefly imports capital goods, consumer products and intermediate goods from overseas countries, including ASEAN member countries, Southeast Asian and African states, European countries and some Western nations. Myanmar mainly exports agriculture products, animals products, marine products, mineral products, forest products and manufactured goods.—Khine Khant

Singapore becomes top investor in Myanmar last FY

SINGAPORE brought in foreign direct investment (FDI) worth US$2.16 billion with 42 projects last fiscal year (FY), according to official figures released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Singapore made the largest investment in the real estate sector. Singapore was used as a capital inflow channel by Western countries when sanctions were imposed on Myanmar. Singapore thus topped the investment chart.

China was second with investments worth some $1.39 billion. The Netherlands was the third largest investor in Myanmar, making investments worth some $534 million.

The Myanmar Investment Commission approved 222 foreign enterprises in the 2017-2018 FY, with $5.72 billion brought in as capital. However, the figure dropped compared to FDI of $6.64 billion in the 2016-2017 FY.

Additionally, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States, Vietnam and Marshall Islands also invested in Myanmar.

Singapore brought in foreign investments of $1.79 billion in hotels and commercial complexes so far. Some 26 hotels and apartments came up with investments from Singapore, according to the statistics of the hotels and tourism ministry.—Ko Khant
Performance over two years - Hluttaw marks milestone in implementing the People’s Voice, Will and Expectations

By Khin Yadana

SECTION 11, Paragraph (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar states, “The three branches of the sovereign power namely legislative power, executive power and judicial power are separated, to the extent possible and exert reciprocal control, check and balance among them.”

Hluttaw is a deliberative assembly with the authority to make laws. Hluttaw, practicing the legislative power, focuses on making laws that will bring about peace, law enforcement and national reconciliation for emergence of a federal democracy country in which the entire people enjoy prosperity.

Hluttaw is an entity that most effectively represents the people and according to the Hluttaw’s motto of “People’s voice, Hluttaw’s voice, people’s will, Hluttaw’s will, People’s Expectation, Hluttaw’s Implementation.” the Hluttaw listened to the people’s voice and implemented the hope and wishes of the people.

The Hluttaw has been two years since the regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw was convened on February 1, 2016. Therefore the Hluttaw has become two years old while the government was formed by the Hluttaw.

Hluttaw representatives are the elected voices of the people and Hluttaw has the power to enact laws which can enable the performance of works to be carried out and to improve the performance of the preparatory works in accord with rules and regulations.

So long as the people are actively engaged in its functions of Legislation and Hluttaw affairs, it is no doubt that the democracy will thrive in the country and the people can fully enjoy the fruitful results of democracy.

Although the Hluttaw is still young in Myanmar, it also plays a fundamental role for the democratization process of the country. It is now in the second year of its second term following the first five-year term.

People are relying on the Hluttaw as an institution that will enact laws for the interests of the people. A country’s development, strength and power depend much upon peace and stability. Peace and stability is sustainable only when there is rule of law which is a good sign for Hluttaw and each independent human being must be treated equally by the law and law is made by people.

Therefore Hluttaw is an essential institution and law is needed for the stability of a country and to keep the machinery of the government running and thus laws are being enacted. It will be valuable for the people and the country only if these laws are fair. The Hluttaw should be an institution that will lead towards rule of law.

Hluttaw consists of Hluttaw representatives from all over the country who came about with union spirit. Representatives meet at the Hluttaw and they can learn and understand each other more. Thus representatives of Hluttaw are needed to strive for perpetuation and unity of the country and the union.

In this regard, the Hluttaw doesn’t include only various ethnic nationals but also various organizations. It is evident that this is the sign of a democratic Hluttaw. There are many good opportunities to learn how to work together with different organizations in the Hluttaw for the interest of the country.

But for a democracy to thrive and survive, cooperation is needed to strive towards keeping on the right path. Hluttaw representatives are duty-bound to stand on the frontline in this endeavor and need to understand that they not only represent the people but also the democratic system.

Those who work for the country do so for the next generation. Each and every representative needs to have this firmly in their minds.

Myanmar is a union formed with many ethnic nationals and they also take part in this Hluttaw. For a democratic system to progress and become established, legislative, judicial and administrative sectors play a vital role to serve the people in tandem, that’s why this check and balance is a competition or alienation against each other. In order to work for the country, Hluttaw representatives should treat one another as friends and comrades so that they can effectively work for the country.

