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NEW NAME FOR PEACE CENTRE

NRPC TO BECOME A GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds the meeting with representatives of the government, peace negotiator Dr Tin Myo Win, and personnel from Myanmar Peace Centre. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has urged stakeholders in Myanmar's peace process to have a giving mind-set rather than a taking mind-set when they sit at the negotiation table for national reconciliation and internal peace.

"Concerning national recon-

ciliation and internal peace, what counts is for all participants to discuss on the basis of what they can give rather than what they would like to take," said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at a meeting held at the Presidential Palace yesterday to coordinate

matters relating to formation of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) and preparations for the 21st-Century Panglong Conference.

She went on to say that discussions are to be based on Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement

(NCA) but with flexibility and that the meeting's agenda is to be reset through reviewing the political dialogue framework.

"In the transformation of the Myanmar Peace Centre (MPC) into the NRPC, the NRPC will become a government organi-

sation under the ministry of the State Counsellor's Office and it is, therefore, necessary for this organisation to abide by the budgetary regulations as well as civil service regulations," said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi,

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Low pressure area in Bay of Bengal moves northwest, persists: DMH

A LOW-PRESSURE area over the southwest Bay of Bengal off the Sri Lankan coast moved northwest yesterday and is persisting there, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

The low pressure is expected to intensify into a depression within 48 hours, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology's 3:30pm forecast yesterday.

The depression might cross the coast between Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, India, on 19 May, according to private weather forecaster Skymet.

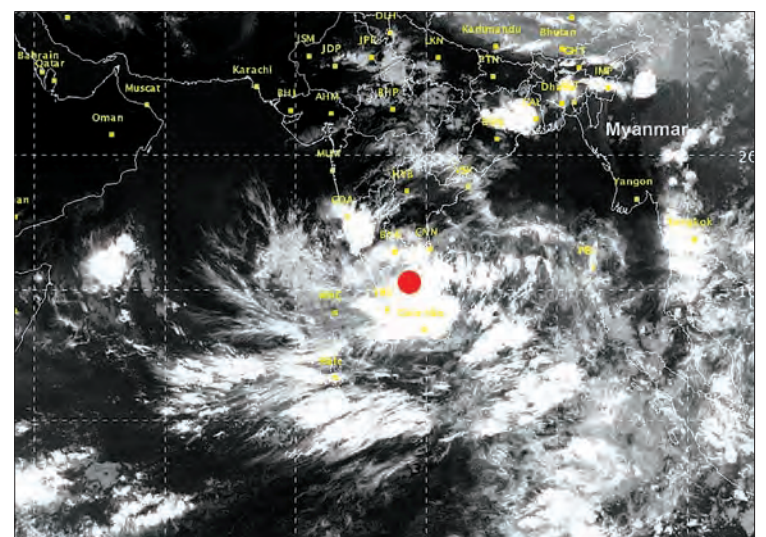
At present, all three Indian

seas, including the Indian Ocean, the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, are turbulent, giving rise to several weather systems.

Rain is expected during the next 24 hours over most areas in Kachin State, upper areas of Sagaing Region, Tanithayi Region and northern Shan State, as well as parts of other regions and states, with an 80 per cent degree of certainty.

Yangon and Mandalay are expected to see scattered rain today.

Rain and thunder is expected over Nay Pyi Taw and the surrounding area today.—GNLM



The well marked low pressure area over southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Sri Lanka may concentrate into a depression during next 48 hours. Photo dated 16 May, 2016, is from India Meteorological Department.

GAD comes down hard on Happy Zone over phallic soap

THE Amyotha Hluttaw session continued for its 24th day with a question-and-answer session on an inappropriate gift-giving incident and the presentation of a report on the bill to revise the Ward or Village-Tract Administration Law.

During the Q&A session, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe responded to a question on the incident in which bars of soap in the form of male genitalia were given to winners of a game at the Happy Zone

amusement park in Yangon.

The incident reportedly gained wide attention on social media.

The deputy minister said action will be taken to ensure that this “unwanted situation” does not recur in the future, and he admonished the manager of Happy Zone, who confessed to giving out the inappropriate prize, as well as the owner of the amusement park, through an administrative channel. The manager and the owner were asked to sign letters of per-

sonal undertaking and guarantees that the incident would not recur, added the deputy minister. He also said punitive action will be taken against the amusement park by imposing a closure order on it if it fails to adhere to the instructions of the Dagon Township General Administrative Department.

Next, the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee read out the report on the third, revised edition of the bill to revise the Ward or Village-Tract Administration Law. —Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw



MP U Htay Oo. PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw records proposal calling for repairs to unsafe dams, landslide lake



Geologists observe environs of the lake caused by landslide in Chin State. PHOTO: SOCIAL WELFARE, RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT

Pyithu Hluttaw

THE Pyithu Hluttaw session yesterday documented a proposal calling for immediate repairs to unsafe dams and a landslide lake prior to the upcoming monsoon season.

In his response to the motion submitted by Daw Khin Sann Hline of Pale Constituency, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tun Win said K1.5 billion for the Mone Creek spillway and K3.5 billion for the Kyee-on Kyee-wa spillway are set to be spent on the construction of additional facilities for the two dams in Magwe Region.

Additional funds will be sought for construction work set for completion before the upcoming rainy season, added the deputy minister.

Regarding the landslide lake situated on the border between Sagaing Region and Chin State, the deputy minister said that the national natural disaster management committee is dealing with possible risks of the lake, which is likely to collapse due to erosion caused by the inflow of water during the rainy season. He called for the motion to be recorded at the parliament as

necessary measures are being taken against the risk of disasters involving the dams and the lake.

On a question about coal mining by the Ngwe Yee Pale Co Ltd in Mong Rai Township, Shan State, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win replied that mining permits are being given to local and foreign businesses in accordance with the agreements by respective region and state governments and local people in designated townships, village-tracts and villages.

Next, the Union minister responded to a question on the confiscation of farmlands owned by 42 farmers in Khin U Township, Sagaing Region, saying that none of their 700-acres of farmland were grabbed as they are not included in the forest area.

He added that three farmers were charged over squatting in a community firewood plantation owned by the Arid Zone Greening Department in the township, adding that there is no plan to allow squatters to farm in the area. —Myanmar News Agency

Summer heat dries up Rakhine —China crab trade

RISING temperatures in Myanmar have caused the trade of pregnant crabs to China from Rakhine State to come to a halt, according to local crab wholesalers.

Crab wholesalers have stopped purchasing the crustaceans after the steady rise in temperatures during the recent summer months has caused them to habitually die from the heat on-route before arriving at the Myanmar – China border town of Muse. “We get a good price [for the crabs] on the Chinese market, but we’re not in a position whereby we’re able to export them anymore. Pregnant crabs can last a maximum of three days on the road. The midday heat from the sun is scorching hot and any delays on the roads

only causes more fatalities.” said Ko Ah Woo, a crab wholesaler from Minbya. With a coastline that stretches along its side, crab exports to China is one of the primary forms of enterprise for Rakhine State.

But, lengthy periods of malpractices in over-catching, together with climate change and natural tidal destruction has impacted on crab populations, depleting numbers annually.

“The months of May, June and July are when pregnant crabs lay their eggs, which is how we can catch such crabs during these months. Now though, the crab wholesalers aren’t purchasing pregnant crabs anymore. They’re just sold in the local market. Crabs have become scarce; a lot of the crabs caught are only of a

small variety.” said U Nyi Taute Kyel, a fisherman from Thingant village of Myebon township.

The natural fresh and salt water Rakhine State townships of Yethedaung, Buthidaung, Myebon, Minbya and Paukdaw see the highest catches of mud crabs within the state, with roughly a hundred crab wholesalers in operation per township.

A kilo of crabs in the aforementioned wholesalers fetch roughly K2,000 where they are bought in bulk and transported within the country to Myanmar’s urban centres of Yangon and Mandalay, as well as exported to China via the Myanmar border market of Muse, according to crab traders. —Myitmakha News Agency



Crabs from a farm in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

UNODC to help Myanmar upgrade police training curriculum



Myanmar Police Force and UNODC hold a meeting on Myanmar Police Training System and Recommendations for Improvement. PHOTO: MNA

THE United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will help the Myanmar Police Force (MPF) upgrade its training curriculum, according to Mr Jeremy Douglas, UNODC's resident representative to Myanmar, at the release of the office's report on the MPF in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

"Myanmar needs the help of experts from foreign countries for the process of curriculum renewal for its police force's training modules," said the UNODC resident representative.

The curriculum renewal

process, which will be led by the UNODC, is scheduled to begin on 30 May and is set for completion on 31 December this year, he added.

The UNODC Myanmar head stressed the need of greater awareness on law and human rights by Myanmar police officers, reducing its focus on drills and skills.

Training courses in areas such as public services, economic crime and corruption are set to be included in the curricula, he added.

Myanmar aims to reform

its police force through a training system that will be upgraded by the UNODC, comprising six work procedures set to last for 30 years.

"We will conduct courses with the use of our own resources, and international experts will be invited to train police officers in respective courses," said Police Col Aung Htay Myint of the Transnational Organized Crime.

According to the UNODC, US\$12 million is set to fund the reform plan covering seven training centers of MPF for the first five years.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

NRPC to become a government organisation

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adding NRPC will have its head office in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon MPC will be transformed into Yangon Branch of NRPC.

Regarding convening of the 21st-Century Panglong Conference, a suitable place will be selected, and the NRPC formation process will be led by U Kyaw Tint Swe, said the State Counsellor. A preparatory committee for convening the 21st-Century Panglong Conference will be formed, and a sub-committee will also be formed to coordinate the continuation of discussions with indigenous armed organisations that have already signed the NCA.

