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Wednesday, 30 May 2018

President U Win Myint receives outgoing Qatari Ambassador



President U Win Myint greets outgoing Qatari Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hassan Bin Mohamed Rafei AL-Emadi. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Win Myint received outgoing Qatari Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hassan Bin Mohamed Rafei AL-Emadi, who has completed his tour of duty in Myanmar, in the guest hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they

discussed matters related to enhancing friendly relations and trading, and mutual co-operation in the international arena.

Also present at the meeting were officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.— Myanmar News Agency ■

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Rescue teams ready as severe weather enters Rakhine State

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict Ms. Virginia Gamba in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict Ms. Virginia Gamba yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Special Representative called for the successful complementation of the Joint Action Plan being implemented by Myanmar with the

Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) on prevention of the recruitment and use of underage soldiers.

She expressed the UN's desire to further cooperate with Myanmar in the promotion and protection of children rights.

The Special Representative requested of the State Counsellor to help to adopt expeditiously the Child Rights Bill which is before the Hluttaw.

The State Counsellor em-

phasised that the protection of the rights of the child is imperative, and thus it is necessary to promote the education sector in order to protect the rights of the children. The State Counsellor pointed out that violence usually takes place against the weak, who are mostly women and children.

She stressed that to avoid the occurrence of violence and abuse against the weak, preventive measures should be focused.— Myanmar News Agency ■

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Pyithu Hluttaw discusses two motions, two bills, land use

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 8th regular session held its eighth-day meeting yesterday morning, where the bill amending the Myanmar Red Cross Society Law was approved.

At the meeting, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, a motion and a bill tabled and a report read and explained.

In the question and answer session, Dr. U Saw Naing from South Okkalapa constituency asked if there is a plan to use part of the former central market site at the corner of Thitsar and Waizayantar Road in No. (8) Ward, South Okkalapa Township, as a township hall. Deputy Minister Rear Admiral Myint Nwe said the land in question is 5.245 acres in area and, according to the Yangon City Development Committee, City Planning & Land Administration Department record dated 14 September 2012, it is marked as land owned



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe. **PHOTO: MNA**

by the Ministry of Defence. As the Ministry of Defence had future plans for the Tatmadaw on that land, there is no plan to use part of this land as a township hall, said the Deputy Minister.

Replying to a question raised by U Nyan Hein of Thanbyuzayat constituency on a plan to release the military-owned Shwephyu Yadana golf course in Thanbyuzayat Township to the public, Deputy Minister for Rear

Admiral Myint Nwe said the golf course is situated on land allocated for Infantry Regiment (31) and was constructed as a nine-hole golf course in 1981 jointly by the then-Thanbyuzayat Township People's Council Chairman U Won Hrein, Commanding Officer, No. (31) Regiment and Second-in Command.

In 2005, the golf course was named Shwephyu Yadana Golf Course by Lt-Gen Maung Bo and had a fund of Ks6,964,600. It had a monthly income of Ks355,000 and expenses of Ks280,000 for five workers. The remaining income and funds were used to maintain the golf course and the duty of golf course chairman was assigned to U Hla Shwe, Assistant Director, Township Planning Department, Thanbyuzayat Township.

According to records, 95.25 acres were designated as a golf course area, but only 79.94 acres was being for Shwephyu Yadana Golf Course.

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat meets with Qatari Ambassador Mr. Hassin Bin Mohamed Rafei Al-Emadi in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives outgoing Qatari Ambassador

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received outgoing Qatari Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Hassin Bin Mohamed Rafei Al-Emadi, who has completed his ambassadorial duties in Myanmar, in the guest hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw at 1 p.m. in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they

discussed and exchanged views on matters related to bilateral relations and cooperation, investment and bilateral economic development. Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung alias U Tun Tun Hein and other officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses agriculture, supports GAP implementation

By Aung Ye Thwin
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE second Amyotha Hluttaw's eighth regular session held its eighth-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, where a motion urging the government to implement the good agricultural practices (GAP) system in the country was supported by the Hluttaw representatives.

During the question-and-answer session, U Aung Myo of Sagaing Region constituency 2 posed a question on the plan(s) to formally provide work permits to fish, prawn and other breeding ponds that were in operation according to prevailing laws before the enactment of the 2012 Farm Land Law, so that the ponds can be made collateral for an investment bank loan. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied that the work permit for breeding ponds was being granted according to the Farm Land Law, Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Law and the related rules, depending on the



Amyotha Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

type of land that was being applied for. The Myanmar Economic



U Min Naing of Sagaing region constituency 12. **PHOTO: MNA**

Bank has been accepting these lands as collateral according to its loan policy and is providing

Finance is discussing the matter of using these lands as collateral for the investment bank loan, according to the prescribed law, rules and procedures. As such, this matter must be coordinated with the relevant departments, said the deputy minister.