Each Hluttaw representative is needed to have goodwill towards the people and the country. It is the duty of the Hluttaw representative to use their skills properly for the interests of the people and the country.
In exercising the legislative powers entrusted to it, the Hluttaw had been enacting new laws, amending existing laws and removing outdated laws for the benefit of the country and the people.

Looking from all directions, the value of our representatives is very important. All are needed to work together for the sake of the country. All Hluttaw representatives have an opportunity to vote correctly and they need to consider one another equally as brothers, sisters and comrades.

During the two-year period of Hluttaw, it was evident that there has been progress in the Hluttaw representatives doing the check and balance functions which is important for the three pillars to work together.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said, “During the two years period of Hluttaw session, Amyotha Hluttaw representatives have listened to the wishes and wills of the people and tabled 13 motions, asked 715 asterisk marked questions and 649 questions to which relevant ministries and union level organizations have replied to the Hluttaw.

The Hluttaw has the responsibility of overseeing the work of the judiciary and executive branches of the government to ensure that there were checks and balances. In exercising the legislative powers entrusted to it, the Hluttaw had been enacting new laws, amending existing laws and revoked outdated laws for the benefit of the country and the people.

He stressed that the Hluttaw had enacted totaling 57 laws including 24 new laws, 24 Amendment Laws and 9 Withdrawal Law besides electing a new president in the 7th Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting.

There were altogether 17 committees in Amyotha Hluttaw in which each committee has performs its respective duties and regulations. During the previous two years, Amyotha Hluttaw had submitted 15 motions, and approved 8 motions which are very beneficial to the state.

Efforts are being made for the Union Government and the Hluttaw to make dramatic changes as well as reforms in the various sectors of the country and it is of vital importance to cooperate with strength and high spirits so that fruitful results will come out in the near future.

Translated by
Win Ko Ko Aung
Groundless accusations are not helpful for resolving Rakhine issue.

By Khin Yadana

The recent sentencing of five Myanmar fishermen, their friends and family members related to this case, has dashed the hopes of the Government of Myanmar.

Myanmar has made its position very clear – that it will not condone any human rights abuse. If there is concrete evidence, we are ready to take action against any perpetrator in accordance with the law without impunity. But, for the last 12 years, seven military personnel to 10 years in prison with hard labour – according to the Iron Din incident is a clear demonstration of the Government’s strong commitment to the rule of law.

On the one hand, Myanmar categorically rejects the groundless accusations against several individuals who had been used as a strategy to force the Muslim people to flee their homes. On the other hand, the recent NGO report which only mentions negatively on the existing cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations, as well as the existing bilateral cooperation with Bangladesh in the effort to find a lasting solution to the current humanitarian problem as well as the complex situation in Rakhine.

We call for a constructive approach and understanding on the complexity of the challenges in Rakhine State. We also seek support from the international community to help our efforts in finding a durable solution.

Offering Myanmar fishermen some kind of assistance

Fishing trawlers are still found to fish illegally near the Thai border or Myanmar territory, according to some estimates of International Labour Organization.

By Aung Myint

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By July Moe
(Myanmar Alinn)

The government has been combating corruption with all-out efforts in accord with the law, without having favoritism. The Office of the Union Attorney-General UAGO is also a significant player in this endeavour. Law officers have the duty to give appropriate legal punishment to those who are guilty, and protect the innocent under the umbrella of the law.

The following is an interview with the Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo.

Q: The Office of the Union Attorney-General UAGO is involving in all the three organs of power – the legislative power, the administrative power and the judicial power. Please explain your role in the legislative sector and the effectiveness of the work.

A: The final body of the legislation is the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament). First bills are written and submitted to discuss in the Hluttaw. There are two bodies to deal with the bills. The first is the government departments and the second the MPs of the Hluttaw.

Our office checks the bills and give suggestions on them. Then the bills are sent to the government for approval. Then they were discussed at the Hluttaw. The relevant bill committees continued discussions with the relevant departments and our office. Moreover, we also deal with bills drawn by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission. We have scrutinized and gave suggestions on 118 bills and 165 rules, regulations, orders and directives during the two-year term of the government. We have to check whether the bills do not oppose the existing laws, they are just and fair, they serve the majority interest, they are practical, they are overlapping and they are in accord with the fundamental principles. During the period we could scrutinize a certain number of important bills in connection with registration, rural development, hate speech protection, consumer protection, violence against women, communications, companies act, forestry, and tax.

Q: What about UAGO’s involvement in the government’s administrative sector.

