Day 5 of Myanmar Gems Emporium fetches 38.53 m euros

The 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium fetched 38.53 million euros on its fifth day, through the sale of 973 jade lots.

The fifth-day saw the sale of the first batch of 1,150 lots from numbers 1 to 1,150 at a floor price of 4,000 euros and above under the open tender system and the participation of over 4,000 local and foreign gem merchants.

Gems merchants put their applications with the proposed prices in the tender boxes after checking the jade lots.

The 55th emporium is displaying 6,795 polished and raw jade lots that are being sold under the open tender system. Besides over 40 booths of local businesspersons where jade and gems artefacts are on sale at reasonable prices, the expo also showcased jade, gem, amber and oyster wares crafted by students of the gems training school in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of Myanmar.

The tender winners of the jade lots from numbers 1,151 to 2,300 will be announced today, from numbers 2,301 to 3,450 on 26 June, from numbers 3,451 to 4,600 on 27 June, from numbers 4,601 to 5,750 on 28 June, from numbers 5,751 to 6,795 on 29 June.

—Myo Myint (Myanmar News Agency)

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing departs for Thailand

ON the invitation of Royal Thai Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Gen. Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan, a delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla departed for Thailand from Yangon International Airport yesterday afternoon.

Later, the delegation led by the Senior General arrived at Don Muang International Airport (Wing 6), where they were welcomed by Joint Chief of Staff Gen. Ponpipaat Benyasri of the Royal Thai Armed Forces and wife and senior army officials, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Than and Military Attache Brig-Gen Khin Zaw.

During the trip, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing will meet Thailand army officials separately and will discuss cooperation and friendship between the two countries followed by visits to well-known places in Thailand.—Myanmar News Agency

Thai Performance Troupe entertains at Mandalay National Theatre

THE Thailand Traditional Performance event, in commemoration of 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Myanmar, was held on Saturday night at the National Theatre in Mandalay.

Present at the event were Mandalay Region Women’s Committee patron Dr. Yi Yi May, Mandalay Mayor Dr. Ye Lwin and Mandalay Region cabinet members, Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials as well as Minister for Culture of Thailand Mr. Vira Rugojchanarat, officials from Thai Embassy in Myanmar, students of National University of Art and Culture (Mandalay) and art and performance enthusiasts.

In his greeting speech, Thailand Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Mr. Juhr Boon-Long said Masked Dance Performance of Thailand is going to be performed in commemoration of 70th anniversary of Thai-Myanmar diplomatic relations and there are a lot of similar cultures between Myanmar and Thailand at the Rama Yana performance. He also expressed his wish to strengthen bilateral relationship between Myanmar and Thailand.

Then, Daw Khin Kyi Pyar, rector of National University of Art and Culture (Mandalay) also expressed her wish to develop bilateral friendship.

Then, the Rama Yana performance was jointly entertained by Performance Troupe members of Thailand Ministry of Culture and Myanmar Ministry of Culture.—Thaiba Ko Ko (Mandalay)

NLD congress concludes

OUR actions need higher vision, broader views and honesty, stressed the chair of the second congress of the National League for Democracy at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon yesterday.

The Chair, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu, also called for bold decisions and true grit in the endeavours during the second day of the congress, which opened after paying tribute to the fallen martyrs, led by Bogyoke Aung San, observing an eight-second silence in honour of all the persons, including monks, ordinary people and students who fell during the successive struggles for democracy.

The meeting elected central executive committee members and alternate central executive committee members for vacant posts and sought the approval of the participants, and also reviewed the reports of region/state central committees. The NLD central executive committee gave its remarks.

After the congress, Vice Chair (2) of NLD CEC Dr Zaw Myint Maung, CEC secretariat member U Nyan Win and CEC member Dr Myo Nyunt held a press meet.

They elaborated on the political report, organisational report, future programmes of the party, election of CEC members and alternate CEC members, region/state central committee members and alternate members.

They also answered the questions raised by the media. —Zaw Gyi

Maha Thay Lar culture can be witnessed near Mandalay-Myotha road

PEOPLE interested in ancient history can observe the culture of Maha Thay Lar in Ywar Thit Village, Nguzun Township, in the Mandalay Region.

Earlier, the belief was that the region was under the influence of powerful Nats (spirits). Later, the Maha Thay Lar culture was revealed after historians and archaeologists discovered it.

The customs of Maha Thay Lar can be found in various regions, according to experts. The experts said that the Maha Thay Lar culture can be found at Lat Pan Chay Paw in the north of old Bagan, Htauak Ma Gone in Salingyi Township, Nguzun Township near Myotha, Kokho Khahla near Myingyan Township and Wundwin Township.

Most people who are interested in Maha Thay Lar culture are now able to visit the Nguzun Wundwin Township near Myotha road.

The Maha Thay Lar culture is said to be inherited from people of the Stone Age. —Tain Taman

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—Zaw Gyi

PHOTO: MNA

PHOTO: TAIN TAMAN
ICT training centre opens for disabled

Union Minister for SWRR Dr Win Myat Aye visits information, Communication and Technology (ICT) Training Centre after its inauguration ceremony. PHOTO: MNA

Students compete in anti-drug, anti-illicit trafficking competitions

A school girl taking part in a contest marking the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. PHOTO: BAHAN IPRD

The ceremony came to an end with a concluding speech by Police Maj Gen Soe Win (Retd).—Bahan IPRD

ASEAN CPA Certificate awarded to 290 public accountants

The certification ceremony of ASEAN Chartered Professional Accountant (ASEAN CPA) of the Myanmar Accountancy Council (MCA) was held at Polo Club, Western Club Restaurant, in Yangon yesterday afternoon. During the ceremony, U Maw Than, Auditor General of the Union, spoke about 290 public accountants, who were officials recognised as ASEAN CPA and the plan to give opportunities to Myanmar accountants to serve their country. He also said that experienced accountants are the lifeline of the country, especially for the economy and finance, and all reliable ASEAN CPA certified accountants must do their duty through goodwill and ethics. Later, ASEAN CPA certificates were awarded to 290 public accountants.—MNA
 Efforts made to extend Ayeyawady dolphin protected areas between Htigyaing and Shwegu

Ancient artefacts unearthed in Sagaing

Trawlerry driver dies in crash with freight train
Old pigeon peas selling well in market

Old pigeon peas (red grams) are selling better than fresh stocks, as fresh peas cannot compete with the quality of old stocks, according to the Agriculture and Market Information Agency.