Similarly, another sub-committee will be formed to discuss and coordinate with those indigenous armed organisations that have not signed the NCA yet. As there are time limitations, both these sub-committees are to hold meetings simultaneously but separately. "The committee and sub-committees are to be formed this week to perform their duties with greater momentum," said the State Counsellor, adding that a CSO Forum is to be held parallel to the political dialogues in order to allow civil society organisations to participate.

"The CSO Forum has to be formed with representatives se-

lected by CSOs themselves, and the NRPC is to provide necessary assistance in this process. Suggestions and recommendations made by the CSO Forum are to be taken into account, and the discussions should not include too many people," she said. Furthermore, the State Counsellor said she would meet the Union-level Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) to clarify matters concerning preparatory measures for the formation of the NRPC and the convening of the 21st-Century Panglong Conference. She also said the reformation of the UPDJC will take place as soon as possible.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Fauna & Flora International calls for oil palm moratorium to protect Myanmar's rainforest

Conservation NGO urges new Myanmar government to halt oil palm development until impacts are better understood and stronger policies are in place.

Conservation NGO Fauna & Flora International (FFI) is calling on the Government of Myanmar to protect the country's last remaining lowland rainforest in the Tanintharyi Region from unsustainable oil palm development.

The call follows the publication of a report on the productivity and sustainability of oil palm plantations in the Tanintharyi Re-

gion of southern Myanmar which found that poor policies and practices in the sector are fuelling unsustainable development of this highly biodiverse landscape. The in-depth assessment was led by John Patrick Baskett, an expert with 45 years of professional experience in oil palm plantation management, and was funded by the European Union, Foundation Segre and Helmsley Charitable Trust.

Tanintharyi Region in southern Myanmar is home to the last significant area of Sundaic

rainforest on the Thai peninsula, a unique form of transitional rainforest located between the evergreen tropical rainforest of Peninsula Malaysia and the monsoon forests to the north. As well as supporting a diverse array of wildlife including tigers² and the striking Gurney's pitta³, these forests also provide critical ecosystem services including water regulations, erosion control and non-timber forest products for local communities, including indigenous Kayin, Dawei and Mon people.—*GNLM*

Ministry of Education Information on School Enrolment in Basic Education School (2016-2017 Academic Year)

Free Education for Basic Education Schools

- A school uniform for each kindergarten student (free of charge)
- A school uniform, six exercise books, and a set of textbooks for each primary school student (free of charge)
- A set of textbooks for each middle school student (free of charge) (Exemption from tuition fees, Parent-Teacher Association fees, sports fees, stationery and library membership fees)
- A set of textbooks for each high school student (free of charge) (Exemption from tuition fees, Parent-Teacher Association fees, sports fees, stationery and library membership fees)

Instructions for Education Staff

- Not to collect any money from students for school enrolment
- Not to receive money or gifts for school enrolment
- Not to sell any class and school batches
- Not to sell any other things

Request to Parents

- To enroll your children in your respective catchment areas
- Not to give any money and gifts to principals, teachers and school staff
- To offer suggestions on better means of school enrolment in catchment areas so that enough textbooks can be distributed according to the number of students enrolled as there has been student enrolment in more than one school and the increasing rate of enrolment

Correction

Please read "new kindergarten course will be introduced in 2016-2017 academic year" instead of "postponed to be introduced in 2017-2018 academic year," in the news titled "Introduction of new kindergarten syllabus postponed to next academic year" carried on page 3, published on 16 May 2016.—*Ed*

13 Myanmar workers rescued from slavery in southern Thailand

THIRTEEN Myanmar workers have been rescued from slavery in a rural province in southern Thailand following the combined efforts by Thai authorities and the Myanmar Association Thailand, according to the MAT yesterday.

The victims, whose ages range from 21 to 64, were enslaved on a fishing boat in Surat Thani Province, more than 700 kilometres ride from Bangkok, for between one and three years, according to the MAT.

"I worked on the fishing

boat for three years and three months without pay," said one of rescued Myanmar workers, adding that they were forced to work on the boat under threat of beatings.

The MAT is working together with anti-human trafficking task forces in Thailand in an effort to rescue trafficked Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand.

According to the MAT, 167 Myanmar victims of trafficking were rescued from human traffickers this year.—*Soe Win*



Rescued workers are seen at office of Myanmar Association Thailand. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY MAT



Police distributing pamphlets to locals at Myoma Market in Pinyin Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

Police promote human trafficking awareness

WITH the aim of reducing trafficking in persons across the country, the Myanmar Police Force is accelerating its prevention activities nationwide under the government's 100-day plan.

The movement was initiated this month by the Anti-trafficking in Persons Division of the police force, and there are plans to carry out public awareness programmes until August 8.

Pamphlets explaining the

danger of human trafficking, prevention methods and ways to contact the Anti-trafficking in Persons Division have been distributed by police between 15 and 22 May in public gathering areas, railway stations, port terminals, airports and border entries.

The squad will conduct awareness seminars at schools, universities, wards, villages and factories between 25 May and 5 August.—*Min Naing*

Crime NEWS

Weapons seized from drug dealers

A CACHE of illegal weapons, including an M16 rifle, a .22 pistol and ammunition, was confiscated from a drug smuggler after local police investigated his car on Saturday.

Acting on a tip-off, an anti-drug squad searched a car driven by Khun Paing Soe in Taunggyi Township and found 160 yaba pills and the two loaded

guns. Police confiscated the contraband and arrested the suspect.

A combined police team also seized 32.6 kilos of raw opium from Myo Khaing and Tayokegyi in Pintaya Township on the same day.

Authorities arrested Zaw Lin Tun, who was found in possession of 0.572 kilos of heroin and 5,800 yaba tablets in Lashio

Township. That same day, township police collected 500 yaba pills from three drug dealers—Lay Phyu, Hmat Gyi, Myo Ko and Hsan Win—in Yanbo Village, Mabain Township.

Nearly 2,000 yaba tablets were also seized from Wai Yan Soe in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, on 13 May.—*Kyemon*



Lay Phyu, Hmat Gyi, Myo Ko and Hsan Win pose with the drugs found in their possession.

Facebook users charged for defamation

THREE facebook users—Su Sandi, Su Su and U Thein Aung—have been charged by police for online defamation under the new Telecommunications Law.

Police on Sunday received a complaint about internet defamation from a nurse working at General Hospital in Sagaing Township. She said she found stories

about her written in foul language posted by Su Sandi, Su Su and U Thein Aung between 12 and 13 May.

Police have filed a lawsuit against those who are involved in the case and are now seeking to arrest the three Facebook users.

The Myanmar Police Force recently invited social media

users to report internet-related crimes and scams with strong evidence, such as electronic records. The Myanmar Police Force's technology department can be reached at 067407158, and crimes may also be reported to township courts and police stations with substantive evidence.—*Myo Win Tun*

Elderly man murdered in Bago

AN ELDERLY man was found dead on Sunday morning in a farm in Phyu Township, Bago Region, by local authorities.

A 60-year-old man named U Soe Lwin left his home at around 2am on 15 May, according to his cousin Daw Aye, 73, who searched for him that morning and found him dead in a field

beside Oakphat Street in Thein-gone Ward.

She immediately informed the police.

Investigators believe the victim was stabbed to death.

Township police officers are still investigating the case in an effort to arrest the murderer.—*Myint Oo*

Falling tree kills elderly man

A 77-YEAR-OLD man died on the spot after a giant tree fell onto his body during a strong wind on Sunday afternoon, police reported yesterday.

Strong wind hit Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region, destroying some old and weak trees and blowing roofs from houses.

According to an investigation, the tree fell onto U Hla Pe, who was riding a bicycle within the compound of the township forest department. He sustained serious injuries to which he succumbed.

Police are still investigating the case.—*Myanmar Police Force*



U Hla Pe was killed by a falling tree during a strong wind storm in Sagain Region. PHOTO:MPF

Police investigate 311 drug-related cases in Sagaing this year

LOCAL police in Sagaing Region investigated 311 cases related to the smuggling of illegal drugs over the past four months, arresting 607 drug dealers, most of them men.

Police seized 1.97 kilos of heroin, nearly 5 kilos of black opium, about 40,000 yaba pills, 55 Buprenorphine tablets and other substances up to the end of April this year.

The region's police colonel said public participation plays an important role in combating drug-related crimes in the region. He added that a significant proportion of the region's drug users are young people.

LOCAL Business

The Netherlands assists onion and potato farmers meet international standards

AN aide fund from the Netherlands government, will assist onion and potato growers reach international standards through technical expertise, said Daw Mu Mu Aung, Deputy Director of Technology and Market Promotion Department for SME Development Department.

Improving the production of onions and potatoes will be demonstrated in Magwe and Sagaing Regions as well as Shan State.

The foreign experts will provide assistance in their related sectors in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation. This project will start at some time in October, she added.

Myanmar has already received the technical assistance on developing the tea leaf, mangoes and coffees sectors helping them to be of a higher quality.—WWP/*Union Daily*

Farmers work in onion plantation in Monwya. PHOTO: PO CHAN



Car showroom sizes reduced by 50 per cent

THE Supervisory Committee of Motor Vehicle Imports has announced that showroom space will be reduced by 50 per cent.

Car showrooms are currently 10,000 square feet wide, but are to be reduced to 5,000 square feet, in order to create more space allowing business owners to expand into condense areas.

Showrooms should be given extra if they are really using the space for keeping cars. Show-

rooms should be issued with the permits depending on the number of cars they actually keep. The space for showroom and sale centers is currently around 10,000 square feet and so there are the space difficulties setting up showrooms downtown. "Our association asked the authority to set up a space of around 4,800 square feet for showrooms," said an importer.