A: We gave legal advice to anybody whether it is the President’s Office or the Union Government Office or any Union level bodies in connection with the administrative affairs.

During the second year we gave 745 advices in connection with international and regional agreements and MoUs and 31 advices to region and state governments. We gave legal advices for international conventions and protocols such as the Myanmar-EU investment promotion and protection and the Myanmar-Singapore investment promotion and protection in which Myanmar will become a member. We also deal with conventions and protocols on economy and most of them concern with production-sharing agreements on minerals and construction contracts. Recently we have checked 548 business agreements between the ministries and the local and foreign companies and 221 cases sent by the Offices of Advocate General of the regions and state governments. Our involvement with the administrative committees, legal affairs committees and investment committees of Dawei and Kyaukpyu special economic zones is important. We have helped solve 433 general cases including social affairs, legal punishments, and paroles.
The Office of the Union Attorney-General-UAGO playing a role in the legislative sector, the administrative sector and the judicial sector

Q: Your participation in cases in connection with the law suits and criminal cases.

A: UAGO at different levels serve as prosecutors of the government in various cases. The branches of UAGO at regional/state levels, district levels and townships levels have gave nearly 77,000 legal advices in connection with this matter. Recently they have taken part in the over 9000 amended cases, over 5000 appeals, 10518 withdrawals and nearly 300 civil law cases. As for the UAGO it took part in the 86 certiorari cases at the Union level and two case at the Union Election Commission Office. It is striving for the rule of law and to prevent occurrence of delays in the legal cases. Since 2016 it has been opening pilot law officers to deal with the matter.

Q: We know that UAGO is serving as the chair of the coordination body to ensure the rule of law and justice. What are the functions in connection with the rule of law?

A: The Union government formed the body in February last year. It then formed the sub-committees in all regions and states for the effectiveness of the work. The coordination bodies are coordinating with the relevant departments in making fair decisions for the complaints presented by the people. Recently they have solved over 500 cases through coordinated efforts. The Conference on Justice Sector Coordinating for Rule of Law was held on March 7 and 8. The conference could find more effective ways and means to implement the tasks of the bodies. So, we hope that they will gain greater success in the future.

Q: Please elaborate on the establishment of the Myanmar Law Information System by the UAGO.

A: UAGO has set up the Myanmar Law Information System in cooperation with Ministry of Legislation of the Republic of Korea under the assistance of KOICA. The aim is to ensure a single online site for the public to find all legal information and facts in disseminating awareness of the rule of law and legal knowledge.

The UAGO is making efforts to post a comprehensive array of gazettes issued in Myanmar since 1870, the Burma Code VOL 1 to 13, laws Myanmar has enacted since 1955 and their rules, principles, orders, directives, regulations on the Myanmar Law Information System website. In addition, latest developments on the laws including amendments and additions if any will be posted in real time. People can also easily find an international convention or a protocol in which Myanmar is a member on the website. Search can be made categorically or in alphabetic order or just by typing a word or a sentence of the respective law. The Myanmar Law Information System will be a reliable source or reference for legal experts, students, researchers, media persons and those who are interested in legal affairs.

Q: Please share knowledge on the Supreme Court Lawyers Council.

I am the chair of the council. It is formed with 11 members. The council deals with the complaints against lawyers and the application for its membership. Recently we are making a review of the council act to introduce amendments as necessary to be in conformity with the advancing era. The council holds its work meeting twice a year.

Q: What is your human resources development plan?

A: The UAGO is regularly conducting law officer grade-4 courses and refresher courses. And annually it is conducting special courses such as English proficiency courses and computer courses.

Q: What about the progress in the issuance of the Fair Trial Standards and codes of conduct for advocates.

A: We have published a book on Fair Trial Standards with the assistance of UNDP and IDLO with the aim of supporting the rule of law and justice.

The book includes international standards, internal laws and judicial procedures. The standards deal with matters to ensure equality before the law and social and legal benefits and protection.

Law officers will be able to handle the cases effectively by studying and applying the said standards. Civil rights can also be protected under the law thanks to the standards. Law officers should have the dignity as they are legal servants of the State. So codes of conduct for advocates have been issued in cooperation with UNDP. A law officer must have the Integrity, Impartiality, Propriety, Equality, Competence and Due Diligence, and Responsibility and Accountability in every case.