The price of pigeon peas is cooling, with zero trading being carried out on some days.

The price of pigeon peas increases during these days, while the mung bean price has been stable on the lower side. However, the prevailing price of pigeon peas cannot keep up with the high price after India’s notification on the resumption of pulses importation.

Farmers are controlling fresh pigeon pea trading in the hopes of a high price. Therefore, the price of pigeon peas has not been fluctuating like mung beans. The proposed pigeon peas will be exported to India by August. Therefore, the pigeon pea price is likely to go up, said the merchants. A ton of pigeon peas fetches over Ks500,000. The price increases at the depots of other regions. The current market price of pigeon peas is worth Ks15,000 per basket at Pakokku depot and Ks14,500 at Pyay depot.

In early May, the Indian government released official news that allowed for an import quota of 150,000 tons of mung beans and green grams each and 200,000 tons of pigeon peas. Prior to India’s pulses import policy changes, a tonne of mung beans was valued around Ks900,000 and pigeon peas fetched Ks800,000 per ton, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

UMFCCI to team up with international organisations for import substitution

By Nyein Nyein

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) will cooperate with international organisations to develop import substitution, said U Ye Min Aung, vice president of UMFCCI.

“Domestic products cannot keep up with imported goods. We need to track the standards, specifications, customs duty and quota plan. We will study how other countries such as Thailand, Viet Nam and China make import substitution policies. Having studied the know-how to develop import substitution in neighbouring countries, we have a plan to pursue it, focusing on the promotion of domestic production,” said U Ye Min Aung.

Current production of import-substitution enterprises is decreasing, as they cannot keep pace with imported products. “In the washing powder industry, there were some four or five factories, and now only one has survived, while the remaining are forced to shut down their operations. This also harms employment opportunities for the local people. We need to discuss this anti-dumping practice with the government,” U Ye Min Aung maintained. This being so, the development of small and medium enterprises is crucial to compete against the international market, create market share for domestic enterprises, get access to loan plans and share good opinions with the producers, he noted.

Goods worth $4.25 billion imported in two-and-a-half months

The import value from 1 April to 15 June during the six-month interim period prior to the next 2018-2019 fiscal year was US$4.25 billion, which increased $427.59 million more than the last 2017-2018 FY.

In the same period, imports were worth $3.82 billion. During the past two-and-a-half months, consumer goods import showed a slight decrease in value compared to the last FY, while the value of capital goods and raw industrial goods import increased higher than last year. The import of capital goods such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel, airplane parts was worth $1.5 billion, which was up by $162.7 million compared to the last FY.

The import of raw industrial goods such as petroleum-based products, plastic raw materials saw an increase of $297 million in value against the last FY, with a total value of $1.7 billion.

Meanwhile, the import of consumer products, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and palm oil imported into the country was valued $910 million, a decrease of $32.5 million compared to last FY.

Imports surpass export in bilateral trade with Thailand via Myawady border

Myanmar’s imports surpassed its exports in bilateral border trade with Thailand through the Myawady gate in the current six-month interim fiscal year commencing this April, according to the latest statistical report of the Ministry of Commerce.

Between April and mid-June this year, the country exported marketable goods amounting to US$15.742 million to Thailand, while its imports from the neighbour reached $165 million.

This year saw an increase in the value of both exports and imports trade through the Myawady border trade camp against last FY.

When compared with the same period last FY, this year showed a slight increase in the export value by $4.098 million, while Myanmar’s imports from Thailand rose by $17.975 million.

Border trade between the two countries is conducted principally through seven cross-border gates, consisting of Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htiloke, Mawtaung and Maeae. During the period, exports and imports from all Myanmar-Thailand borders topped $285.678 million, increasing by $47.5 million compared to the same period last FY.

Myanmar predominantly imports a wide range of consumer products, food, soft drinks, cooking oil, plastic ware, and cosmetics, while marine products, agricultural commodities and other items are exported to the neighbouring country.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), Thailand’s investment in Myanmar was $123.838 million last financial year.
Eminent Shwekyin monk passes away

THE joint Sasana-baing (joint-Sangha Raja) of the Shwekyin Gana, one of the most disciplined religious bodies of Buddhism in Myanmar, passed away at the age of 84, Vasa 64, at 3 a.m. in Mandalay yesterday.

The final rites of the eminent monk, Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Manitasiri Bhivamsa, will be held at Aye-yeik-nyein cemetery on 29 June.

The 84-year-old monk died while undergoing treatment at the cardiology ward of Mandalay People’s Hospital.

Mass cycling event in Mandalay attracts amateur riders

UNDER the guidance of the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Myanmar Cycling Federation and the Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Department jointly organized a mass cycling activity in Mandalay yesterday morning.

The event was held with the aim of drawing public attention in cycling and ensuring national physical activities. Over 380 amateur cyclists including regional lawmakers, departmental officials, local people and students from the Institute of Sports and Physical Education participated in the event, the 24th during the past two years.