The number of the legal business people will increase

if the government relax regulations and reduce the size of showrooms. The authority concerned should have reduced the space of the showrooms rather than reducing the storage space, said one car dealer.

Currently, the space of the showrooms was reduced only 10 per cent, rendering the showrooms and sale centers in Yangon with space difficulties.—*MLT/Union Daily*

LPG license to be issued extensively

MINISTRY of Electric and Energy has announced that it will begin issuing licenses for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in masse to ensure the regulation and legal trade of LPG. The license will enable entrepreneurs to engage in import, storage, sale and distribution of LPG.

The business people who wish to engage in LPG related businesses can apply for a license which will be granted before July, according to announcements from the Ministry.

There are five different licenses for LPG related businesses. Currently, the import licenses have already been issued to seven private companies, six of which had previously held licenses for storage, sale and distribution, according to the Ministry.

Mainly LPG is used in restaurants and the home. But the future of LPG in Myanmar will focus on producing energy in order to power Myanmar's hunger for electricity.

According to the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, along with a US\$400 million loan from the World Bank in 2015 is to connect 60 per cent of Myanmar to the nationwide grid, while 40 per cent will connect to off-grid electricity by 2021, according to a report released by the Center for Strategic and International Studies in October 2015.

The largest exporter of LPG to Myanmar is Thailand.—*NG/Union Daily w/ GNLM*

Myanmar coffee set for sale in America

MYANMAR Special Arabica coffee cultivated in townships of Shan State and Pyin-Oo-Lwin in Mandalay Region will be first exported to America, according to the Myanmar Coffee Association (MCA).

In April, a container load of coffee was exported to Switzerland, allowing the exporters to earn US\$ 3,800-4,000 per tonne.

Winrock International helped Myanmar coffee to meet the international export quality standard with the assistance of USAID. Currently, Japan and South Korea purchase Myanmar coffee.

We aimed to export the two container loads of coffee. The price offered depends on the quality and the market. The price offered to the coffee growers and the production costs have to be transparent to build trust with the buyers. Only then, our market lasts longer, "The higher the quality of the coffee is, the more we earn", said U Ye Myint, the chairman of MCA.

Myanmar coffee has attracted the attention of the international dealers at the international coffee expo recently held in the American city of Atlanta, Georgia. The stable market and assistance is required to develop Myanmar's coffee production.

MCA will also provide the technical assistance and coffee seeds for the coffee growers. The Finnish government announced in December 2015 that it will donate US\$3 million for farmers to buy coffee seeds and fertilizers in order to deter poor farmers from cultivating opium poppy.

Coffee is one of many crops that groups use to encourage farmers in poor socio-economic areas to grow coffee instead of opium poppy, which is largely grown in Shan and Kachin States. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said that the soil and climate in northern Myanmar are perfect for farming coffee.

Coffee plantations first started in Myanmar in 1885 as ministries set up plantations in Myeik and Dawei, though these two project finished a few years after they were set up. Kayin tribes are known for producing Robusta coffee, which still carries on to this day, according to FAO. The International Coffee Association global notes that demand for coffee has increased 2.5 per cent since 2012, with 150.2 million, 60kg bags were consumed in 2014.—*200 w/GNLM*

Kaymu online shopping site hits 2,000 retailers

THE German online shopping website Kaymu has announced that it has successfully connected with over 2,000 retailers in Myanmar over the last two years.

"We've seen an increase in sales by approximately 20 per cent, which is mainly to do with people having more trust toward online shopping," said Alexander Wiedner, a business development executive for Kaymu Myanmar.

utive for Kaymu Myanmar.

The Kaymu website features over 2,000 stores, shopping transactions taking place between 200 and 500 of those stores every day. Products purchased are sent daily to 58 large urban centres around the country through Kaymu's delivery network.

"Business was slow at the start of trading [with Kaymu], but

we've now sold nearly 1,000 products. The main items we sell are mobile phones, accessories and gadgets," said U Aung Ko Oo.

Myanmar is still a developing country, but the increase in mobile phone usage throughout the country has allowed its online market to develop rapidly, with kitchen appliances soon to go on sale online.

"The main issue with online

shopping is discrepancies between the advertised photo of the product and its actual quality. You also can't exchange shoes should the size you purchase not fit properly. On top of that, I've experienced costly delivery fees because of not living on the main road. Even the township delivery agents aren't familiar with the roads in the township, frequently calling

me for directions and disrupting my work," said Ma Nan Chit from Yangon's Mingala Taung Nyunt Township.

Kaymu is a venture of the German Rocket Internet company, which first started its operations in Nigeria and Pakistan in 2013 before setting foot into the nascent Myanmar market the following year.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Armed with drones, aid workers seek faster response to earthquakes, floods

KATHMANDU — For weeks after Nepal's worst earthquake in 80 years, the skies above the Himalayan nation vibrated with military helicopters ferrying relief, airplanes bringing in aid workers, and drones.

When the 7.8 magnitude quake struck Nepal in April 2015, flattening homes and killing thousands of people, authorities scrambled to assess the damage and deliver relief to survivors.

Within hours foreign governments and aid agencies had heeded the overwhelmed Nepali government's appeal for assistance, sending everything from medical equipment to plastic sheets, food rations and clean water.

They also sent drones. Long associated with

conflicts where they have been deployed in air strikes and for intelligence or surveillance purposes, the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) is rising in other areas, including response to natural disasters.

In Nepal, several agencies used them for search and rescue missions and to map out toppled monuments, ruined heritage sites and devastated homes.

The International Organisation for Migration has been using drones since 2012 to capture the damage in Haiti after its 2010 earthquake.

Drones were again used in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 as a tool for reconstruction efforts, and are now being deployed there to find out where farmland is most at

risk from natural disasters, and to assess their impact.

In 2014, Medecins Sans Frontieres piloted the use of drones to deliver vaccines and medicine in Papua New Guinea, while the World Health Organisation trialled a similar programme in Bhutan, researchers said.

"The beauty of drones is that they are cheap, easy to use and people can be taught to use them quickly, so there is no need for foreign aid workers to parachute into disaster zones," said Faine Greenwood, research assistant on drones at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative.

With an ability to produce 3-D maps that are often more detailed than satellite imagery, drones can rapidly provide valuable in-



A woman stands on top of debris cleared from a collapsed house a year after the 2015 earthquakes in Bhaktapur, Nepal, on 25 April, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

formation on the humanitarian needs of survivors.

While supporters of the technology hail its potential to revolutionise humanitarian work, industry experts warn of the security, ethical and legal concerns it raises

for agencies and governments. For example in Nepal, media reports of drones flying near security installations stoked fears the footage could be misused.

Nepal had no regulations on drones when disas-

ter struck, leading to confusion within the government and aid agencies on how they should use the technology, said Patrick Meier, founder of humanitarian UAV network UAViators.—Reuters

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Viet Nam TV says 'reactionary forces' at work in environmental protest



Violinist Ta Tri Hai performs in front of demonstrators who are holding signs during a protest in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 1 May 2016 against a unit of Taiwan's Formosa Plastics, a firm they blame for causing an environmental disaster and the death of large numbers of fish in central coast provinces in April. PHOTO: REUTERS

HANOI — Viet Nam's state television issued a warning to the public on Sunday to shun calls by "reactionary forces" to join protests over an environmental disaster it said was being exploited to try to overthrow the government.

An 11-minute prime-time report on Viet Nam Television (VTV) disclosed names and images of well-known dissidents and bloggers it said were trying to dupe the public and violently undermine the government, with support and

funding from overseas groups.

Although communist Viet Nam has long sought to silence and discredit its critics the warning by the country's biggest broadcaster of possible seditious activity was highly detailed and of an unusually long duration. It was carried by several other major state-run channels.

"Their intention to abuse and disturb was revealed when many subjects called for using knives and petrol bombs to attack the

functional forces and to overthrow the authorities," the narrator of the VTV report said.

"Many people may ask what kind of peaceful marches are they ... Is this possibly a preparation for a riot and overthrow?" the voice-over asked.

The warning came as protesters had tried to rally for a third successive Sunday to vent their anger at the government and a unit of Taiwan's Formosa Plastics, a firm they blame for causing an environmental

disaster and the death of large numbers of fish in central coast provinces in April.

Tight security in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City prevented major rallies taking place, however, although some social media postings showed small groups of demonstrators gathering.

A government investigation into the fish deaths is underway but its preliminary probe found no links to Formosa's \$10.6 billion coastal steel plant in Ha Tinh Province.—Reuters

Climate change and its impact on health

YANGON — • In the last 130 years, the world has warmed by approximately 0.85°C. As a result, extreme weather events are becoming more intense and frequent.

- Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250 000 additional deaths per year, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.

- Direct damage cost to health is estimated to be between US\$ 2-4 billion/year by 2030.

Prolonged and sustained heat waves can also be attributed to climate change, and are occurring more and more frequently in many parts of the world. Extreme high air temperatures contribute directly to deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory disease, particularly among elderly people. In addition, high temperatures raise the levels of ozone and other pollutants in the air, which exacerbate cardiovascular and respiratory disease.

In April and May 2016, the South East Asia region experienced drought, severe heat and water shortages, exacerbated by one of strongest El Niño climate cycles in decades. In Myanmar, several cases of heat-related illnesses were reported across the country, including cases of death from heat stroke.

Health effects of heat on the body

An increase in heat-related health problems is common during heat waves. Common symptoms of heat-related illnesses are: dehydration, fatigue, cramps, exhaustion, heavy sweating, faster and weaker pulse.

Heat-related illnesses are preventable and treatable, but can become fatal if symptoms are not addressed in a timely way. Heat stroke is a serious condition where the body temperature rises to dangerous levels, and it can lead to death.