Nearly 600 attended the courses opened by the Central Institute of Civil Servant, other ministries and international organizations. Nearly 100 law officers were sent to 10 countries to attend international workshops, meetings and courses. Arrangements are being made for law officers to attend master’s degree courses and doctorate degree courses. Currently 21 per cent of law officers are master’s degree holders and there are 15 Ph.D. holders. Continuous efforts are being made for further development of human resources.

Q: What are your methods to inform the public?

A: We are trying to open public relations units at all law offices to provide necessary facts and legal knowledge for the people in serving their needs. We opened a media course in cooperation with the USAID. We have already adopted rules for the public relations officers. We have added extra space in our new branch buildings to serve as information counters.

Q: Any more to tell us?

A: We are training our law officers to become trustworthy persons for the people, who stand and work by the law and to provide legal protection for the people. We would like to request public participation to reach this end.

(Translated by TMT)
Spreading student protests, train strikes pressure Macron

PARIS (France) — Train drivers, public sector workers and students sought to pile pressure on French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday as fresh stoppages on the railways and new protests disrupted travel and universities.

Students occupied the prestigious Sciences Po university in Paris overnight, the latest campus to be blocked by protesters over university reforms which critics see as part of a rollback of public services.

“Sciences Po students against Macron’s dictatorship,” read a banner hung from a window way station, the economy and transport minister, said.”

PARIS — AFP

WWII bomb to force mass evacuation in central Berlin Friday

BERLIN (Germany) — The discovery of an unexploded World War II bomb will force a mass evacuation around Berlin’s central railway station on Friday, covering several government ministries and a hospital, police said.

Buildings and streets in a radius of 800 metres (875 yards) around the site north of the busy train station will be cleared from 0700 GMT until the 560-kilogramme (1,200-pound) explosive is safely defused, they said on Twitter on Wednesday.

The evacuation zone covers the central railway station, the economy and transport ministries, an army hospital and the embassies of Indonesia and Uzbekistan, a police spokesman told AFP.

Police said it was not yet clear how many thousands of people would be affected but predicted to local media that “it will be big, it will be a major hassle”.

The Deutsche Bahn rail company and urban transport operators prepared for large-scale disruptions around the central hub for trains, trams and buses.

The bomb, which was discovered during construction work on Heidestrasse in the district of Mitte, was “safe for now”, police said, reassuring nearby residents that “there is no immediate danger”. — AFP

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CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MLV NAVI SUNNY VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M/LV NAVI SUNNY VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of SPW-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.

AGENT FOR: M/S WILHELMSN SHIPS SERVICES (S) PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MLV PERSUS OCEAN VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M/LV PERSUS OCEAN VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT 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.

AGENT FOR: M/S CA SHIPPING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MLV K SPINEL VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M/LV K SPINEL VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-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.

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MLV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M/LV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MILP 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.

AGENT FOR: M/S Advance Container Lines

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MLV SUPERIOR PESCADORES VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M/LV SUPERIOR PESCADORES VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT 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.

AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928
The comments came after US President Donald Trump said the summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and the South’s President Moon Jae-in could include a discussion about a peace treaty. Pictured: Kim meeting South Korean chief delegator Chung Eui-yong on 5 March during a meeting to defuse tensions between the Koreas. PHOTO: AFP

Seoul to seek deal on formally ending war with North Korea

SEOUL — South Korea is seeking to open discussions about formally declaring an end to the war with the nuclear-armed North at a rare inter-Korean summit next week, officials said on Wednesday.

“We are looking at the possibility of replacing the armistice regime on the Korean peninsula with a peace regime,” a senior official at the presidential Blue House told reporters.

“But this is not something we can do by ourselves. It needs close discussions with relevant parties including North Korea.”

The comments came after US President Donald Trump said that the summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and the South’s President Moon Jae-in could include a discussion about a peace treaty. Pictured: Kim meeting South Korean chief delegator Chung Eui-yong on 5 March during a meeting to defuse tensions between the Koreas. PHOTO: AFP

The comments came after US President Donald Trump said that the summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and the South’s President Moon Jae-in could include a discussion about a peace treaty. Pictured: Kim meeting South Korean chief delegator Chung Eui-yong on 5 March during a meeting to defuse tensions between the Koreas. PHOTO: AFP

1. Social Security Board has announced the open tender to implement the Social Security Board Information System for promoting the employer and employee registration process, contribution collection process, medical services provision process and benefit and claims management process on national newspapers from 17-3-2018 to 20-3-2018 and the tender proposal (RFP) submitting date was already defined as 11-5-2018 by the tender form buying companies.