The race commenced at 5:30 am in front of the office of Mandalay City Development Committee, with a pistol shot announcing the start of the event by the principal of the Institute of Sports and Physical Education U Myo Myint Aung. Donors distributed soft drinks to participants.

The mass cycling event is being organized during the last week of every month as a community activity in Mandalay.—Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Rats destroy over 200 acres of paddy fields in Taikkyi

RODENTS on a rampage have destroyed about 220 acres of paddy fields belonging to 25 farmers in Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region.

Township administrator U Aung Kyaw Soe, accompanied by officials from the Department of Agriculture, went to the affected villages yesterday and organized an awareness campaign about prevention of rats. They also distributed pamphlets to the farmers and demonstrated how to wipe out the rats.—San Kalyar Khaing

Officials seize narcotic drugs in Shan State, Kayin State

A security team from the Ma-bein police station has seized 800,000 opium pills and 1.72 Kilo of Heroin from a man named Nyi Than Win while searching a temporary hut in Kawk Village-tract, Ma-bein Township, in Shan State on Saturday afternoon.

Similarly, in Kawlapala Village, Hpa-an Township in Kayin State, the local police force seized 300 drugs from a vehicle driven by Nai Kyaw Myint, alias Nyi Nyi Oo, on 22 June.

Likewise on 23 June, officials also searched a house owned by a driver, Nai Kyaw Myint, alias Nyi Nyi Oo, where they found 1,695 narcotic drugs.

Officials also seized 1.0015 kilograms of ice and 16,000 stimulant tablets, along with Ks40,000 and a mobile phone, from a vehicle driven by Aung Myo, alias Tun Myat, on Loi lem-Nam Hsang road, Loi lem Township, and all the suspects will be charged under the anti-narcotics and psychotropic substances law by the police force.—Myanmar News Agency
Trump adviser questions Abbas desire for peace with Israel

JERUSALEM — US President Donald Trump’s adviser Jared Kushner on Sunday questioned the ability and willingness of Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas to make concessions for a peace agreement with Israel.

Kushner’s remarks, made in a rare interview with Palestinian newspaper Al Quds, came as he and special envoy Jason Greenblatt were in the region to advance efforts to renew the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

The US duo have not met with Palestinian officials, who froze all contact with US officials following the Trump administration’s December recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.

“President Abbas says that he is committed to peace and I have no reason not to believe him," Kushner said. “However, I do question how much President Abbas has the ability to, or is willing to, lean into finishing a deal.”

“He has his talking points which have not changed in the last 25 years. There has been no peace deal achieved in that time,” Kushner said.

“To make a deal both sides will have to take a leap and meet somewhere between their stated positions. I am not sure President Abbas has the ability to do that.”

Kushner and Greenblatt met on Friday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss “advancing the diplomatic process, developments in the region and the security and humanitarian situations in Gaza”, according to the premier’s office.

They held a second meeting Saturday night “to continue their discussions,” the White House said.

“The visit comes after a flare-up of hostilities between Israel and the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. Israel pounded Hamas targets in response to a barrage of rockets and mortar shells, while troops have killed over 130 Palestinians taking part in clashes on the fringes of demonstrations.”

Speaking at his Sunday cabinet meeting, Netanyahu said the US officials “fully supported our position and actions to ensure the security of Israel and its civilians around Gaza”.

The Palestinians have been infuriated by Trump’s policies and see east Jerusalem as their future capital, insisting the status of the disputed city is an issue to be negotiated between them and the Israelis.

Senior Palestinian official and chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said Sunday that Kushner’s interview showed “there’s nothing of substance” coming from the Trump Administration.

“Kushner represents a policy of dictate rather than negotiations. It is the Trump Administration that has walked away from the negotiations, from international law and UN resolutions,” Erekat said.—AFP
Warming weather could reduce the nutritional value of rice

Rice is the primary food source for 3.5 billion people, and production will need to increase significantly by 2050 to meet global demand.

The heads of departments concerned are obliged to carry out their duties honestly and to take responsibility for their actions.

Opposing corruption should be part of our culture

The heads of departments concerned are obliged to carry out their duties honestly and to take responsibility for their actions. Opposing corruption should be more than a duty and become part of our culture.

United Nations Environment Organization

HUNDREDS of millions of people in Asia rely on rice not only for a staple but as their main source of nutrition. But new meta research suggests the rice they eat will become less nutritious due to rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere.

The study found that rice exposed to elevated levels of carbon dioxide contains lower amounts of several important nutrients. Currently, levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere average around 400 parts per million in the air and the burning of fossil fuels. The researchers, a New York Times article explains, looked at how crops responded to levels of around 390 parts per million, which could prove tough to avoid this century without dramatic changes.

The researchers involved exposing experimental rice fields in China and Japan to the same elevated levels of carbon dioxide that are expected to occur worldwide later this century.

What did the study find?

The scientists found that the chemical composition of a plant depends on the levels of carbon dioxide it takes in from the atmosphere, which affects its nutrients from the soil. Upset this balance, and the plant can change dramatically.

“A strong correlation between the impacts of elevated CO2 on vitamin content based on the molecular fraction of Ni- trigen within the vitamin was observed,” the study says. “Potential health risks associated with anticipated CO2 induced deficits of protein, minerals, and vitamins in rice could be correlated to the lowest overall gross domestic product per capita for the highest rice-consuming countries, suggesting potential implications for a global population of approximately 600 million,” it concludes.

“We used multiyear, multi-location in situ FACE (free-air CO2 enrichment) experiments for 18 genetically diverse rice lines, including Japanese, indica, and hybrids currently grown worldwide,” the authors wrote.