The deputy minister also replied to questions raised by U Min Naing of Sagaing Region constituency 12 and U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency 6.

A motion urging the government to implement the GAP system in the country, tabled by U Hla San of Magway Region constituency (1), was then discussed with support from Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago region constituency (3), U Ba Myo Thein of Yangon Region constituency (5), Daw Ma Ma Lay of Shan State constituency (8), Dr. Daw Tin Tin Win of Bago region constituency (5), U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency (2) and U Khin Win of Magway region constituency (2).

The ninth-day meeting of the second Amyotha Hluttaw's eighth regular session will be held on 30 May. ■

loans to small and medium enterprises (SMEs), said the deputy minister.

The Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank also granted an agriculture loan to farmers, and short- and long-term loans were provided under the JICA Two Step Loan to purchase farm machinery, said the deputy minister.

For breeding ponds that are operated illegally, owners/operators need to officially apply for the work permit and pay the prescribed fines. This was notified to states and regions by the central farmland management group. The Ministry of Planning and

We have much to carry on fulfilling the hopes and needs of the people of the country. We must press on until our citizens have their dignity raised and our country can retain its former glory on the global stage.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

Let us strive collectively for the emergence of a just and free nation—a nation which will guarantee equal rights and equality, a nation which practices a pure ideology.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin receives Special Envoy Prince Mired Ra'ad Al-Hussein in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin receives Prince Mired Ra'ad Al-Hussein, Special Envoy of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention)

UNION MINISTER for International Cooperation of Myanmar U Kyaw Tin received Prince Mired Ra'ad Al-Hussein, Special Envoy of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa Convention) at 3:30 PM on 29 May 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Spe-

cial Envoy explained the danger of landmines inflicted on innocent civilians and the negative impact on the economic development. He encouraged Myanmar to join the Ottawa Convention, which has been acceded and ratified by 164 countries as of today.

With regard to joining the Convention, the Union Minister explained that Myanmar agrees in principle to the provisions of the Convention, and Myanmar

would consider acceding to the Convention once on-going peace process has been implemented successfully, upon the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) by all ethnic armed organizations. He added that Myanmar has been cooperating with the international community to raise awareness on the danger of landmines and to provide victim-assistance. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Office of the President instruction No. 1/2018

The Office of the President has issued an instruction No. 1/2018 dated 29 May. Following is the instruction.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Instruction 1/2018

Fullmoon of Nayon, 1380 ME
29 May 2018

To act in accordance with the articles of the Constitution

Article 262 (1) (i) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar states that “The Chief Minister of the Region or State shall be responsible to the President” and article 262 (1) (ii) states that “The Ministers of the Region or State shall be responsible to the Chief Minister of the Region or State concerned and to the President through the Chief Minister of the Region or State concerned.”

Furthermore, Article 250 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar states that “The Region or State Government shall have the responsibility to assist the Union Government in the preservation of the stability of the Union, community peace and tranquility and prevalence of law and order” and article 259 states that “The Region or State Government shall discharge the functions occasionally assigned by the Union Government.”

As such, the ministers of the Region or State being responsible to the Chief Minister of the Region or State concerned, need to conduct their works after reporting to their respective Chief Minister and obtaining the Chief Minister's agreement and approval. In the same way, the Region or State governments are to discharge their works according to policies set by the Union Government and without contradicting the Union laws.

Therefore, the Region and State governments are to obliged act in accordance with the relevant articles of the Constitution.

By order
Khin Latt
Permanent Secretary
Office of the President

Deputy Information Minister U Aung Hla Tun receives FINANCIAL TIMES correspondent, Mizzima TV separately

Deputy Minister of Information U Aung Hla Tun separately received John Reed, South-East Asia correspondent of the London-based the FINANCIAL TIMES newspaper, and Yangon-based Mizzima TV team at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am and 11 am respectively on Tuesday.