2. According to the request letters of the companies, the Social Security Board Information System project was very complex and it needs to have enough time for studying the social security’s core business processes, therefore, all tender submitting companies have to submit the proposal (RFP) on 2018, May (31) instead of 11-5-2018 at Social Security Board (Head Office), No. OU-77, Corner of Between ThinYadanar Road and Naykyar (8) Street, Ottarathiri Township, Naypyitaw, Myanmar during office hours. Any tender proposal will not be received after the deadline for submission and the tendering processes are described as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date and Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(A) The tender proposal submitting date (Both Technical Proposal and Commercial Proposal)</td>
<td>31-5-2018 (within office hour)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(B) For evaluating the Technical proposals (the selected companies will be evaluated) (the companies that have the technical evaluation 70 % will select as the selected companies)</td>
<td>From 4-6-2018 To 15-6-2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(C) Presentation by the selected companies (2 hours per company including questions and answers)</td>
<td>From 18-6-2018 To 19-6-2018 (Reserved Day) (10:00) AM</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(D) The commercial proposal that submitted by the selected companies opening and tender evaluation process</td>
<td>25-6-2018 (Or) 27-6-2018 (10:00) AM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(E) The winner tender company inform and announce at the ministry website</td>
<td>29-6-2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Any Tender Proposal that are torn sealed envelopes and applied by e-mail cannot be accepted.

4. For further detail information, please visit Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population website http://www.mlip.gov.mm and inquire, phone number 007- 3417925 and 007-3417951 and e-mail (tendersection@gmail.com) during office hours.

Tender Invitation and Appraisal Committee
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population
PARIS (France) — Hollywood actresses Cate Blanchett, Kristen Stewart and Lea Seydoux will head a starry female-dominated jury at the Cannes film festival next month, the organisers said on Wednesday.

American writer-director Ava DuVernay of “Selma” fame and Burundian singer and composer Khadja Nin complete the five women on the nine-person jury that will decide the top Palme d’Or prize.

In a year when the #MeToo movement has dominated the headlines, and with only three female directors among the 18 in competition, the organisers clearly felt the need to make a stronger gesture towards women.

They had already announced earlier this year that the Austral-ian-born Blanchett would head the jury.

At least four of the assaults on actresses of which the dis-graced movie mogul Harvey Weinstein is accused are alleged to have taken place at Cannes.

Italian actress Asia Argento said that the producer raped her in his hotel there when she was 21. Von Trier may return

Yet as the majority-female jury was unveiled talks were under way behind the scenes to allow the banned Danish director Lars Von Trier, who has denied sexual harassment claims from singer Bjork, back into the competition.

Von Trier was barred from Cannes in 2011 for saying he was a Nazi, and the Icelandic star — who won best actress at Cannes in 2000 for her performance in his musical “Dancer in the Dark” — claimed in October that he had harassed her on set.

However, Cannes director Thierry Fremaux strongly hinted Tuesday that Von Trier was on the point of being brought back into the fold.

He said that with the no-toriously demanding director finishing his serial killer flick, “The House That Jack Built”, the festival’s president Pierre Lescure was working hard to “lift the status of persona non grata”.

Tensions between Bjork and Von Trier were clear when theirffeas were announced the Palme d’Or prize.

Von Trier denied the claims and his producer Peter Aalbaek Jensen told the Danish daily Jyllands Posten that it was he and Von Trier who “were the victims”.

Highly political

“As far as I remember we were the victims. That woman was stronger than both Lars Von Trier and me and our company put together,” he said.

The remaining male members of the Cannes jury include Taiwanese actor Chang Chen, Canadian director Denis Villeneuve and French writer Robert Guediguian.

The organizers said on Tuesday that Russian auteur Andrei Zvyagintsev, the maker of such classics as “The Return” and “Leviathan”, would also be one of the nine.

Stewart, 28, has long been a darling of the world’s top film festival, appearing in the main competition in “On the Road” by Walter Salles in 2012 and Olivier Assayas’ “Clouds of Sils Maria” and Woody Allen’s “Cafe Society” in 2014. She also premiered her first short film as a director, “Come Swim”, last year at the festival.

French actress Seydoux, who starred in the James Bond film “Spectre”, was a joint winner of the Palme d’Or in 2013 for the controversial lesbian love story “Blue is the Warmest Colour”.

The inclusion of Von Trier’s new film, which stars Uma Thurman, Riley Keough and Matt Dillon, would help to give a little more star power to a highly-political Cannes line-up.