Risk factors for heat-related illnesses

The main predisposing factors for heat-related illness are:

- Age – elderly people (65 or older) are more at risk;
- Dehydration because of reduced food and liquid uptake, in-



Children play in the sand in a village of Magway region, dry zone, Myanmar. PHOTO: WHO MM

testinal problems, use of diuretics and alcohol abuse;

- Use of drugs and medication affecting the body temperature regulation system;
- Lower levels of fitness;
- Overweight;
- Fatigue, sleep deprivation, long-term high-level exercise and wearing protective clothing.

What to do to prevent and manage heat-related illnesses

Although anyone at any time can suffer from heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others. Check regularly on: infants and young children, people aged 65 or older, people who have a mental illness and those who are physically ill. If you know any elderly person living alone or isolated, make sure to regularly establish contact to check on their health (also known as 'buddy system').

Keep informed on the weather by regularly checking weather forecast by the national Department of Meteorology and listen to the authorities' recommendations.

In order to prevent and manage heat-related illnesses, everyone should:

- Drink more water and fluids (non-alcoholic), regardless of activity levels. Don't wait until you are thirsty to drink. Water

consumption is a key measure for contrasting dehydration.

- Don't drink liquids that contain caffeine, alcohol, or large amounts of sugar – these actually cause you to lose more body fluids and worsen dehydration.

- Stay indoors and, if possible, stay in an air-conditioned or ventilated place.

- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.

- NEVER leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle.

If you must be out in the heat:

- Limit your outdoor activity to morning and evening hours.

- Cut down on exercise. If you must exercise, drink more water and non-alcoholic fluids.

- Try to rest often in shady areas.

- Protect yourself from the sun by wearing a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses and by putting on sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher (the most effective products say "broad spectrum" or "UVA/UVB protection" on their labels).

If symptoms of heat-related illnesses do not improve by cooling the body down and drinking water and fluids, one could be at risk of heat stroke. This is a medical emergency: seek medical help as soon as possible.—WHO/Myanmar

UN Secretary-General's Message on World Telecommunication And Information Society Day

17 May 2016

The international community is now mobilized around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes the great potential of information and communication technology (ICT) to accelerate human progress, bridge the digital divide and advance knowledge. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals specifically call for employing ICTs to realize the overall vision of a life of dignity for all people.

These technologies provide smart solutions to address climate change, hunger, poverty and other global challenges. They are key instruments for providing mobile health care and access to education, empowering women, improving efficiencies in industrial and agricultural production, and safeguarding the environment.

Start-ups and technology hubs in the ICT sector are the drivers of innovative and practical solutions that can contribute to inclusive growth. Small to medium-sized enterprises make up more than 90 per cent of all businesses worldwide, and represent a path out of poverty for many developing countries.

Young people are especially fluent in the use of ICTs. Leaders should invest in young innovators, who are part of the largest generation of youth in history. As entrepreneurs, they can pioneer transformative technology, create jobs and benefit whole economies.

I call upon governments, businesses and civil society leaders to develop new technologies that have a lasting social impact. ICTs can create more inclusive societies for persons with disabilities. They can help children to learn and the elderly to stay active. And ICTs can connect people around the world in common cause.

On this World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, let us resolve to harness the power of technology to create a better future for all.—UNIC/Yangon

China to let more cities build metro systems — Economic Information Daily

BEIJING — China plans to relax minimum population requirements for cities that wish to build subway systems, opening up opportunities for a fresh bonanza of infrastructure investment, the state-owned *Economic Information Daily* reported on Monday.

Citing unidentified authorities, the newspaper said that cities with an urban population of more than 1.5 million people would be allowed to build metro projects.

Previously, only cities with a population of more than 3 million people and annual revenues of 10 billion yuan (\$1.53 billion) were eligible. The relaxation underscores China's continued reliance on investment-led growth to support the slowing economy,

which is credited by analysts as being behind recent signs of improvement in activity but also as creating a risk as debt levels rise. The newspaper said China's economic development had reached a new stage in which the fast expansion of cities was spurring traffic demand, and that population size should no longer be a key determinant of urban rail transit construction. Last week, China's transport ministry said the country will invest around 4.7 trillion yuan in transport infrastructure projects over the next three years. So far, 26 Chinese cities have built metro systems while another 39 have projects approved, the National Development and Reform Commission said in January.—Reuters



A metro staff waves a flag at Disney Resort metro station which is going to be opened to the public soon in Shanghai, China, on 25 April, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Narrow majority of French back labour reform protests

PARIS — A slim majority of French people are in favour of protests against a deeply contested labour reform the ruling Socialist Party is pushing through parliament, a poll showed on Sunday.

The government faces strikes and new waves of protests after opting last week to use a rarely used constitutional clause to pass

the legislation in the face of opposition from rebel Socialist lawmakers and other leftists.

Some 54 per cent of those surveyed said they supported the protests against the law to free up France's rigid labour market while 45 percent did not, according to the BVA poll of 1,160 people on May 12 and 13 for Orange and Itele.

Support had fallen only slightly from the 56 per cent seen when the poll was first conducted in early April.

Protesters' anger is focussed on the government's plans to make hiring and firing easier in an attempt to get stubbornly high unemployment falling, with presidential elections a year away.—Reuters

Opinion

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Let's change ourselves first

Khin Maung Aye

Myanmar school children used to be required to chant a slogan during morning assemblies. They had to vow: "We will try to become good students first. Then, we will try together for our class to become a good class. Next, we will make concerted efforts to make our school a good school. Finally, we, as the citizens, will try our utmost to be in the best service of our country".

This slogan is still useful

for our people today who want to change this country for the better. If people really want change, they must change themselves first. They should not think their duties ended when they voted for the then-opposition party led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in the 2015 election. It is clear that people admire the State Counsellor. However, admiration alone does not work. In this regard, it would not be inappropriate to quote a *jataka* (a tale

from the life of Buddha Gotama) in which a monk who was blamed by the Lord Buddha for the former's failure to meditate. The monk is said to have been staying near the Buddha the whole day, doing nothing, just gazing at the Buddha with profound admiration and appreciation. The Buddha expounded to the monk that it is meditation that could make him attain enlightenment and that just harbouring admiration and appreciation for him

would lead him nowhere.

In the same vein, it is time for the entire mass of people to actively participate in the process of change, starting from changing one's mind-set, mentality, attitude, behaviour and manner in order to change the country for the better. In this function, The Global New Light of Myanmar would like to encourage all citizens to participate in the process of change, starting with the self, to create a better country.

Plant More Trees!

KO MYAT

Recently, mass media in Myanmar is teeming with news about extreme weather conditions_ drought, hailstorm, sudden gale, scarcity of water and very high temperature. Most cities across the country are recording 40 °C (104 °F) and above temperatures this month. People have to endure unbearably intense heat for days. Some people put blame on the El Nino, one of the strongest in the world. But one of the most influencing factors is beyond notice. It is gradual depletion of plants and trees throughout the country.

Nearly forty years ago, in my hometown, when I began my first school days, there were lots of shady trees beside the roads. In those days, people went from place to place mostly on foot and took a rest under a shady tree and drank water from the pot on a stand under it. Thus they got relief from fatigue and heat.

Nowadays, in urbanization process, flats and buildings are springing up like mushrooms while plants and trees are disappearing like a cloud driven by the wind. People of the past loved planting and nurturing trees. They were reluctant to cut down and destroy them. They liked to cool themselves in natural ways. By contrast, people of the present day no longer regard trees and plants as valuable things. They tend to uproot them more easily and readily than before. They rely more on electronic goods instead _ electric fans, air coolers and air-conditioners.

I am not implying that we should stop using these luxury goods neglecting the benefits of modern technology. I would like to highlight that we are depending on technology more often than

necessary.

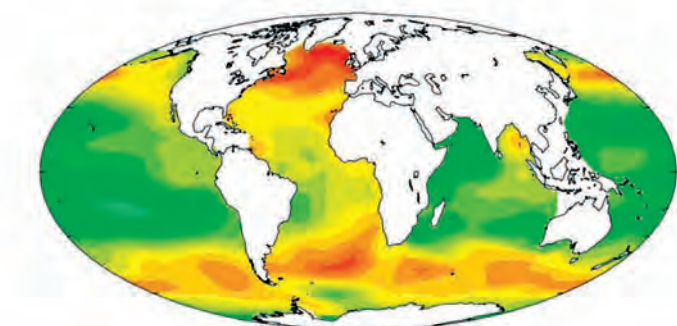
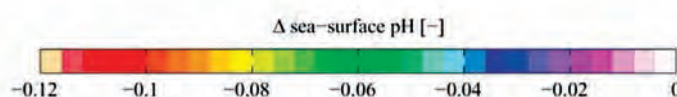
We should love the environment as equally as technology.

Today our planet earth is getting hotter and hotter year after year. Scientists are warning that the global warming is accelerating faster than before. The carbon dioxide (CO₂) gas accumulation in the atmosphere is getting higher and higher. World's leaders are also gathering up and seeking an agreement in Climate Change Conference, which is annually held by the United Nations.