While those CO2 enrichment experiments do indicate the threat climate change poses to nutrition, rice breeding programs across the world are being accelerated to protect against the impacts of climate change.

Another concern for policymakers is that rice yields are also affected by climate change. In a report titled ‘Projections of future climate change impacts on rice production in the Asia-Pacific region towards the end of the century’, the World Bank found that rice yields could decline by 7-10 per cent by the middle of this century.

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The scientists found that rice plants exposed to rising CO2 levels produced larger grains that contained less protein, iron and zinc, and that these nutrients were concentrated in the middle section of the rice plant. Rice plants exposed to rising CO2 levels also contained less protein, iron and zinc, and that these nutrients were concentrated in the middle section of the rice plant.

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Rice is the primary food source for 3.5 billion people, and production will need to increase significantly by 2050 to meet global demand.
Full STEAM ahead for US youngsters learning the art of science

LOS ANGELES — In a room at the Marciano Art Foundation in Los Angeles, beyond a vast space where paintings and sculptures are displayed, around a dozen students gather at small tables.

Henry, 15, is hard at work developing a musical pedestrian crossing, using an innovative little device called MESH that attaches to household objects and turns them into switches for various connected devices. Henry and his classmates are taking part in STEAM learning — science, technology, engineering, art and math — an innovative artistic twist on the more traditional STEM education.

The pupils from south LA — a relatively deprived part of the city — are spending the morning in this hothouse of learning, a partnership with education organization Genesis to combat inequalities in arts and science education. The youngsters have been given a whistletop tour of the tools in the room as they rush to develop the next revolutionary recycling system, interactive touch wall. They are tasked with dreaming up innovations that will make everyday life more convenient and fun, inspired by such innovations as the playable musical staircases seen occasionally at metro stations. “You have seven minutes,” Lauren Rodgers, Genesis’s director of education, instructs the group, and the urgent murmur of focused teenagers spreads across the room as they rush to develop the next revolutionary recycling system, garbage collection robot or some other neat innovation.

‘Start-up incubator’

“We want to function as a start-up incubator so very quickly and collaborate, that’s the future,” says Sheri Schlesinger, who founded Genesis five years ago. The non-profit aims to demystify the sciences by making them fun for children, including those from privileged backgrounds, would normally feel intimidated by the idea of Bunsen burners and complicated equations. “Seventy per cent of the jobs of the future, we haven’t invented yet, and STEAM is a critical component of innovative thinking,” says Schlesinger.

As automation increasingly does away with the need for unskilled human labor, Schlesinger warns that the days of washing dishes in a cafe or performing other menial chores to earn a living will soon be over. Over the last 15 years the US has been jolted out of its complacency on science education, with its youngsters falling far below the academic standards of Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, Finnish and Polish students. PHOTO: AFP

Over the last 15 years has been jolted out of its complacency on science education, with its youngsters falling far below the academic standards of Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, Finnish and Polish students.

Chinese police arrest six for drug trafficking

KUNMING — Police in southwest China’s Yunnan Province apprehended six suspects for drug trafficking and seized 82 kilograms of drugs.

The police in Jiansu Dai and Yi Autonomous County, Pu’er City, received information in mid-May that drug dealers planned to traffick drugs from overseas into central China’s Hunan Province via Yunnan.

Police apprehended two suspects in a hotel on 24 May, and found 16 blocks of heroin and 23 bags of methamphetamine, weighing 36 kg, in total from a truck parked at a garage in Lancang Lahu Autonomous County, Jingshi police said.

In the second operation on 16 June, they found 45.8 kg of methamphetamine in a rented apartment in the same county. Four more suspects were seized.

The six suspects have been detained and further investigation is under way. — Xinhua

PACIFIC HUNT ENERGY

Changing Trade Name of Pesticides

Aventine Limited would like to change the trade names of the following pesticides which are registered by Parijat Industries India Co., Ltd to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar and would like to import and distribute.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Old Trade Name</th>
<th>New Trade Name</th>
<th>Active Ingredient</th>
<th>Registration no.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Profit 50 EC</td>
<td>Armo Profit 50 EC</td>
<td>Profenofos 50 % EC</td>
<td>F2014-907</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Mortel 0.3 % GR</td>
<td>Armo Mortel 0.3 % GR</td>
<td>Fipronil 0.3 % GR</td>
<td>F2014-908</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Star 5 EC</td>
<td>Armo Star 5 EC</td>
<td>Lambda Cyhalothrin 5 % EC</td>
<td>F2014-907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Sultan 17.8 SL</td>
<td>Armo Sultan 17.8 SL</td>
<td>Imidacloprid 17.8 % SL</td>
<td>F2014-904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Medal 25 % WG</td>
<td>Armo Medal 25 % WG</td>
<td>Thiamethoxam 25 % WG</td>
<td>F2016-906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Tenchant 55 EC</td>
<td>Armo Tenchant 55 EC</td>
<td>Chlorpyrifos 50 % + Cypermethrin 5 % EC</td>
<td>F2014-909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Emir 88 EC</td>
<td>Armo Emir 88 EC</td>
<td>Acetamiprid 16 + Cypermethrin 72 g/l EC</td>
<td>F2016-1158</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Victory Gold 407 SL</td>
<td>Armo Victory Gold 407 SL</td>
<td>Metalaxyl 7g/l + Mancozeb 66g/l</td>
<td>F2016-905</td>
</tr>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Oriental 10 % SC</td>
<td>Armo Oriental 10 % SC</td>
<td>Phosphamide 10 % SC</td>
<td>F2013-1717</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Ace 20 % SP</td>
<td>Armo Ace 20 % SP</td>
<td>Acephate 20 % SP</td>
<td>F2016-903</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Kamal 45 % WP</td>
<td>Armo Kamal 45 % WP</td>
<td>Lambda Cyhalothrin 45 % WP</td>
<td>F2013-1683</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Polestar 76 % WP</td>
<td>Armo Polestar 76 % WP</td>
<td>Carbendazim 12 % + Thiram 40 % WP</td>
<td>F2013-1684</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And we would like to invite any objection for the above changing trade names within two weeks of the publication of this notice to the Joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogon, Insein.