Two of the directors compet-ing for the Palme d’Or, Iranian master Jafar Panah and Russian director Kirill Serebrennikov, are banned from leaving their countries and look certain not to attend.

Fremiaux has pleaded with the Kremlin for Serebrennikov, who is under house arrest for controversial charges of money laundering, to be allowed to travel to Cannes to premiere his film.

The French authorities have made a similar request for Pana-hi, maker of “Taxi Tehran”, who has faced arrest, imprisonment and a bar on making films in his homeland.

This year’s festival runs from 8 to 19 May at the French Riviera resort.—AFP

RIYADH — Blockbuster action flick “Black Panther” will play at a cinema test screening in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, the first in a series of trial runs before movie theatres open to the wider public next month.

The conservative kingdom lifted a 35-year ban on cinemas last year as part of a far-reaching liberalisation drive, with US giant AMC Entertainment granted the first licence to operate movie theatres in Saudi Arabia.

Anticipation had been building after the authorities announced earlier this month that Saudi Arabia’s first cine-ma in over three decades would open on Wednesday in Riyadh.

But officials this week said it would be a test screening at the new cinema in the King Abdullah Financial District and movie theatres are expected to open to the public in May.

“With the first in a se ries of test screenings, attend-ed by industry specialists, that will be held... to support final preparations for the opening of the cinema to the wider public,” said the information ministry’s Centre for International Communication.

AMC Entertainment, whose chief executive Adam Aron will attend Wednesday’s screening, signed a non-binding agreement in December with Saudi Arabia’s Public Investment Fund to build and operate cinemas across the kingdom.

Saudi state media has said the company expects to open 40 cinemas across 15 Saudi cities over the next five years.

International theatre chains have long eyed the kingdom as the Middle East’s last untapped mass market of more than 30 million people, the majority of whom are under 25.

AMC will still face stiff competition from other heavyweights including Dubai-based VOX Cinemas, the leading operator in the Middle East.

The move to reopen cinemas is part of a modernisation drive by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is seeking to balance unpopular subsidy cuts in an era of low oil prices with more entertainment options — despite opposition from religious hardliners.

Long known for its ultra-con servative mores, the kingdom has embarked on a wide-ranging programme of social reforms that includes boosting sports and entertainment and allowing women to drive from June.

In February, Saudi Arabia’s General Entertainment Author-ity announced it will stage more than 5,000 festivals and concerts in 2018, double the number of last year, and pump $64 billion in the sector in the coming decade.

The reform stems partly from an economic motive to boost domestic spending on entertainment as the kingdom reels from an oil slump since 2014. Saudi currently splurge billions of dollars annually to see films and visit amusement parks in neighbouring tourist hubs like Dubai.—AFP
N Korea provides state-of-the-art technology for future teachers

PYONGYANG — North Korea has recently started to introduce state-of-the-art technology for the training of future schoolteachers in a possible world first.

At the newly remodeled Pyongyang Teacher Training College, the mostly female students study how to educate kindergartners and primary school children with the aid of virtual reality and 3D display technologies.

A group of Kyodo News reporters was granted rare access to the college late last week.

In one classroom is installed a large widescreen monitor on which are displayed animated avatars representing primary school pupils. Speaking to the virtual children through a microphone, they respond in a timely manner.

When a college student asked one animated pupil on the screen how he is, the boy quickly answered, “I’m very fine,” just like a teacher and a child communicating in a real classroom.

The training programme is apparently powered by artificial intelligence. But sometimes, other college students play the role of primary school pupils in a different classroom so that they can observe teachers’ personality and behavior through the eyes of children, the college said.

By creating a situation more closely simulating reality, college students can learn how to interact with children more effectively, it said.

The college students also utilize projection mapping, in which images are mapped onto 3D objects, and augmented reality, a technology that overlays digital images onto the real world. They can experience the natural environment and get a close look at the lives of wild animals and birds using 3D virtual reality goggles, as well as feel how things change their forms by scooping sand projected on the screen with their hands.

A sphere with projection mapping technology instantly becomes Venus, Earth, Mars and Jupiter, and other planets. College students can visually recognize what the differences between stars are.

These cannot be learned from textbooks.

The college said it has developed a curriculum that can enable teachers in the making to acquire teaching skills both physically and theoretically, while putting emphasis on North Korea’s traditional ways to raise children.

“Have you ever seen such a place in other countries?” said Pak Gun Hui, the 44-year-old president of the college.