Trees and plants do good to the environment through photosynthesis, a process that captures light energy to produce nutrients in the presence of the chlorophyll using carbon dioxide and water with the by-product of oxygen. But, in respiration, they take in oxygen for burning nutrients to produce energy for growth and metabolic processes with by-products of carbon dioxide and water. Considering the net production of oxygen and the net removal of carbon dioxide

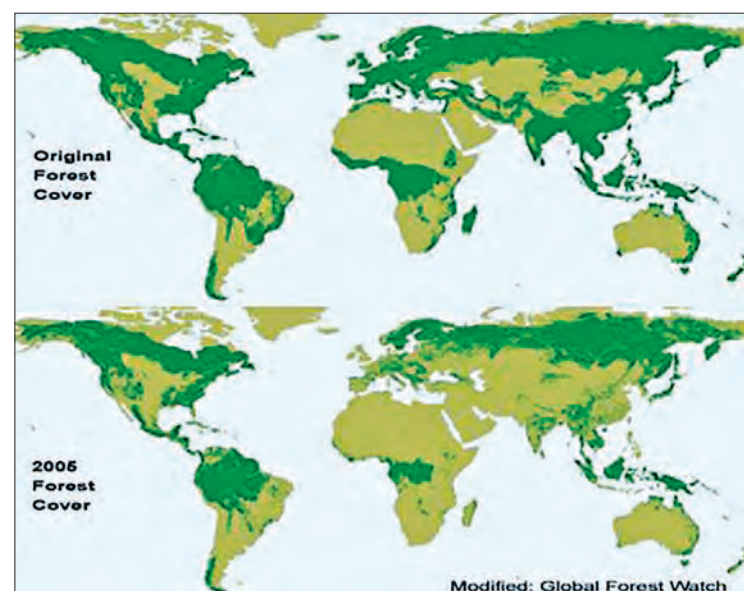
plants and trees are indeed conducive to the health of the earth and its inhabitants. According to Environment Canada, Canada's national environmental agency, one tree produces, on average, nearly 260 pounds of oxygen each year, and two mature trees can provide enough oxygen for a family of four.

It has been learnt that about 30-40% of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by human activities is absorbed by world's oceans. The more concentration of the atmospheric carbon dioxide, the more they dissolve in the oceans. This paves the way for an abnormal condition called ocean acidification_ the decrease in the pH value of Earth's oceans_ disrupting the ecosystem of marine life especially corals, jumbo squid, blue mussels, oysters, lobsters and pteropods. Here we must note that the oceans are really basic (alkaline) and will always remain so despite the name 'ocean acidification'



Estimated change in sea water pH caused by human created CO₂ between the 1700s and the 1990s, from the Global Ocean Data Analysis Project (GLODAP) and the World Ocean Atlas

Credit: Wikipedia



World Resources Institute (WRI) has said in a research that '30 percent of global forest cover has been cleared, while another 20 percent has been degraded. Most of the rest has been fragmented, leaving only about 15 percent intact'. World's deforestation accelerated in the process of industrialization and urbanization. Even though there is annual loss of forest cover area in the world, the global rate of deforestation is now slowing thanks to conservation and reforestation programs across the globe.

But, urban deforestation has now, I think, become a challenging problem for most cities all over the world. We should plant more trees in the urban areas and conserve the existing ones. American Forests, Washington-based non-profit conservation organization founded in 1875, has published on its website the benefits of urban reforestation: Urban forests help

- (1) to purify the air we breathe
- (2) to manage city's water
- (3) to reduce energy demand
- (4) to improve the urban experience for its residents
- (5) to mitigate climate change
- (6) to make communities

adapt to climate change

(For more detailed explanation, please visit their website: <https://www.americanforests.org/our-programs/urbanforests/why-we-care>)

In our country, Myanmar, there is noticeable depletion of plants and trees in the urban areas these days. When temperature soared to extreme highs in most cities, there was sudden surge in energy demand, triggering the system breakdown now and then in national power grid. So we must try to plant right types of plants and trees in the right places at the right times. Recently I happened to read a volunteer's Facebook post saying that he would donate 'shade' to those in need and that if asked for, he would volunteer to plant trees for his fellow townsfolk. I envy his goodwill and everybody ought to follow his example.

We must teach our children to love and care plants and trees. Local authorities and civil societies would have to collaborate on the projects of urban reforestation and conservation. We must avoid activities damaging our surroundings. We should start this green campaign sooner rather than later. For a better place to live, plant more trees!

Photo exhibition encourages protection of Myanmar birds

A LOCAL team working to conserve Myanmar bird species will hold a photography exhibition in July in Yangon that will showcase the natural characters and lives of native birds.

The event is scheduled to be held on 23 and 24 July in conjunction with educational talks. The organisers have invited photographers from around the country to take part in the exhibition.

The major purpose of the exhibition is to raise awareness about the conservation of birds and the natural environment, one event organiser said.

"Birds play a crucial role in balancing the ecosystem. Some species are facing extinction," said an executive member of the team. Enthusiasts from Shan State and Taninthayi Region may submit their photos to laywin.wild@gmail.com; from Manda-

lay and Sagaing Region to zaymaungthein@gmail.com; from Bagan and nearby areas, Magway Region and Chin State to baganbirdwatching001@gmail.com; from Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine State to thaung.th@gmail.com; from Kachin State and elsewhere in the country to nilzwm@gmail.com. —Khin Zali



A photo submitted to the exhibition by photographer Thet Win.



Residents collect donated water.

Myanmar Police Force donates water to communities suffering from water scarcity

GROUNDWATER resources are facing depletion throughout the country as the effects of El Niño set in across the country. The Myanmar Police Force has been donating clean water to communities facing water shortages.

On 15 May, members of police forces of Minbu, Myothit, Magwe, Ngape and Minhla townships in Mgawe Region distributed 19,300 gallons of clean water and 1,820 gallons of purified drinking water to local residents, and members of

the Pang Long Township Police Station supplied 1,000 gallons of drinking water to people in the township.

The Myanmar Police Force donated 368,572 gallons of clean water between 25 April and 15 May.—Ye Zarni

Pakokku GAD discusses 100-day plan



District Administrator delivering the opening speech. PHOTO: SALAI KO KI

A COORDINATION meeting on the Myanmar government's 100-day plan for public security, rule of law and crime suppression was held in Pakokku Township on 15 May. At the event, the admin-

istrator of the Pakokku District Administrative Department made the opening speech, and District Police Commander Police Lt Col Hla Win and Police Major Nyunt Zaw of the Pakokku Township

Police Force explained the current status of the 100-day plan.

The attendees made suggestions about the plan, and officials compiled supplementary reports.—Salai Ko Ki

Thai employers wait for Myanmar migrants to return to work

HALF of the Myanmar migrants working in Thailand's fishing industry who returned to Myanmar during the Thingyan Water Festival did not come back to their work-sites, according to one Thai employer.

Most of the workers in Thailand's fishing industry are from Myanmar. Around 50,000 migrants in one district returned home after Thai author-

ities began arresting people on illegal fishing boats there.

Employers are still waiting for them, and some have sent requests to the Myanmar government to urge the fishermen to return to their work.

A Thai businessman said the price of aquaculture products is likely to increase in the country's seafood market in the aftermath of the sudden labour shortage.—Kyaw Soe



Photos show damaged buildings in Mong Long. Strong wind and heavy rains damaged two classrooms at the Mong Long Basic Education High School, a Fire Service Department building, a monastery and several homes and brought down several trees in Mong Long, Kyaukme District, Shan State, on 15 May.

PHOTO: KYAUKME IPRD

Pathein farmers receive K9 billion in loans

WITH the aim of assisting farmers to cultivate monsoon crops, local authorities will disburse loans to growers across Pathein Township, Ayeyawady Region, starting from the last week of May.

"We plan to provide K9 billion in loans to local growers from 75 village-tracts in the region," said a local government

official. "We disbursed loans for the cultivation of 57,192 acres of farmland last monsoon season, and that number has increased to 60,000 this year," said U Myint Soe, the manager of the township agriculture department.

The regional government will offer K150,000 per acre to farmers this financial year.—200

Sri Lankan president calls for immediate action to assist thousands affected by heavy rains

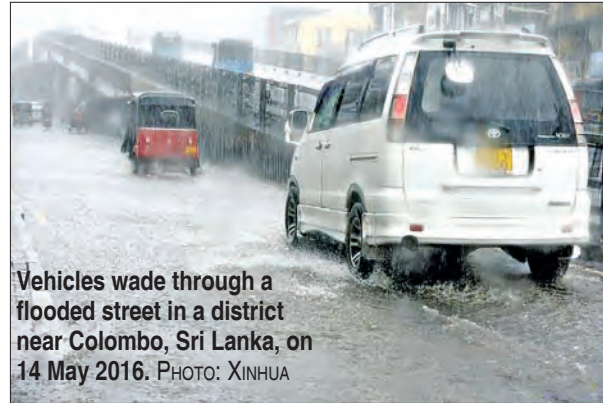
COLOMBO — Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on Monday instructed authorities to provide immediate relief to the thousands of people who had been affected by heavy winds and rains within the past 36 hours in Sri Lanka.

A statement released by his office said that the president had issued instructions to allocate the necessary funds to supply food and other required facilities to those affected by the extreme weather.

The president further gave instructions to the minister of disaster management, defence secretary, tri

forces' commanders and the inspector general of police to be vigilant about disaster situations that can occur in the future. Sirisena also emphasized the need of implementing a comprehensive programme to apprise the public regarding the natural disasters that could occur in any part of the country and also to establish a mechanism through which the public can inform their grievances. Extreme weather which began in the island country on Saturday evening continued into Monday killing at least three people and affecting over 8,000 people. A flood alert was issued

in Sri Lanka on Monday as the water levels of two major rivers rose rapidly due to continuous heavy rains. The Disaster Management Centre said that authorities were on alert and were ready to face any emergency situation if the rivers over spilled. Residents along the river banks have been evacuated and housed at temporary camps. The Meteorology Department in a weather alert earlier on Monday said that heavy rains and strong winds would continue in many parts of the island country and people had been advised to remain cautious. Several roads in the



Vehicles waded through a flooded street in a district near Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 14 May 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

country have been cut off from minor floods and fallen trees and many schools around the country remained closed on Monday.