At the meeting with the FINANCIAL TIMES, the Deputy Minister explained opportunity

for writing economic stories in Myanmar and cordially discussed the assistance the Ministry can offer in applying for journalist visas to write economic news. At the exclusive interview with the Mizzima TV, the Deputy Minister answered questions about the activities of the Information Ministry for media development, improving access to information and press freedom in the country.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Deputy Minister of Information U Aung Hla Tun holds talks with FINANCIAL TIMES newspaper correspondent John Reed in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles,
markangeles@gmail.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSZaw Min,
zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com
Win Ko Ko Aung,
kowink2aung@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mmm@gmail.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw ,
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
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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.

Myanmar Business Sentiment Survey reveals declining data

By Nyein Nyein

Myanmar's economy was found to have declined, according to the Myanmar Business Sentiment Survey.

More than 1,400 businessmen participated in the survey, which was released by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on 26 May.

The survey was conducted by UMFCCI's Local Industry Development Committee, focusing on the current economic climate,

challenges in Myanmar's economy, confidence for economic progress, reasons for the lack of confidence, UMFCCI's future activities and the government's intervention and future performance. The survey pointed out that local businesses reported a steady decline in 2018 compared to the data for 2016. Business confidence has also dropped for the coming 12 months against the previous year.

Entrepreneurs are losing confidence in the business owing to high taxation and non-competitive import practices, such as

dumping through illegal trade channels. Some 22 per cent of businessmen who undertook the survey were found to have zero understanding of taxation.

This being so, in a bid to enhance Myanmar's economy, the government needs to deal with problems such as taxation and tariffs, financing and banking, kyat depreciation, unstable trade regulation, according to the survey's major findings. Additionally, the government needs to prioritise the development of a strong economic infrastructure,

build national financial resources by practising transparent and solid financial management systems, develop human resources, reform more accountable state-owned enterprises, create jobs for the local people, enhance the agriculture and livestock sectors, enact a firm policy to attract foreign investments, streamline the tax system, upgrade public services and public areas, institute rules and regulations to protect the intellectual property and prepare for businesses to survive in Asian and international trends, stated the survey. ■

Durian price rising in Kya-in-Seikkyi



Durian fruits from Kya-in-Seikkyi Township has attracted traders from Yangon. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

THE price of durian has increased, although its production is still high in the Kya-in-Seikkyi Township, Kawkaeik District, Kayin State.

Despite the price increase, customers are buying the fruit. Durian sellers are selling them for between Ks1,000 and Ks5,000 per fruit.

Local durian traders from Kya-in-Seikkyi Township are buying the fruit from villages where they are cultivated and selling them in Kya-in-Seikkyi Township. Traders from Yangon and Mawlamyine townships also buy durian from the villages.—GNLM ■

Exports outdo imports in bilateral trade with the Netherlands in last FY

EXPORTS surpassed imports in Myanmar's bilateral trade with the Netherlands during the financial year 2017-2018, according to the figures of the commerce ministry.

Trade between Myanmar and the Netherlands reached some US\$211 million, with exports worth \$176 million and imports valued at \$35.7 million.

Myanmar exports agro products such as oil seeds and vegetable oil and men's

and women's shirts, parasols (traditional Patheingyi umbrellas), and fishery products, while dairy products, consumer goods and raw industrial materials are imported by the Netherlands.

Bilateral trade values stood at some \$141million in the 2016-2017 FY, \$61 million in the 2015-16 FY, \$42 million in the 2014-2015 FY, \$26 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$9 million in the 2012-2013 FY and \$23 million in

the 2011-2012 FY.

The Netherlands is the ninth largest foreign investor in Myanmar, with over 60 projects approved by the Myanmar Investment Commission. A capital of \$1.5 billion has been brought into the country since the 1988-1989 FY. Its investments have increased in the current FY and it stood at third place, with foreign direct investments worth \$533 million during the last FY, according to the statistics of the

commerce ministry.

A business event between Dutch businesses and Myanmar businessmen, which was held in June last year revealed that Dutch companies have a keen interest to expand business ties with Myanmar businesses. Multinational corporations headquartered in the Netherlands—Shell, Unilever, Heineken and Phillips—are also doing business in Myanmar.—Htet Myat ■

Increasing demand for mung beans and pigeon peas drives prices up

By May Thet Hnin

THE prices of mung beans and pigeon peas are on the higher side on account of the growing demand.

In early May, the Indian government released an official statement allowing for an import quota of 150,000 tonnes of mung beans and green grams each, and 200,000 tonnes of pigeon peas. Indian merchants will import the pulses soon, prompting other buyer countries to increase their demand.