Distributor: Aventine Limited
No. 126(A), Kabaraye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

PACIFIC HUNT ENERGY

Pacific Hunt Energy CSR Campaign Progresses in Sagaing Region

Pacific Hunt Energy has started an extensive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) campaign in Sagaing Region focusing on health, hygiene and education in cooperation with its local partner Young Investment Group. The aim of the campaign is to improve local learning facilities and to inspire children to learn.

The campaign includes building of toilets and drilling water wells for seven local schools together with donations of educational supplies to approximately 2,000 students in eight schools, ranging from primary to high schools. Additional CSR efforts include wiring an emergency room and a donation of medical supplies to Mawlaik District Hospital, building a staff house for the local clinic in Pantha village, repair of school ceiling in Lawtha village, and donating food to the examination period in Mawlaik High School. The total budget of Pacific Hunt Energy’s first CSR campaign on PSC C-1 exceeds 120,000,000 MMK (One hundred twenty million MMK).

Pacific Hunt Energy is an independent oil and gas company registered in Canada. Pacific Hunt Energy was awarded onshore blocks PSC C-1 in Sagaing Region and PSC H in Bago Region as a result of the second Onshore Bidding Round in Myanmar in 2014. The Company began its first 2D seismic campaign on PSC C-1 in Sagaing Region in early 2018. Completion of the full PSC C-1 seismic program of 200 km is planned in the 2018–2019 dry season.

For more information visit: www.pacifichuntenergy.com
Or contact us at: info@pacifichuntenergy.com
For feedback about our seismic or CSR campaigns please contact Pacific Hunt Energy Community Call Centre at: 09 401 146 388
Italian coastguard tells rescue ships to call Libya for help

ROME — As Italy’s new populist government cracked down on foreign NGO boats operating in the Mediterranean Saturday the Italian coastguard has followed suit telling boats in Libyan waters to “turn to” Libya when in distress.

According to the Italian media the national coastguard sent a message to rescue boats operating in the Mediterranean advising them that Italy would no longer be their first point of reference.

“From now on, under the Solas Convention (Safety of life at Sea), captains who are at sea in the area in front of Libya will have to turn to the Tripoli Centre and the Libyan Coast Guard for help.”

The announcement came as Italy and Malta once again locked horns over who should take charge of a German NGO boat, carrying over 200 migrants, currently stranded in the Mediterranean.

Both countries have staunchly refuse to let the ship into their ports.

The latest Italian message represents a change in policy from the coastguard which has often played an important role coordinating migrant rescue missions in the Mediterranean outside of its search and rescue area.

Under maritime rules, as coordinator it has the obligation to provide a safe port for migrants to disembark.

Italy’s defence minister Elisabetta Trenta later said that the new stance did not mean Italy would shirk on its international commitments.

“The government has taken a strong position,” on immigration, she said in an interview with SkyTG24.

“But it is a position that will never deny migrants their rights. Italian navy and coastguard boats, when there is a need, will always save a migrant in difficulty.”

“That’s international law” she added. “It’s what our navy and coastguard have always done.

Referring to the coastguard’s announcement, Trenta said: “We are talking about the section of the sea that is close to Libya, which has been delimited and that we call the Search and Rescue area (SAR).”

“There the Libyan coastguard is in charge and has been trained by our coastguard to carry out this task. It has all the skills and the means to do so,” she said.

She added however that the Italian government was studying the possibility of providing “other means and equipment to strengthen the Libyan coastguard’s activity”.

“What is important is that the Libyans are able to control their territory,” she said.

Trenta was speaking on the eve of a mini-summit in Brussels as tensions flare between EU nations over the issue of migration.

16 EU leaders are to meet to address the thorny issue of how the EU can tackle the renewed influx of migrants and refugees seeking a new life in Europe.

On Saturday French President Emmanuel Macron infuriated Rome by suggesting that Italy was not going through a “migration crisis.”

Italy’s two deputy prime ministers Luigi Di Maio and far-right Matteo Salvini responded by branding the French president “arrogant” and “completely out of touch with reality.” —AFP

New tool to be launched to measure temperature of plants from space

LOS ANGELES — A new instrument will be launched to measure the temperature of plants on Earth to help monitor threats such as drought conditions, the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has said.

The new instrument, called the ECOSystem Spaceborne Thermal Radiometer Experiment on Space Station (ECOSTRESS), is scheduled to be launched on 29 June and installed on the International Space Station, and it will measure the changing temperatures of plants on Earth’s surface, NASA said.

Over the next year, the instrument will use the space station’s unique low Earth orbit to collect data over multiple areas of land at different times of the day.

It will produce detailed images of the same areas which are as small as 40 by 70 meters, about the size of a small farm, every three to five days.

ECOSTRESS data will provide insight into plants’ health and water intake and signs of mounting water stress — the beginning of a drought, allowing farmers and others to develop a solution and plan accordingly.

Scientists have previously experimented with the use of electric leaf sensors to monitor a plant’s water intake.