Armed forces are also on alert and have been conducting search and rescue operations since Sunday. Naval troops were seen patrolling along the rivers and canals, asking residents if any assistance was required. —Xinhua

Viet Nam, Laos commit to closely coordinating Mekong water use

HANOI — Vietnamese Prime Minister (PM) Nguyen Xuan Phuc and his Lao counterpart Thongloun Sisoulith on Sunday agreed to work with other countries and international organisations to manage and use the Mekong water resources in a sustainable and effective manner.

The consensus was made during talks between the two PMs in Viet Nam's capital Hanoi on the occasion of Thongloun's visit to Viet Nam.

At their talks, Phuc said the Lao government chief's choosing Viet Nam as the first country to visit after taking office reflects the importance that Laos attaches to the friendship and cooperation with Viet Nam, reported Viet Nam's state-run news agency VNA.

Both sides were pleased with their mutual support at regional and international forums, such as the cooperation mechanisms of Cambodia--Laos — Viet Nam (CLV) and Cambodia — Laos — Viet Nam — Myanmar (CLMV), the Ayeyawady — Chao Phraya — Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), the Asia — Europe Meeting and the United Nations. —Xinhua

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kmma@kcyangon.com

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (287) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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 CMA CGM LINE

Phone No: 2301185

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Four-nation group to discuss prospects for Afghan peace process

ISLAMABAD — Top diplomats from Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and the United States are scheduled to meet in Islamabad on 18 May to discuss ways how to start the peace talks in Afghanistan, officials and diplomats said on Sunday.

This would be the first meeting of the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) since the Taliban have refused to take part in the direct talks with the Afghan government. The QCG in its last meeting in Kabul in February had invited the insurgents to join the process by the first week of March.

The meeting is seen very important as Afghanistan is now pushing for action against the Taliban as they are unwilling to come to the negotiation table and launched their annual Spring Offensive.

The Taliban huge suicide bombing in Kabul on 19 April that killed 64 people and injured nearly 350 has badly affected efforts



Soldiers take part in a military operation in Nahr-e-Saraj District of Helmand Province, Afghanistan, on 11 May 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

for the peace negotiations. President Ashraf Ghani in his parliament speech on 25th April had prioritised war with the Taliban.

The Afghan government now wants the QCG to opt for action against the Taliban. However, Pakistan still insists on the political negotiations.

Pakistan has been im-

pressing upon the US and Afghan side that the reconciliation process needs to be given a fair chance and more time, Pakistan Foreign Affairs adviser, Sartaj Aziz, recently told the Senate.

Irreconcilable elements can be targeted after concerted efforts of negotiations have failed. We hope to discuss these issues in detail during the upcoming round of the QCG in Islamabad on 18-19 May, Aziz further said.

Afghan ambassador in Islamabad, Omar Zakhilwal, said on Sunday Kabul now calls on the QCG to pronounce the Taliban as “irreconcilable because they have publicly rejected the talks.—Xinhua

Islamic State on the defensive, territory shrinking in Syria and Iraq — US official

AMMAN — Islamic State has not gained significant ground since it took the Iraqi city of Ramadi a year ago, which it then lost in December, as the US-led coalition in Iraq and Syria has been helped by better intelligence and better equipped local forces, a senior US official said on Sunday.

Islamic State “is shrinking so they are very much on the defensive,” Brett McGurk, US President Barack Obama’s special envoy in the fight against Islamic State, told a news conference in Amman.

Islamic State controls the cities of Mosul in Iraq and Raqqa in Syria and is proving a potent threat abroad, claiming credit for major attacks in Paris in November and Brussels in March.

McGurk said that US-led coalition effort to capture Mosul and Raqqa was making progress.

“We are doing precision strikes in Mosul almost every day,” he added. “There is constant synchronized pressure,” he said.

McGurk cited a recent operation in which the coalition located and targeted Islamic State’s cash stores in Mosul and “took out hundreds of millions of dollars out of their coffers.”

This triggered a cash crunch that forced the militants to cut the pay of their fighters by half. He did not say when the operation took place.

Islamic militants’ nervousness was evidenced by the recent public executions in the city’s main square and a widespread clamp down on internet services in Mosul, McGurk said.

In Raqqa, McGurk said valuable intelligence gathered from a major trove of data and information obtained by US special forces in a raid in eastern Syria last year allowed the coalition to better target militants, McGurk said.—Reuters

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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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PACAO VOY NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACAO VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MCC S’PORE VOY NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC S’PORE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MARENS VOY NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARENS VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

Trump aide dismisses audio tape as Democrats raise character issue

WASHINGTON — A top aide to Donald Trump said on Sunday he did not believe the Republican presidential front-runner posed as his own spokesman to brag about his personal life, a controversy that came as Democrats sharpen their attacks on the billionaire's character.

The Washington Post released an audio recording on Friday of a man who identified himself as Trump publicist "John Miller" and talked about the real estate tycoon's romantic encounters in a 1991 conversation with a People magazine reporter.

After listening to the tape while appearing on CNN's "State of the Union" show, senior Trump adviser Paul Manafort said he did not believe it was the Republican candidate's voice despite his past admissions of sometimes using a pseudonym.

"I could barely understand it," Manafort said. "I couldn't tell who it is. Donald Trump says it's not him, I believe it's not him."

Trump told NBC's "Today" show on Friday that the voice was not his, although he has admitted in years past to using at least one pseudonym to speak to reporters.

The original People article, which ran in 1991, winkingly described Miller as "a mysterious PR man who sounds just like Donald."

Within a few days of that article, Sue Carswell, the People reporter who originally made the recording, reported that Trump had admitted that he posed as Miller as a joke and had apologised for it.

Trump earlier this month effectively locked up the Republican nomination to run in the Nov. 8 presidential election and has been working to try to



Republican US presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally in Eugene, Oregon, US on 6 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

unify his party after many of its leaders opposed his candidacy.

Leading Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's allies have described Trump as "deceptive" and honed in on his treatment of women. Clinton has begun attacking Trump more aggressively since he effectively secured the nomination, deriding his character and recently suggesting he is hiding something by not releasing his tax returns.

Trump has reacted angrily to criticism he sometimes reduces women to their appearances, and in turn has criticized Clinton for how she and her husband, Bill Clinton, treated women who accused the former president of sexual indiscretions.

Bill Clinton has admitted to having extra-marital affairs with two women: Monica Lewinsky, a White House intern, and Gennifer Flowers, a singer and actor from Arkansas.—Reuters

Dozens arrested in Washington state environmental protest

WASHINGTON — Dozens of people were arrested in Washington state on Sunday, two days after protesters set up a blockade on railroad tracks leading to a pair of oil refineries as part of a global protest over dependence on fossil fuels, authorities said.

The protesters, camping out on BNSF Railway [BNSF.UL] tracks at Anacortes, Washington, about 70 miles (113 km) north of Seattle, refused police orders to disperse, said Katie McCulloch, a spokesman for the Skagit County Department of Emergency Management.

All of the 52 protesters under arrest were charged with trespassing, while one person was also charged with resisting arrest, according to a statement on the department's website. No injuries were reported.

Billed as Break Free 2016, the protests on six

continents are part of a 12-day campaign to call attention to climate change and to demand a transition to clean energy, according to the organisation's website.

"Break Free is about pressuring the system so we get the change we need, but it's also about imagining an alternative," said Ahmed Gaya, an organizer for Break Free Pacific Northwest.

About 150 people began demonstrating on Friday night in Anacortes on tracks leading to Tesoro Corp and Royal Dutch Shell refineries. Tesoro spokeswoman Destin Singleton said operations at the refinery were not affected.

The protesters had about 40 tents on the rail property, said BNSF spokesman Gus Melonas. The rail line was shut down during the protests but reopened on Sunday, he said.—Reuters

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Yangon City Development Committee

Invitation for Prequalification Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project

Date: May 17, 2016

Loan Agreement No.: MY-P5

IFP No.: PQ-ICB-03

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency toward the cost of the Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.
2. The Head of Department, Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), Yangon City Development Committee intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for:
 - Construction of a 700mm diameter treated water transmission pipeline below the Bago River using tunneling method.
 - Crossing length: approx. 820m.
 - Tunnel internal diameter: $\geq 1,000$ mm.
 - Treated water transmission pipeline: internal diameter ≥ 700 mm
 - Shafts: depth ≥ 32 m, diameter ≥ 5 m
3. It is expected that Invitation for Bids will be made in October 2016.
4. Prequalification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Applicants from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.
5. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Prequalification Documents at the office of Head of Department, Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), Yangon City Development Committee from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
6. A complete set of the Prequalification Documents may be purchased by interested Applicant(s) from 17 May to 31 May 2016 on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of MMK 15,000.
7. Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below by 12:00 noon - July 20, 2016, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project Contract Package No. ICB-03".

Head of Department

Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation)

Yangon City Development Committee

Mr. Myint Oo

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The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Yangon City Development Committee

Invitation for Prequalification Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project

Date: May 17, 2016

Loan Agreement No.: MY-P5

IFP No.: PQ-ICB-04

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency toward the cost of the Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.
2. The Head of Department, Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), Yangon City Development Committee intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for:
 - Construction of distribution main and service pipeline with approx. 300 km in length in distribution zone 7 & 8.
 - Construction of 60 district metering facilities including installation of district meters procured under contract ICB-05.
 - Installation of service connections including 50,000 water meters procured under contract ICB-05.
3. It is expected that Invitation for Bids will be made in October 2016.
4. Prequalification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Applicants from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.
5. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Prequalification Documents at the office of Head of Department, Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), Yangon City Development Committee from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
6. A complete set of the Prequalification Documents may be purchased by interested Applicant(s) from 17 May to 31 May 2016 on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of MMK 15,000.
7. Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below by 12:00 noon - July 20, 2016, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project Contract Package No. ICB-04".