"The Indian government has asked the pulses importers to submit a proposal regarding the import volume of mung beans, pigeon peas and green

grams not later than 25 May. On 1 June, they will be granted licences to import pulses. India's pulses imports will begin in the first week of June. Therefore, other countries such as Pakistan, Nepal and Dubai that import pulses from Myanmar have also increased their demand, concerned over a possible high price. This being so, the growing demand has hiked up the price in the domestic market," said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

The free-on-board prices increased from US\$460 to \$495 per tonne for mung beans, and \$360 to \$380 per tonne for pigeon peas. More than 4,000 tonnes of

pulses were exported so far.

Mung beans fetched Ks380,000 per tonne in early May, and now, the price has soared to Ks505,000 per tonne. Similarly, the price of pigeon peas increased from Ks350,000 to Ks500,000 per tonne.

Prior to India's pulses import policy changes, a tonne of mung beans was valued at around Ks900,000 and pigeon peas fetched some Ks800,000 per tonne, said U Min Ko Oo.

At the moment, there are some 100,000 tonnes of mung beans from last year's stock and 250,000 tonnes of fresh stock. Some 20,000 tonnes of pigeon peas from last year's production are still in stock, while some

100,000 tonnes of peas were freshly produced this year.

The prices increased after India lifted the ban on pulses importation. Myanmar accounts for 70 per cent of India's mung beans imports. So, Myanmar does not need to compete with other importer countries to India.

Nevertheless, India buys only 30 per cent of the pigeon peas from Myanmar, leaving the pigeon peas market uncertain. The commerce ministry has already requested growers to not choose pigeon peas in the coming bean season.

"As a substitute for pigeon peas, Shan State growers may choose soybeans, as the oil crop is favoured in central Myanmar.

Growers should choose beans that are consumed domestically. Next, corn also has a sizeable market share in the local and export markets," said U Min Ko Oo.

China is the main buyer of green grams. Therefore, Myanmar does not need to be worried about the green gram market when the demand from India goes down. The prevailing price of green grams is on the higher side at Ks1.2 million per tonne.

Various pulses that are exported to other foreign markets are also fetching a good price. Prior to India's suspension of pulses importation last year, some 1.5 million tonnes of pulses were exported to India per year. ■

Construction sector could collapse due to high taxes and high interest rates

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR's construction sector may grind to a halt this year following a downward trend that started in 2015, according to the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association.

"The construction sector has been on a downward spiral since 2015. The industry had sluggish growth in 2016 and the market was cool in 2017. It remained so cool that the market was on the verge of a halt in 2018," said U Shein Win, deputy chair of Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association, during the B4B Insights Forum held at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry office on 26 May.

The construction sector is declining. 50 per cent of the construction companies did not survive the terrible condition, he maintained. "The proper-

ty expo significantly showed a drastic plunge in the market because only one or two apartments are sold, although the developers showcased some 1,000 to 2,000 rooms. Long-term loan plans have become lacklustre, with the addition of 13 per cent interest rate and service charges.

Some people cannot afford to buy the government's low-cost apartments. Some cannot pay monthly instalments for a long period after making the down payment," said U Shein Win, the vice chair. To overcome the difficulties faced by the construction sector, the government needs to draw up short- and long-term plans. The developers have requested a reduction in the current income tax rate of 37 per cent by three to five percentage points. They also demanded to institute a bylaw to the 2016 Condominium Law, said U Shein Win. ■



Chairman of MRF U Chit Khine and IFC Myanmar Country Manager Vikram Kumar exchanging documents at the signing ceremony held at UMFCCL office yesterday. PHOTO: ZARNI MAUNG

Myanmar expects to export 4 million metric tonnes of rice, broken rice

TO promote Myanmar's rice sector through the cultivation of high quality rice and enhance the living standards of the local farmers, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) signed a contract at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCL) office on 29 May 2018.

"We welcome the friendship with IFC. MRF is planning to export some 4 million metric tonnes of rice and broken rice in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Rice is the chief export product in My-

anmar's national export strategy. Therefore, the cooperation between MRF and IFC will be effective, said U Chit Khine, chairman of MRF.

For this, a technical working group will be formed with the assistance of IFC for laying down the rice standard. The group will establish the rice standard from other countries and review the demand in the Myanmar rice market. Moreover, the group will guide international rice buyers in buying high quality rice by promoting the standard and rich quality of the rice.