“When a plant is so stressed that it turns brown, it’s often too late for it to recover,” Simon Hook, ECOSTRESS principal investigator at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), said in a press release.

“But measuring the temperature of the plant lets you see that a plant is stressed before it reaches that point,” Hook said.

These temperature measurements are also considered an early indicator of potential agricultural droughts, and give the agricultural community a chance to prepare and/or respond accordingly.

Also, ECOSTRESS data will be valuable for other studies that require temperature information, such as detecting and characterizing volcanoes, wildfires and heat waves, said NASA—Xinhua

Scoping of EIA Study of M9 West Appraisal and Exploration Drilling in Block M9, Offshore Myanmar

PTTEP International Limited (PTTEPI), plans to conduct new drilling campaign in western part of Block M9 to discover gas resources and evaluate the feasibility of gas production in the future. The drilling campaign consists of 10 exploration wells in Block M9 which is located in the Gulf of Moattama, offshore Myanmar. It is approximately 300 km. away from Yangon and 230 km from Dawei. The tentative plan for commencement will be in early 2019.

Under the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, PTTEPI is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activity. PTTEPI has contracted third party EIA/SA consultants International Environmental Management Co Ltd. (IEM) and Environmental Quality Management Co. Ltd (EQM). The consultants are currently undertaking Scoping of EIA Study to define project description, study area, potential environmental and social impacts and relevant stakeholders. The Scoping will be conducted in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015).

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

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

EIA Study of Exploration Drilling Campaign in Onshore Block MOGE-3 by PTTEP SA

PTTEP South Asia Limited (PTTEP SA), successfully completed the Block MOGE-3 Seismic Acquisition in 2017. PTTEP SA is now planning to conduct a drilling campaign in order to explore petroleum potential in Block MOGE-3. This drilling campaign consists of 4 exploration drilling wells from 8 selected locations located in Thayet Township, Magway Region, Myanmar. The tentative plan for commencement of drilling will be end of 2018.

Regarding the Scoping Report which was submitted to Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) and the related third party EIA/SA consultants International Environmental Management Co Ltd. (IEM) and Environmental Quality Management Co Ltd (EQM) are currently undertaking an EIA Study which includes associated stakeholder engagement. The EIA will be conducted in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015).

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

Questions and comments can also be submitted to PTTEP SA in writing by contacting the following e-mail address: TinNilarSoe@pttep.com
Four students drown in southern India river

NEW DELHI — Rescuers fished out bodies of four engineering students from a river Sunday in India’s southern state of Andhra Pradesh, police said. The students drowned Saturday evening in the Krishna river near Vijayawada in Krishna district, about 42 km east of Amaravati, the main city of Andhra Pradesh.

“This morning rescuers fished out bodies of four students who drowned last evening,” a police official said. “Nearly 100 personnel, from disaster response force were involved in the search operations that went on through the night.”

On Saturday four students of a private engineering college who had gone for a picnic to Brindabiplam’s Pavitra Sangama were washed away because of strong water currents in the river.—Xinhua

Nicaragua clashes leave eight dead including baby: rights group

MANAGUA — At least eight people including a baby were killed Saturday when pro-government forces clashed with opponents in Nicaragua, according to a rights group.

Seven people were killed in the capital Managua and one in Masaya and a baby was among the dead, said Georgina Ruiz, an activist with the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights (CENIDH).

The rights group says more than 200 people have been killed in protests that started just over two months ago demanding President Daniel Ortega step down.

Starting after midnight, police and paramilitary forces flooded six neighborhoods in the east of Managua, as well as the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAN) where scores of students are holed up. Among the dead were two students killed in the university area and two minors who died in Managua — a 17-year-old and a baby who was shot in the head.

The baby was killed when his mother was taking him to a babysitter. “He was killed by a police gunshot. I saw them. They were police,” the mother, Kenia Navarrete told news channel Cien por Cien Noticias.

The government denied the charge, saying criminals in the university area were to blame. UNAN is one of several student protest camps in Managua. About 450 students have been living there under plastic tarp tents and in class buildings, surrounded by empty bottles, old food and used rounds from their homemade mortars.

Ortega’s government continues to repress and kill young people,” CENIDH said on Twitter. According to Alvaro Leiva, secretary of the Nicaraguan Pro-Human Rights Association, the attack against the university students was intended “to plant terror in the population” ahead of a march planned for Saturday afternoon in memory of victims of the violence.

Later Saturday organizers cancelled the march due to what they branded “indiscriminate” attacks by government forces. The organizing Civil Alliance opposition called for a 48-hour strike among social sectors and trade unions to press for Ortega’s departure.

The Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference urged Ortega’s government and the opposition to return to the negotiating table on Monday to discuss a proposal to bring elections forward from 2023 to 2021, in a bid to end the crisis.

Ortega, 72, has not responded to the Catholic bishops’ initiative, but has previously expressed his willingness to work toward democratization.

Talks between the government and the opposition Civic Alliance were suspended once again last Monday when the government failed to allow international human rights bodies to investigate the violence.

It eventually did so on Wednesday. Protests erupted on 18 April against now-scraped social security reforms, but have grown into demands for justice for those killed and the exit of Ortega and his wife and vice president Rosario Murillo.

Ortega, a former leftist guerrilla, led the country from 1979 to 1990 and then returned to the presidency in 2007. He is now serving his third consecutive term.—AFP

Claim’s Day Notice

MV MCC TORRES STRAIT VOY. NO. (1815/1816)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC TORRES STRAIT VOY. NO. (1815/1816) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the Claims Day. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY Agent for: MS MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Claim’s Day Notice

MV BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPIT 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185
MEXICO CITY — When Ever Sierr...
‘Game of Thrones’ Jon Snow to marry on-screen flame

LONDON—Actors Kit Harington and Rose Leslie, who played on-screen lovers Jon Snow and Ygritte in fantasy TV saga “Game of Thrones”, are to wed in Britain on Saturday.