Head of Department

Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation)

Yangon City Development Committee

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Poo-powered pumps help Pakistan farmers grow richer, greener

FATEH JHANG, (Pakistan) — For farmer Mujahid Abbasi, switching the power source for his irrigation pump from diesel to biogas has brought economic and health gains.

The 43-year-old from Fateh Jhang village, some 26 miles (42 km) from Pakistan's capital city Islamabad, has benefited from a pilot project led by the Punjab provincial government to provide biogas equipment at a subsidised rate.

Abbasi uses dung from his 30 buffalo to produce nearly 40 cubic metres of gas per day, which powers his irrigation pump for six hours and his family's cooking

stove. The father of five says cutting out diesel has saved him around \$10-\$12 daily over the past 13 months.

He has used the money to plant seasonal vegetables on five additional hectares that had lain fallow for several years due to a lack of funds. Turning a lever to start his groundwater pump, Abbasi recalls how the 20-horse power engine used to consume around 13 litres of diesel each day. But he has not bought diesel since he installed the biogas-run pump in March 2015.

"This is a brilliant saving," he said. "This means additional income of \$1,150



Muhammad Sadique, 103, plucks flowers in the field to be sold in local markets in the outskirts of Faisalabad, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

for me annually. It has helped improve our family's economic well-being."

Close to 20 other farmers in his area have followed suit and are also running their irrigation pumps on biogas, thanks to the government-backed project.

Vegetable farmer Naeem Raza Shah uses slurry left over from the biogas production process to fertilise his 19 hectares, cutting out chemical fertiliser which previously cost him around \$850 per year.

"The organic fertiliser from the biogas plant is an economic blessing for me," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.—Reuters

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Yangon City Development Committee

Invitation for Prequalification Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project

Date: May 17, 2016

Loan Agreement No.: MY-P5

IFP No.: PQ-ICB-01

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency toward the cost of the Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.
2. The Head of Department, Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), Yangon City Development Committee intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for:
 - The construction of an administration building at the Lagunbyin Water Treatment Plant including the procurement and installation of laboratory equipment.
 - The procurement and installation of a SCADA system including sensors for the Lagunbyin WTP and the transmission and distribution system.
 - Construction of disinfection facilities at 4 locations.
 - The construction of a treated water transmission pumping station at the Lagunbyin Water Treatment Plant (7,900 m³/hr) including the procurement and installation of pumps.
 - The construction of two reinforced concrete service reservoirs: SR7=21,000 m³ and SR8=28,000 m³.
 - The construction of a distribution pumping station at SR7 including procurement and installation of distribution pumps (5,280 m³/hr)
 - The construction of a distribution and transmission pumping station at SR8 including procurement and installation of distribution pumps (5,280 m³/hr) and transmission pumps to serve the Thilawa SEZ (1,750 m³/hr).
3. It is expected that Invitation for Bids will be made in October 2016.
4. Prequalification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Applicants from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.
5. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Prequalification Documents at the office of Head of Department, Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), Yangon City Development Committee from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
6. A complete set of the Prequalification Documents may be purchased by interested Applicant(s) from 17 May to 31 May 2016 on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of MMK 15,000.
7. Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below by 12:00 noon - July 12, 2016, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project Contract Package No. ICB-01".

Head of Department
Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation)
Yangon City Development Committee
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The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Yangon City Development Committee

Invitation for Prequalification Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project

Date: May 17, 2016

Loan Agreement No.: MY-P5

IFP No.: PQ-ICB-02

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency toward the cost of the Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.
2. The Head of Department, Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), Yangon City Development Committee intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for:
 - Treated water transmission pipeline with approx. 21 km in length from the transmission pumping station at Lagunbyin WTP to service reservoirs SR7 and SR8.
 - Treated water transmission pipeline with approx. 26 km in length from the transmission pumping station located at service reservoir SR8 to Thilawa SEZ.
3. It is expected that Invitation for Bids will be made in October 2016.
4. Prequalification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Applicants from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.
5. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Prequalification Documents at the office of Head of Department, Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), Yangon City Development Committee from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
6. A complete set of the Prequalification Documents may be purchased by interested Applicant(s) from 17 May to 31 May 2016 on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of MMK 15,000.
7. Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below by 12:00 noon - July 12, 2016, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project Contract Package No. ICB-02".

Head of Department
Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation)
Yangon City Development Committee
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**The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Yangon City Development Committee**

**Invitation for Prequalification
Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project**

Date: May 17, 2016

Loan Agreement No.: MY-P5

IFP No.: PQ-ICB-05

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency toward the cost of the Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.
2. The Head of Department, Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), Yangon City Development Committee intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for:
 - Supply of domestic water meters with approx. 50,000 nos.
 - Supply of bulk water meters with approx. 60 nos.
3. It is expected that Invitation for Bids will be made in October 2016.
4. Prequalification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Applicants from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.
5. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Prequalification Documents at the office of Head of Department, Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), Yangon City Development Committee from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
6. A complete set of the Prequalification Documents may be purchased by interested Applicant(s) from 17 May to 31 May 2016 on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of MMK 15,000.
7. Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below by 12:00 noon - July 20, 2016, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project Contract Package No. ICB-05".

Head of Department

Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation)

Yangon City Development Committee

Mr. Myint Oo

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Representative office in Myanmar of Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam JSC (BIDV) is planning to setup Myanmar branch in 2016. We would like to call for a tender of providing Hardware infrastructure for our new branch. ICT vendors who interested in this opportunity need to contact with us to receive the tender document as the following information:

Time of deliver the document: from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, May 19th, 2016 (Thursday).

Latest date to receive proposal: 17:00 PM on May 23th, 2016 (Monday)

Location: #36 Garden Street, Bahan Ts, Yangon, Myanmar.

Contact person: Ko Thein Zaw (+95 943151701)

Box Office: 'Captain America' soars to \$73 million, 'Money Monster' opens with \$15 million

LOS ANGELES — Disney-Marvel's "Captain America: Civil War" remains dominant at US theaters with \$72.6 million at 4,426 US locations — the eighth-largest second weekend of all time.

George Clooney-Julia Roberts thriller "Money Monster" opened respectably with \$15 million. BH Tilt's low-budget horror-thriller "The Darkness," starring Kevin Bacon and Radha Mitchell, scared up \$5.2 million at 1,754 sites in a Friday the 13th launch aimed at horror fans.

"Civil War" showed impressive staying power after it launched with \$179.1 million last weekend, the fifth-highest of all time. The 59% decrease is in the same range as two other Marvel-Disney tent-poles: last year's "Avengers: Age of Ultron" and 2013's "Iron Man 3."

"Civil War" has taken in \$295.9 million at the domestic box office in its first ten days. Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst with ComScore, said "Civil War" is keeping the box office momentum going for a strong summer season.

"Captain America: Civil War" continues to benefit from good old-fashioned word-of-mouth, an irresistible concept and its delivery of a flat-out perfect summer popcorn movie experience and that has powered the film to close to \$300 million after just ten days in North American theaters," he added. "The newcomers did as expected considering the over-



Actors (L-R) Emily VanCamp, Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr, Elizabeth Olsen and Jeremy Renner, pose for photographers at a media event ahead of the release of, "Captain America: Civil War", in London, Britain, on 25 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

whelming strength of the latest Marvel extravaganza and both 'Money Monster' and 'The Darkness' performed perfectly in line with expectations and offered something new and different for audiences."

"Captain America: Civil War" will become the 11th title to have exceeded \$70 million in its second weekend. That list is headed by "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" with \$149 million, "Jurassic World" with \$106.6 million, "Marvel's The Avengers" with \$103.1 million, "Avengers: Age of Ultron" with \$77.7 million, "Avatar" with \$75.6 million, "The Dark Knight" with \$75.2 million and "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" at \$74.2 million.

Sony's "Money Monster" was able to provide viable counter-programming aimed at adults, finishing well above recent forecasts. Directed by Jodie Foster, "Monster" gener-

ated solid buzz from its world premiere on Thursday night at the Cannes Film Festival and saw a 22% gain in business from Friday to Saturday.

Disney's fifth weekend of "The Jungle Book" continued to show remarkable staying power with \$17.8 million at 3,970 locations for a second place finish. The comedy-adventure declined a mere 27% from the previous frame and will wind up the weekend with more than \$311 million domestically.

A24's quirky comedy "The Lobster," starring Colin Farrell, opened impressively with \$188,195 on four screens in Los Angeles and New York. Amazon Studios and Roadside Attractions also generated a strong launch for Whit Stillman's "Love & Friendship," a Jane Austen adaptation starring Kate Beckinsale and Chloe Sevigny, with \$132,750 at four sites.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV AYSAN VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AYSAN VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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 LAND AND SEA SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ALLY VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ALLY VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

Museum shines rare spotlight on China's Cultural Revolution

BEIJING — Tucked away in southwestern China's Sichuan Province, a private collector stands virtually alone in exhibiting relics from the 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution.

Monday marks the 50th anniversary of the start of the political movement, with no official commemorations planned. Official records whitewash the details of both periods, but admit that Mao made major mistakes.

The 1958-1961 Great Leap Forward, when millions starved to death in late chairman Mao Zedong's botched industrialisation campaign, and the Cultural Revolution are two of modern China's most sensitive historical events.

Fan Jianchuan, who opened his Jianchuan Museum Cluster to the public in 2005, said his relics, which refer discreetly to a "Red era", were beneficial to the nation.

"I have a saying: We don't speak. Let the cultural relics talk," Fan told Reuters TV.

"Our nation's cultural treasures need to be inherited ... but it is more important to pass on the nation's experience and some lessons. That's why I have stayed with this cause for decades."

During the Cultural Revolution, children turned on parents and students on teachers after Mao declared class war, convulsing the country in chaos and



A staff member cleans an exhibition hall displaying images of late Chinese chairman Mao Zedong and pictures taken in the 1960-70s at Jianchuan Museum Cluster in Anren, Sichuan Province, China, on 13 May, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

violence. The upheaval affected industry as well, including the critical steel sector.