"IFC will help in producing

high quality rice in Myanmar, in cooperation with MRF. In addition to this, IFC will also provide assistance to those involved in rice production and quality management. The arrangement will help respond to global market opportunities," said IFC Myanmar Country Manager Vikram Kumar. In the 2017-2018 FY, Myanmar expanded its export market and exported nearly 3.6 million tonnes of rice and broken rice worth \$1,136 million to 57 countries via the sea route and border trade camps, which is the highest recorded in 70 years.

—Zarni Maung ■

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Buddhist devotees celebrate Maha Samaya Sutta Day at Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

Maha Samaya Sutta Day celebrated at Shwedagon, Kaba Aye pagodas

THE Maha Samaya Sutta Day was celebrated at Shwedagon and Kaba Aye pagodas on the full moon day of Nayon in Yangon yesterday.

The Shwedagon Pagoda celebrated its sixth Maha Samaya Sutta Day festival at designated places since the morning.

The Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustee, religious groups and staff first offered soon (meal), flowers, water, light, fruits and scented water to the Buddha, following which a morning meal (Ar Yone Soon) was offered to Ovadacariya Sayadaws and members of Sangha at the Yaung Taw Pwint Pavilion (Tazaung).

Next, chairman of the Central Organising Committee U Tin Oo read an opening “Mingala” speech at the Ancient Buddha Images Pavilion.

The congregation then received the Nine Precepts from the Yankin Maha Dami Karyone Pariyatti Monastery Kyaiapi Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunaysana and then presented offertories.

The congregation also listened to the sermon from the Presiding Sayadaw of Pali Tekkatho Nyaungdon Monastery Bhaddanta Pawara Bhivamsa and made libation by sharing merit.

Similarly, Kaba Aye Pagoda

in Yangon also celebrated the Maha Samaya Sutta Day in the afternoon. A member of the Board of Trustee and Chairman U Win Thein delivered a “Mingala” speech about holding the Maha Samaya Sutta Day festival and the religious reciting groups recited the Maha Samaya Sutta.

The fullmoon of Nayon is known as Maha Samaya Sutta Day because Lord Buddha preached Maha Samaya Sutta to calm and make peace between the people of the two kingdoms – Kapilavatthu and Koliya of the same Sakya race — who were preparing for a war against one another over the water of River Rohani. — Ko Ko Zaw ■

Thura U Shwe Mann receives Denmark's Ambassador to Myanmar, outgoing Ambassador of Qatar

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann met separately Denmark's Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen, at 9 a.m. yesterday, and outgoing Ambassador of Qatar Mr.

Hassan Bin Mohamed Rafei Al-Emadi, at 11 a.m. yesterday, at the Hluttaw Affairs Building I-11 in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed and exchanged views about legal affairs, bilateral relations and cooperation matters. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Thura U Shwe Mann receives outgoing Qatar Ambassador Mr. Hassan Bin Mohamed Rafei Al-Emadi in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses two bills, land use of market and golf course

FROM PAGE-2

Although there had been a proposal to expand the golf course and increase funds for it by constructing a golf driving range, golf accessory shop, a restaurant and a clubhouse, the golf course is still listed as military land and constructing any commercial and public buildings would create an unnecessary security problem. As such, there is no plan to release the golf course or the land to the public, the Deputy Minister said.

Dr. Salai Rianville of Falam constituency then asked if there is a plan to upgrade Falam Township Valon Village sub-rural health centre to a Rural Health Centre. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe replied that there is no such thing as Valon sub-rural health centre, and there is only Valon Village. A Rural Health Centre could not be designated directly to a village and there should be a sub-rural health centre first. There are six criteria in upgrading a sub-rural health centre to a rural health centre. Having a population of 3,000 to 5,000 is the main criteria. Valon Village only had a population of 656 with only 94 households.

The head of the state health department also remarked that there is no requirement for a rural health centre in the village and thus the Union Minister explained that it will not be upgraded.

Questions posed by Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Padaung constituency, Dr. U Sein Mya Aye of Dala constituency and U Aung Kyaw Oo of Mongton constituency were also answered by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe.

Next, U Sai Ngaung Hsai Hein of Maukmai constituency tabled a motion to implement in states and regions projects that support and increase Myanmar fruit production. After the Hluttaw decided to accept and discuss the motion, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the Hluttaw was accepting the motion and called for interested Hluttaw representatives to enroll their names to discuss the motion.