“Our programme is globally advanced.”

In North Korea, there is a tradition that teachers, family and society cooperate to foster children. At the college, therefore, students are required to learn how to educate mothers and to communicate closely with family to shape children’s characters.

Tapping into advanced technologies, “We are also trying to promote the combination of school education and family education,” Pak said.

The Pyongyang Teacher Training College, founded in 1968, has around 1,600 students. This year marks the 50th anniversary of its foundation.

The number of applicants has increased every year, the college said, adding that the acceptance rate has been about 20 percent in recent years. Nearly 70 percent of kindergarten and primary school teachers are female in North Korea.

In February 2017, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gave instructions to turn the college into a model put on a scientific, information technology and modern basis at a high level and generalize it across the country, according to state-run media.

The project for upgrading the college, which has a total floor space of over 24,000 square meters, was concluded in October last year.

In January, the leader visited the college and expressed satisfaction at the state of its “ultra-modern education facilities,” the Korean Central News Agency reported.

Students in North Korea have to complete 12 years of compulsory education prior to college — one year in kindergarten, five years in primary school, three years in lower secondary school and another three years in higher secondary school.

Would-be teachers were seen taking classes with earnest facial expressions. During a break, they were walking with smiles on the campus, saying “hi” to passersby. — Kyodo News

China’s ‘Hawaii’ to allow horse racing, sports lotteries

HAINAN — China is encouraging its southern island of Hainan to develop horse racing and introduce a raft of reforms as Beijing pushes the tropical tourism destination as a beacon of openness.

The province will be urged to explore opening new types of lottery connected to sports and international competitions, according to the guiding opinion jointly issued by the Communist Party Central Committee and State Council which was published on Saturday by state news agency Xinhua.

It marks a change of tack for the Communist government which has long banned most forms of gambling in mainland China and comes against the backdrop of its massive campaign against corruption.

But those concerns appear to be taking a back seat as Beijing looks to ramp up consumption to fuel China’s economy and rebalance away from the investment and exports that have led the way for four decades.

The plan aims to make Hainan, an island off China’s southern coast, a “trial free trade zone” to try out the reforms Beijing has pledged to bring to the mainland for years with few tangible successes.

The outline comes days after President Xi Jinping pledged a “new phase of openness” for China at Hainan’s annual Boao Forum for Asia, a Davos-like meeting of international leaders.

We will “build Hainan into an important open door for China onto the Pacific and Indian oceans”, the plan says.

Sectors to open up to further foreign investment include healthcare, education, sports, communications, internet, culture and finance. Beijing also wants to position Hainan as a “centre of international tourism consumption”, a goal which has faced halting progress despite sandy beaches and massive spending on plush resorts.

The province has not proven an international draw so far, attracting fewer than a million foreign visitors in 2016 — compared with over seven million in Thailand’s Phuket, according to data compiled by Bloomberg News. As part of making the island green and sustainable, the reform package will push the introduction of electric vehicles and “gradually prohibit sales of gasoline powered vehicles”, Xinhua said.

Development of a gaming and tourism industry in Hainan could also create a new rival for semi-autonomous Macau, the world’s largest gaming market and the only part of China where casino gambling is legal, dwarfing Las Vegas. — AFP

PHOTO: AFP

Hainan has not proven an international draw so far, attracting fewer than a million foreign visitors in 2016. PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

A student at North Korea’s Pyongyang Teacher Training College speaks to virtual students during a training program powered by artificial intelligence on 13 April, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

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Would-be teachers were seen taking classes with earnest facial expressions. During a break, they were walking with smiles on the campus, saying “hi” to passersby. — Kyodo News
SPORT
19 APRIL 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Pochettino defends team selection as Man Utd cup tie looms

LONDON, United Kingdom — Mauricio Pochettino defended his team selection after Tottenham dropped points against Brighton, denying this weekend’s FA Cup semi-final against Manchester United influenced his decision.

The Spurs boss made six changes to his starting line-up and then saw his team drop two points in their quest to secure Champions League qualification.

Despite the 1-1 draw, the north London club remain in a strong position to finish in the top four, eight points clear of fifth-placed Chelsea.

Tottenham now turn their attention to Saturday’s meeting with Jose Mourinho’s United at Wembley as they attempt to end a 10-year wait for silverware.

Pochettino was adamant the important cup clash had no bearing on his team selection on Tuesday.

“I was thinking today and trying to win,” said Pochettino. “Some players needed to rest, some players needed to stay on the bench and I think we have a strong squad.