The 31-year-old stars are reported to be tying the knot in northeastern Scotland, with co-stars Emilia Clarke, who played Daenerys Targaryen, and Peter Dinklage, who played Tyrion Lannister, arriving at nearby Aberdeen on Friday.

The couple, who met on set in 2012, announced the engagement in the Times newspaper last September, and the wedding date was submitted to the local registry office last month.

The ceremony is to be held at the remote Wardhill Castle in Aberdeenshire, which has been in Leslie’s family for 900 years, according to the Daily Mail.

She left the show in 2014, but Harington’s iconic character has appeared in every episode. Harington told L’Uomo Vogue that the on-screen romance contributed to the pair getting together, after filming in Iceland in 2012.

“The country is beautiful ... the Northern Lights are magical ... it was there that I fell in love,” he said.

“You’re already attracted to someone, and then they play your love interest in the show, it becomes very easy to fall in love.”—AFP

Sting lashes out at ‘coward’ leaders over migrants’ fate

LONDON—British singer Sting lashed out against world leaders on Saturday calling them “cowards” for failing to resolve the refugee crisis, praising though the role of Greece.

“Thank God for Greece because you have shown the way,” said Sting, at an Amnesty International event in Athens ahead of his performance Saturday night.

“You have shown how to treat refugees when other people are building walls. When children are being taken from their mothers and put in cages, you are acting with compassion and generosity and common-sense,” he said according to Athens News Agency.

Trump on Wednesday ordered an end to the family separations which have sparked domestic and global outrage but the fate of the more than 2,300 separated children has remained unclear.

“Because our so-called leaders, a sad parade of half-men, cowards, have not got the solutions. Democracy began here in Greece, you are showing us how to be civilised again”, said the British singer. PHOTO: AFP

HBO website and comedian John Oliver censored in China

BEIJING—It was one Winnie the Pooh joke too far.

After mocking censors working overtime to delete comparisons of President Xi Jinping with the cartoon bear, comedian John Oliver and now the website of TV giant HBO have fallen victim to China’s censorship machine.

Chinese authorities blocked HBO’s website in China, just days after Oliver took to task, anti-censorship and monitoring group GreatFire.org said on Saturday.

HBO joins a long list of Western media outlets that have had their websites blocked in China including The New York Times, Facebook, and Twitter.

“China: the country responsible for huge technological advances but it still can’t seem to get pandas to f***,” Oliver opened the episode of “Last Week Tonight” that is causing the problems.

Those technological advances include draconian surveillance and censorship measures which appear to have made HBO and Oliver their latest victims.

Oliver’s name and that of the show he hosts were censored on China’s popular twitter like Weibo.

“So fail the sales” Weibo returned when AFP attempted to post Oliver’s name.

“Content is illegal!” the service said.

YouTube, which also airs “Last Week Tonight”, has long been blocked in China.

Oliver’s segment dug into Xi’s distaste at comparisons to the self-described “bear of very little brain” and introduced viewers to repressive changes underway in the world’s most populous country.

Chinese netizens have often compared Xi to A.A. Milne’s most famous creation, something that censors have been quick to purge inside the Great Firewall.—AFP

HBO website joins a long list of Western media outlets that have had their websites blocked in China including The New York Times, Facebook, and Twitter.

Los Angeles—Actors attached with Marvel have a way of letting out the secret details that the franchise strives to guard with all fierceness and “Avengers: Infinity War” star Tom Holland has done just the same.

The 22-year-old actor revealed the name of his next stand-alone character to fans. He said he knew nothing of their respective roles.

French President Emmanuel Macron came out Saturday in support of financial sanctions against EU countries which refuse to accept migrants.

“We can not have countries that benefit hugely from EU solidarity and claim national self-interest when it comes to the issue of migrants,” he said at a press conference in Paris alongside Spain’s new Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.

On the eve of a mini-summit about the divisive migration issue, the two leaders also declared support for the creation of closed reception centres where migrants would be held while their asylum claims are considered.—AFP

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Japan researchers develop what could become world’s 1st wood liquor

Researches in Japan have developed a technique for making alcohol by fermenting wood, paving the way for the creation of the world’s first wood liquor.

The safety of the product, which carries the distinctive aroma of the type of wood it is made from, as a drink is yet to be confirmed, but the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute hopes people will be toasting with it in the near future.

While bioethanol, also an alcohol made from wood, has long existed as a fuel, it is made using heat and sulphuric acid, making the product unsuitable for drinking.

The technique developed by the institute does not require the use of such a harmful substance or heating, which takes away the unique scent of the wood used.

Instead, the alcohol is made by adding water to the wood chips, grinding them with a food-processing machine until the content becomes a liquid, and adding enzymes and yeast to ferment it before it is distilled.

The final product of the two-week process is a liquid with an alcoholic content of 20 per cent and unique aroma of the ingredient wood.

“We can find a new appeal in trees if we can create a tasty alcoholic drink from them,” said Yuichiro Otsuka, who developed the technique, adding, “It will help promote the forestry industry too.”

Alcohol made from cedar has a refreshing smell, while that made from white birch has a fragrance found in whisky or brandy matured in wooden barrels for a long period. Cherry tree alcohol has a sweet scent.

The institute said it is still analyzing the content of the alcohol and will seek to commercialize the beverages by partnering with businesses.

Japan has one of the highest ratios of forest areas among developed countries, with two-thirds of its land covered by forests, according to the Forestry Agency.