Afterwards, Bill Committee Secretary U Kyaw Soe Lin submitted the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Bill, and Bill Committee member U Par Htan read and explained the bill. ■

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein receives Needs Assessment Mission delegation from UN

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein received a delegation of the Needs Assessment Mission from the United Nations (UN), led by Ms. Svetana Galkina, yesterday at the Hall of the Union Election Commission in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they openly discussed matters related to the 2017 by-elections that was held for 19 vacant constituencies, the preparedness for the 2018 by-elections to be held on 3 November for 13 vacant constituencies and the 2020 general elections, as well as the opening of the capacity building courses for the newly-appointed chairs and members of sub-commissions, and staff at all levels of the sub-commissions.

They also discussed the processes for voter education and civic education, arrangements to educate in the ethnic languages in regions and states, the state of women

taking part in the election and the conditions laid out by the UNDP to support the election processes in Myanmar. —Myanmar News Agency ■



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein meets with Needs Assessment Mission delegation from UN in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

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Stop the trade in elephant body parts

IT is disheartening to see the skinned carcass of an elephant these days in daily newspapers. It shows that the growing trade in elephant skin, combined with continuing demand for ivory, is still threatening Myanmar's elephant population.

Under interrogation, a gang of poachers confessed that they killed a female elephant in January last year and sold the elephant's parts to a trader in Yangon. The group killed two more elephants in October 2017 and March 2018 and reportedly sold the elephant body parts to the same trader.

Authorities have formed a joint force with officials in areas where a high number of elephant poaching cases were reported to prevent the illegal killing of the animals.

The threat is currently greatest in Myanmar. The Asian elephant could become extinct if the problem continues.

The strategy is also designed to ensure Myanmar's laws and policies are consistent with international commitments such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The poachers kill elephants indiscriminately, targeting males, females, and juveniles. That means that no elephant is safe. The survival of the species is at stake.

Fewer than 50,000 Asian elephants remain in the wild, and fewer than 2,000 of them are found in Myanmar. Historically, poaching in Myanmar has been minimal because only 1 per cent of male elephants in Myanmar have tusks.

But since 2013, more than 110 elephants have been reportedly killed, primarily in the Bago Yoma and Ayeyarwady Delta, where a lack of anti-poaching patrols has left elephants at risk.

We need to take urgent action to reverse the decline in the wild elephant population of Myanmar, which are being killed at an increasing rate, while securing the future of the country's former timber-trade elephants.

The killing and smuggling of animals is undermining economies and ecosystems, fuelling organized crime and feeding corruption and insecurity across the globe.

In Myanmar, elephant conservation started in the monarchy eras. Today, loss of habitat, poaching and human-elephant conflict are pressing threats to elephant conservation in Myanmar.

A plan was drawn up last year to safeguard the iconic animals over the next 10 years while engaging the public in the control of illegal poaching and the trading of elephant parts.

The strategy is also designed to ensure Myanmar's laws and policies are consistent with international commitments such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

This conservation plan for elephants is a great step forward. We also need to step up our efforts for the protection of elephants in the wild. The Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan (MECAP) is very important to support the long-term survival of Myanmar's elephants.

We now have a solid foundation to address this vital issue in Myanmar.

Legal overseas workers' earnings keep benefitting Myanmar



Myanmar migrant workers assemble motorcycles at a factory in China. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

By Te Kyi Maung

An increasing number of expatriate workers

The number of expatriate workers from big towns in Myanmar has increased gradually since 1990s in accordance with a study. Migrant workers from small towns are found to have moved to big cities to find suitable jobs. Since 2000s, general crises of severe drought, low yields of crops and suppressed lower prices of crops have compelled them to leave their villages taking risks to go overseas to find suitable jobs in a foreign country.

Village populace are in a state of hesitation about leaving their villages or areas; in fact, they are hard up for either jobs or money.

On the other hand, they are bound to face difficulties of language, culture, religion, and strange environments. They have taken risks of putting their farmlands in pawn; some having sold out their lands and other properties and at least by the act of borrowing money.

Suitable assistance

It is regrettably true that some get a job easily and others have to work at a dangerous work place with a low pay. They should be given a suitable assistance before they go overseas to find a suitable job in less dangerous places. Italy-based International Fund for Agriculture Development has conducted

a research on the bills of exchange concerning with overseas workers. According to the research, workers from 50 countries in Asia-Pacific Region are closely associated with bills of exchange in one way or the other; one out ten workers send money back by means of bills of exchange to their respective countries. Therefore, the bills of exchange have affected 10% of the total population of the Asia-Pacific Region

Importance of controlling bills of exchange

According to the research, overseas workers from around the world send money back home, totaling \$ 481 billion ; \$ 256 billion in the Asia-Pacific Region alone means 53% of the total amount of the world; that amount is ten times higher than Official Development Assistance in the whole Region. That is why governments should properly manage to control financial transactions between overseas workers and their families. The flow of financial transactions to India was \$ 69 billion at the top followed by China at \$ 64 billion, the Philippines at \$ 33 billion and Bangladesh at \$ 13.5 billion ; Myanmar merely received \$ 723 million in 2017.