From 1967 to the end of 1968, thousands of steel mills were occupied and closed down, slashing steel output. China's cabinet, or the State Council, was forced to step in, ordering steel enterprises to cease the "struggle" and restore output.

While recent years have seen increased public discus-

sion of both events, certain topics remain almost completely off limits, including the death of Lin Biao, once handpicked to succeed Mao but killed in a mysterious plane crash in 1971 while fleeing China having been accused of plotting a coup.

Students who toured the museum in a suburb of the provincial capital Chengdu, listened carefully as their guide explained a period in China's history that

is largely missing in their textbooks.

Luo Qingsong, one of the students from Sichuan Management Professional Institute, said the Cultural Revolution could not happen again in China today.

"I think modern China is an open country and integrated into the world. I believe our party, the country and our leadership would not adopt such policies again," Luo said.—Reuters

Friends, family bid farewell to renowned Japanese stage director Ninagawa

TOKYO — Family and friends of stage director Yukio Ninagawa gathered on Monday in Tokyo to bid farewell to the director renowned worldwide for his interpretations of William Shakespeare plays and Greek tragedies.

Among the mourners at a funeral hall in Minato Ward were Japanese actor Ken Watanabe and fashion designer Kansai Yamamoto. Ninagawa died of multiple organ failure caused by pneumonia on Thursday at age 80. Actor Mikijiro Hira, who appeared in 17 plays produced by Ninagawa, said in a condolence speech, "These plays are my treasures. I was able to lead a productive acting life because of you. Thank you." Representing his surviving family, Ninagawa's daughter Mika, a photographer and film director, gave a speech to thank those attending the funeral.

A large portrait of Ninagawa taken by Mika was displayed on the altar. The photograph showed Ninagawa in front of a stage set featuring a red moon at his rehearsal hall. Saitama Gov. Kiyoshi Ueda served as the head of the funeral ceremony as Ninagawa served as the director of Sainokuni Saitama Arts Theater in the prefecture.—Kyodo News

Video aims to bring Tokyo Olympics visitors to tsunami-affected region

TOKYO — The Tokyo metropolitan government has teamed up with three northeastern Japan prefectures on a promotional video encouraging tourists attending the 2020 Tokyo Olympics to also visit the region hit hard by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, organisers said on Monday.

Entitled "See you in Tokyo and Tohoku in 2020," the roughly 3-minute video highlights reconstruction efforts in the Tohoku region affected by

the massive earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crises.

The video, which has been released on YouTube, also features residents from Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures, as well as athletes Yukiko Ueno, pitcher for the women's softball team, and men's wheelchair tennis champion Shingo Kunieda.

It includes a segment thanking the international community for its support for reconstruction efforts, showing a fleet of ships

carrying flags of different countries. It will be shown at a Japan House communication center to be set up during the upcoming Rio de Janeiro Olympics and Olympic-related events, the Tokyo government said.

The video will be aired in Japanese and English and offer subtitles in Japanese, English, French and Portuguese.

"I hope many people will visit Tohoku after watching this footage," a Tokyo government official said.—Kyodo News



Photo shows a scene from a promotional video made by the Tokyo metropolitan government in collaboration with three northeastern Japan prefectures hit hard by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. In the scene, a fleet of ships carry flags of different countries to thank the international community for its support for reconstruction efforts in the region.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS



Entertainment Channel

(17-5-2016, Tuesday)

6:00 pm

- Weather Report
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:20 pm

- Cartoon Programme "Cars" (Part- II)

7:00 pm

- International Drama Series

7:40 pm

- International Drama Series

8:30 pm

- Music Programme

8:50 pm

- The Stories of The Great Souls (Daw Saw Mone Nyin-A Living Literary Legend of Myanmar)

9:20 pm

- International Movie Songs

9:30 pm

- Music Programme

9:50 pm

- Alaungdaw Kathapa Gold Shop

10:10 pm

- Myanmar Video

From 17-5-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 Pm
To 18-5-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 Pm



Myanmar International

(17-5-2016 07:00am ~ 18-5-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Continuation In Rural Tradition
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	A Bike Ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Episode-2)
08:43	Am	A Lucky Boy
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	The Strokes of Myanmar
09:51	Am	Today Myanmar: Earthquake Awareness
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages

10:33 Am Mesmerizing Scenes or Image of Japan (Part-2)

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-6)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	A Visit to Kyauk Kyi
08:43	Pm	Chef Life: Avi Bitton (Israeli Chef)

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)



Murray blows out candle on his birthday cake after winning the Italy Open Men's Singles Final match against Novak Djokovic of Serbia in Rome, Italy, on 15 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

Djokovic suffers rare loss as Murray takes Rome title

ROME — Andy Murray punctured Novak Djokovic's air of dominance by beating the out-of-sorts Serb in straight sets in the final of the Italian Open in Rome on Sunday.

Just a week after Djokovic had beaten him in the final of the Madrid Open, the Scot gained his revenge over the world number one in another claycourt final with a superb 6-3, 6-3 win in one hour and 35 minutes.

Djokovic was not at his best and in a grumpy mood, complaining on several occasions

to the umpire about the slippery court surface on a damp day at the Foro Italico.

He slumped to only his third defeat of the entire season, hitting a couple of errant forehands and a double fault in the final game before Murray conjured up one inspirational backhand winner to lift the title.

No British man had won the Italian title since 1931 and the triumph gives the world number three Murray a major boost before the second of the season's grand slams, the French Open, starts next week.—Reuters

Williams beats US rival Keys for first title of season

ROME — Serena Williams had to overcome a stubborn effort from Madison Keys to win the first all-American women's tour final for four years in straight sets and lift the Italian Open title in Rome on Sunday.

The world's best player demonstrated her readiness to begin the defence of her French Open title next weekend with a 7-6(5), 6-3 win but was so impressed with her 21-year-old

compatriot that she predicted Keys could become a future world number one.

It was Williams's fourth title triumph in Rome in 14 years, her 70th career title in all and her first since winning in Cincinnati nine months ago.

The 34-year-old great has looked more vulnerable of late, losing in the semi-finals at last year's US Open and final at the Australian Open and Indian

Wells this season.

Yet even though this was her first claycourt appearance of the season, it was enough to confirm she is in fine shape for Roland Garros, with plenty of room also for improvement.

For Keys, it was major breakthrough to reach only her third final and the youngster gave her opponent enough trouble for Williams to tell her afterwards: "I'm so proud of you. You can

get to world number one."

Keys broke Williams's serve in the opening game and, able to match the world number one for power, she pushed the top seed into a tiebreak in the first set before succumbing.

Even though Williams looked a little rusty at times and was not quite at her best, she still took control in the second set to wrap up victory after one hour and 24 minutes.—Reuters

Tearful Terry tells Chelsea fans: 'I want to stay'

LONDON — Tearful John Terry made an emotional address to his devoted Chelsea fans on the Stamford Bridge pitch on Sunday, telling them that he still wanted to stay at the club.

Yet the club's greatest idol stopped short of confirming that he would be taking up Chelsea's new one-year contract offer, revealed on Friday, which is believed to feature a pay cut and what Terry himself calls a "different role".

Terry was suspended for Chelsea's final game of the season, a 1-1 draw with champions Leicester City but, with club owner Roman Abramovich watching from the stands, took the microphone to talk to the fans.

"We all want the same," Terry said. "I've said for a long time I want to finish my career here. I'll be speaking to the club over the next few days. I want to stay, the club knows that, the fans know that. I want to stay."

The 35-year-old's eyes then



Chelsea's John Terry is thrown in the air by team mates after the game at Stamford Bridge on 15 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

began to well up as the fans interrupted him to chant: "John Terry, we want you to stay!"

It led Terry to continue in what also felt a little like a farewell address.

"On a personal note I'd like to thank everyone," he said. "This season has been tough for me, very emotional, so thank you for the support."

"Chelsea is my life, as it is yours. The best moments of my

life have been in this stadium. You've been a big part of that."

Earlier, in the 26th minute of the match, a host of fans held up posters reading "John Terry 26", referring to the captain's shirt number, leading him to acknowledge the show of support.

"I'm happy that they are now in contact and are talking. Personally, I hope they manage to come to a solution," Chelsea interim manager Guus Hiddink

said. "When they are talking then I mustn't spoil it by starting to speculate."

"He is 35, when people normally say goodbye. But he's physically very fit and mentally very fit, so he can contribute a lot wherever he wants to play."

Terry made his Chelsea debut in 1998 and has played over 700 games for the London club, leading them to four Premier League titles.—Reuters

Police Commissioner demands inquiry into Man United fake bomb 'fiasco'

MANCHESTER —

Manchester's police commissioner demanded an inquiry into the "fiasco" of a fake bomb left behind from a training exercise at Old Trafford that forced the abandonment on Sunday of a Premier League soccer match. The device led to the evacuation of Manchester United's stadium shortly before the scheduled 1400 GMT kickoff of their final league game of the season against Bournemouth.

"This fiasco caused massive inconvenience to supporters who had come from far and wide to watch the match," Police and Crime Commissioner for Greater Manchester Tony Lloyd said. It also "wasted the time of huge numbers of police officers and the army's bomb squad, and unnecessarily put people in danger," he said in a statement. Police said the realistic-looking device, which was destroyed in a controlled explosion, had been accidentally left in a toilet by a private firm that was conducting a training exercise. Two of the Old Trafford stands were evacuated about 20 minutes before kickoff.

The whole 75,000-seater stadium was cleared and the match was called off soon afterwards, the first time in 24 years that a Premier League match had been abandoned on security grounds.—Reuters