Han Solo’s ‘Return of the Jedi’ blaster sells for $550,000

LAS VEGAS — In the wildly popular “Star Wars” films, Han Solo once told a lightsaber-wielding Luke Skywalker: “Hokey religions and ancient weapons are no match for a good blaster at your side, kid.”

That was the case when one of the blaster pistol props used by Harrison Ford in “Return of the Jedi” (1983) went under the hammer, selling for $350,000 — topping the $450,000 previously fetched by Skywalker’s lightsaber from the first two films.

“We should sell for $550,000! An original Han Solo blaster used in Star Wars: Return of the Jedi.” Julien’s Auctions announced on Twitter Saturday.

The faux weapon, mainly made of wood, had been put on display in New York by Julien’s Auctions last month after more than 30 years tucked away in the belongings of James Schoppe, art director of “Return of the Jedi”.

Martin Nolan, the auction house’s executive director, said Schoppe, an Oscar nominee for his work on the film, finally decided to part with Solo’s gun and about 40 other items from the movie, including an Ewok axe and plans for Jabba the Hut’s ship.

The Ewok axe went for $11,250, while another blaster prop from the film fetched $90,624, according to Julien’s Auctions.

But none of the props were a match for the space saga’s much-loved droid: last year an R2-D2 used in the making of several “Star Wars” films sold for $2.76 million at auction in Los Angeles — AFP

War, wine and wonders: hopefuls vie for place on UNESCO heritage list

MANAMA (BAHRAIN) — Inuit hunting grounds, World War I cemeteries, Art Deco heritage in Mumbai and Italy’s wine-producing Prosecco hills are among 30 hopefuls in the running to join UNESCO’s famous list as the World Heritage Committee meets from Sunday in Bahrain.

Delegates at the annual gathering will also debate adding locations including Kenya’s Lake Turkana and Nepal’s Kathmandu Valley to those sites considered “in danger”, but could remove the Belize Barrier Reef from the risk list due to an oil activity ban.

The roster of contenders for this year’s new additions spans the globe from the Aasivissuit and Nipisat hunting grounds in the frozen expanses of Greenland to the sun-scorched Al-Asa Oasis in the deserts of Saudi Arabia.

Eye-catching — or lip-smacking — sites among them include the Prosecco Hills in northwest Italy where famed sparkling wine has been made for centuries, as well as the town of Zatec in the Czech Republic renowned for its hops.

In India, a collection of Victorian and Art Deco landmarks in bustling Mumbai is being billed as “the largest such conglomeration of these two genres of architecture in the world”.

The push to include funeral and memorial sites in Belgium and France for those killed on World War I’s Western Front has sparked debate over how to treat locations associated with recent conflicts. In an April report, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, which advises UNESCO, called for a further “period of reflection”, despite locations including Hiroshima and Auschwitz already being on the list.

Getting on the World Heritage List could be a major boon for the nominees, as being deemed “outstanding universal value” can boost tourist numbers and bring in funding — AFP

Han Solo’s blaster, used by actor Harrison Ford in the filming of “Return of the Jedi,” sold at auction for $550,000. — PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

PHOTO: AFP

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PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

The list of World Heritage sites in Danger at an annual meeting in Bahrain.
NIZHNIY NOVGOROD, (Russia) — Hat-trick hero Harry Kane says “it’s all coming together” for England at the World Cup after Gareth Southgate’s side sailed into the last 16 with a 6-1 rout of Panama on Sunday.

Kane’s treble and two goals from John Stones, with Jesse Lingard also on the scoresheet, meant England joined Belgium on six points at the top of Group G ahead of the match between the two teams on Thursday.

Kane said: “I’m very proud. Not many players get to score a hat-trick in the World Cup.

“We have to enjoy this. It’s not every day we get to go through after two games.”

He said his third goal, which came from a Ruben Loftus-Cheek shot that deflected off the English captain’s heel into the net, “was one of the luckiest of my career”.

His five goals took him to the top of the World Cup Golden Boot scoring chart with five goals in two games ahead of the four scored by Cristiano Ronaldo and Romelu Lukaku.

“England hat-trick hero Kane basks in World Cup rout

Japan v Senegal draw keeps World Cup last-16 hopes alive

YEKATERINBURG, (Russia) — Keisuke Honda’s late goal earned Japan a deserved 2-2 draw against Senegal in Yekaterinburg on Sunday to keep alive both teams’ hopes of last-16 qualification from Group H. A lucky deflection off Sadio Mane put Senegal into an early lead, with Takashi Inui levelling. Against the run of play, teenager Moussa Wague put the Africans back in front only for Honda to fire into an open net and snatch a point.

The stalemate leaves both sides on four points. Pointless Poland and Colombia meet later Sunday in Kazan with the last-16 spots determined next Thursday.—AFP

We deserved to win, says Shan United coach

SHAN United Head Coach Marjan Sekulovski said that his team deserved to win. He was giving his comments after the match between Shan United and Yangon United that was played at Taunggyi Stadium on Saturday.

The match ended in a goalless draw. “I want to congratulate all my boys for the game against Yangon United,” he said. “We played better than Yangon United FC and deserved to win. We had at least five clear chances but we did not score. In my opinion, Yan Naing Oo scored a regular goal but the assistant referee signalled it as offside. As this was our third game in seven days, and we travelled twice from Taunggyi - Yangon, some of the players were very tired, and it was difficult for them,” said Marjan Sekulovski. “Shan played very well. Shan United were apparently the better side, but all their efforts were not converted into goals. Luck was not in our favour,” said Khun Kuu Shar Lhu from Taunggyi, a Shan fan. —Lynn Thit