Publishing correct figures about salaries and incomes Myanmar's \$ 732 million was described in the report released by IFAD; if calculated practically, the amount might be higher than that amount. After all the figures released by the departments

concerned have not been found yet; the Government should arrange something for the departments concerned to control financial transactions. These arrangements could boost not only economic developments of our country but also help to set up objectives and goals for future development plans.

Regulations on bills of exchange are different from one country from another; Bangladesh, Nepal , Pakistan, and the Philippines have used latest Information Technology to send money through mobile phones, agents and money transfer operator.

In Myanmar, money was transferred through the Foreign Exchange Bank and Embassies in the past; now through private banks and agents. Even though overseas workers find it easy to send money back to their families, the flow of foreign currencies into our banks cannot be accounted for in terms of true statistics and figures. It should be taken into serious consideration by authorities concerned.

Suitable taxes and job opportunities

If properly managed, the bills of exchange could boost not only incomes and socioeconomic situations of rural populace but also the flow of foreign currencies, job opportunities in those areas and the facts could help draw policies of sending workers abroad. If our government could manage bills of exchange or Money Transfer Operators (MTOs) are allowed to operate in our country, these businesses will gen-

erate suitable taxes, create more job opportunities and save more foreign reserves in our local banks.

It is an indisputable fact that Myanmar overseas workers would not support their families fully as there are few job opportunities in our local market. It would be unhappy for the government to let workers go abroad to do odd jobs in a foreign country. So it is high time that the Government should help those trying to go overseas to find a job not only for their families but for the government.

Helping overseas workers as much as possible

Arrangements should be made for those overseas workers not to lose human rights and occupational security in their work places. At the same time, complete disappearance of unofficial workers is suggested; people should be clearly informed that they could go officially with a work permit rather than unofficially; transfer of money is through official means so that these arrangements could be mutually accepted by overseas workers as well as the government itself.

In conclusion, Myanmar workers go abroad to find a job in order to support their families; it also means that they contribute to the good of our country in some ways. Authorities concerned are timely urged to help those who have tried to survive the transitional period of high inflation.

Translated by Arakan Sein

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 28/2018

Fullmoon of Nayon, 1380 ME
29 May 2018

Resignation of Mon State Minister approved

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 264 (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 52 (b) of Region or State Government Law, U Min Htin Aung Han, Mon State Minister for Electricity, Energy and Industry, has been permitted to resign of his own volition from the position of State Minister.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

U Htin Lynn appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Htin Lynn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar Investment Commission Meeting 7/2018 held in Yangon

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) meeting 7/2018 was convened in Yangon on 29th May 2018 and reviewed investment proposals consistent with the Myanmar Investment Law.

Dr. Than Myint, Vice Chairman of MIC and Union Minister for Commerce and 8 members of MIC attended the meeting.

The submission of proposals and endorsement applications from investors and post-permit activities of MIC-permitted companies were discussed in the meeting.

The MIC meeting (7/2018) decided to issue 2 investment permits in relation to the investment proposals.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to **dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office

CBM, Defence Ministry, Nay Pyi Taw Council hold press conference on second one-year performance

By Han Hmwe, Lin Naing
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

The Central Bank of Myanmar, Ministry of Defence and Nay Pyi Taw Council held a press conference on their performance in second one-year in office yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Central Bank of Myanmar

At the press conference, Deputy Governor U Soe Thein said in FY 2017-2018 they achieved the nation's projected 7 per cent economic growth through the 5.5 per cent inflation rate while the reserved fund increased by 16 per cent and total money supply was kept at 23 per cent.

During FY 2017-2018 the Central Bank of Myanmar has had 24 deposit auctions and each one generated approximately Ks307 billion with the surplus money taken back off the market.

The Central Bank signed the meeting minute with Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) on 5 January 2016 to ensure the CBN-NET (RTGS/Real-Time Gross Settlement) system was up to international standards. The Central Bank and the Internal Revenue Department have collaborated to make it possible for the public to make online tax payments using the CBN-NET system customer credit transfer function by February 2019.