“Everyone is ready to play and it was a moment to give some fresh legs to the team but we were thinking about trying to win.” England midfielder Dele Alli and centre-back Davinson Sanchez were omitted from Pochettino’s squad while Kieran Trippier, Mousa Dembele, Eric Dier and Erik Lamela dropped to the bench.

Top scorer Harry Kane swept Spurs ahead early in the second half with his 26th league goal of the season but Pascal Gross equalised from the penalty spot.

Brighton are now eight points clear of the relegation zone with just four games to go but manager Chris Hughton said the side were not yet safe.—AFP

Defending champion Myanmar in Group A in Brunei tourney

THE Myanmar U-21 national football team, the defending champions of the Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy for ASEAN Youth Football Championship, is in Group A along with host Brunei, Thailand and Timor Leste, it was announced yesterday.

Myanmar will take on Thailand in their opening game on 24 April, then play Timor Leste on 27 April and Brunei on 30 April.

The participating teams were divided into two groups, with the host nation able to choose in which group to be placed. A total of seven teams — Myanmar, Brunei, Thailand, Timor Leste, Laos, Singapore and Cambodia — will be fighting for the tournament’s trophy.

Only three teams — Laos, Singapore and Cambodia — are in Group B. The winning team will earn 20,000 Brunei dollars (US$15,200), 10,000 Brunei dollars (US$7,600) for the runners-up and 5,000 Brunei dollars (US$3,800) for the joint third-place teams, according to Brunei football officials.

The sixth edition of the Hassanal Bolkiah tournament will start on 23 April with the match between Brunei and Timor Leste.—Kyaw Zin Lin

MNL U-21 football resumes this week

MYANMAR National League U-21 football matches, which have been on hold due to Myanmar’s Thingyan and the Myanmar New Year Festival, will resume this week starting on Friday, according to the MNL.

According to a statement on the MNL’s Facebook page, Hanthawady United will play against Yangon United on 20 April, Zweckapin United will play GFA FC on 21 April, and league-leading Institute of Sport and Physical Education (ISPE) will play against second-place Yadanabon FC on the same day.

Ayeyawady United FC will play against Rakhine United on 22 April, while fourth place Shan United will play against Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Youth FC on the same day.

Nearly all the matches will be broadcast Live on the MNL Facebook page, according to an MNL official.—Kyaw Zin Lin

Matthysse vows fight ‘to the death’ against Pacquiao

MANILA (Philippines) — World champion Lucas Matthysse vowed on Wednesday a fight “to the death” in his July title defence against Manny Pacquiao, calling the Philippine boxing star “past his prime”. But the 35-year-old Argentine — who took the vacant World Boxing Association welterweight title in January — said it was still a “dream-come-true” and “an honour” to face Pacquiao, winner of eight unprecedented world titles in different weight classes.

“Obviously he is still a very great fighter but since the knock-out of Marquez, I think he is not the same fighter anymore,” Matthysse said at a joint news conference in Manila, referring to the Filipino’s sensational 2012 knockout loss to Juan Manuel Marquez.

Pacquiao, 39, will fight Matthysse for the WBA welterweight belt on 15 July in Malaysia’s capital Kuala Lumpur.

The Filipino has 59 wins with 38 knockouts in his career, and is currently a senator in the Philippine parliament. Many in the country believe he will one day run for president, but Pacquiao has insisted that he is happier in the ring than in politics.

But Matthysse — who has 39 wins with 36 knockouts in 43 matches — said he was not fazed by the status of his opponent.

“Sure, Manny has won so many titles... I have) only won one title. I am not going to give it up. I will die for it if I have to,” he said. “I will defend this title to the death.” Pacquiao has not fought since he lost his World Boxing Organization welterweight crown in a shock points defeat to Australia’s Jeff Horn last year, and has not knocked out an opponent in nearly nine years.

He insisted, however, that he was far from finished.

“That is what I am trying to prove coming 15 July that Manny Pacquiao is not done yet in boxing,” he said. “I keep on fighting because boxing is my passion and I love raising the flag of the Philippines.” After the Matthysse fight, Pacquiao has said he wants to take on Vasyl Lomachenko, the Ukrainian superfeatherweight WBO champion currently considered by many to be the world’s top “pound-for-pound” fighter, an unofficial honour Pacquiao once held.—AFP

Tottenham striker Harry Kane applauds the fans following the Premier League match against Brighton on 17 April, 2018. PHOTO: AFP