The Central Bank has upgraded from MPU Switch to EMV Card Migration for better retail payment systems and the international standard QR code. The messaging standard was also modeled in accord with ISO 20022 and the ASEAN framework was adopted for cross border payments.

The Central Bank has received technical assistance from payment experts to realise payment system oversight under the World Bank Loan Project 2017-2021 so as to achieve an effective and secure payment system.

The Central Bank has acquired the assistance for international statistics from the International Monetary Fund and is going forward with BPM6 after successfully calculating the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual Fifth Edition (BPM5). The international transactions reporting systems (ITRS) was also upgraded for better compatibility between banks and the BPM6.

The Central Bank has collaborated with partner organisations for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Act (AML/CFT) and has drawn the National Level AML/CFT Mutual Evaluation, a national strategic plan, amended The Anti-Money Laundering Law with related ministries.

The Central Bank has given AML/



From left to right, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Defence Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw Hoe, Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Soe Thein, Nay Pyi Taw Council Secretary U Sai Thawda Win. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

CFT prevention and risk awareness programmes, compiling institutional profiles for banks, categorised predicted losses for depositors and deposited money with the AML/CFT risk management questionnaire, and implemented a risk-based approach in banks.

The Central Bank has permitted private banks to open a total of 1,653 branches throughout the country and the formation of 25 non-bank entities for money lending.

The Central Bank has permitted banks to offer mobile banking services for people in areas with no branch banks. Currently there are nine mobile banking services. Two mobile network operators and a non-bank entity were also permitted to provide mobile financial services.

Ministry of Defence

Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw Hoe, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, carries out rescue, evacuation and rehabilitation tasks whenever disasters such as strong wind, flooding and earthquakes hit the country.

The Ministry of Defence spend over Ks35 million on emergency aid and reconstruction and repair of religious edifices, monasteries, houses, schools, and hospitals when they were damaged by strong wind in 2017.

When flood occurred in regions and states in 2017 due to torrential rain, the Tatmadaw evacuated over 4,000 households and delivered aid worth over Ks18 million.

Since 2016, the Tatmadaw have supplied over 127 tons of goods and over Ks890 million to the victims of the disasters.

One of the significant achievements of the Ministry of Defence during the second one-year period of the incumbent government is the shipment of over 165 tons of aid and donations of over Ks300 million by the Tatmadaw to Rakhine State when the state was struck by Cyclone Mora.

Prevention of recruiting minors for

military service

The Union Government and the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting acted on grave violations against children (CTFMR).

The Office of the President formed a Committee for the Prevention of Recruitment of Minors in Military Services with 12 members on 11 May in 2016.

The Ministry of Defence discharged 67 privates and handed them over to their parents on 23 June, 2017 after they were found to be minors when they joined the Tatmadaw.

Readiness for medical care

The Tatmadaw is running its mobile medical care operations providing health care to the people. The Defence Ministry's mobile teams and mobile hospitals are prepared to provide medical care to the people when disasters occur.

From 16 November, 2017 to 4 January, 2018, the mobile medical teams administered medical care to over 17,200 patients.

From 29 March, 2017 to 21 January, 2018, the mobile medical team comprised of specialists and nurses provided health care to people living in Rakhine and Taninthayi coasts and on Coco Island and in Haigikyayun township.

From 1 April to 17 December, 2017, mobile medical teams of the Ministry of Defence provided health care to over 18,600 people in Labutta and Maubin in Ayeyawady Delta.

The Ministry of Defence also reestablished University Training Corps at universities starting in the 2012-2013 Academic Year, attracting 4,270 trainees.

Nay Pyi Taw Council

Nay Pyi Taw Council secretary U Sai Thawda Win said that during the first and second one-year periods, the council has conducted 2,823 works using Ks84.09 billion from the Union fund, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw development fund, Nay Pyi Taw Council fund and other regional programmes of donors for education, health, road/bridge, irrigation, ponds/tube wells,

electrification and other regional development sectors.

During the second one-year period, the council has conducted 1,392 works using Ks42.46 billion in the seven sectors of education, health, road/bridge, irrigation, ponds/tube wells, electrification and other regional development.

In the education sector, 135 works in eight townships were conducted with Ks6.03 billion. Ninety-six schools were upgraded. Out of the 8,113 teacher positions, 7,414 teachers were being appointed by education year and the teacher/student ratios were 1 to 27 in high school and middle school level and 1 to 32 in primary levels.

In the health sector, 61 works were implemented with Ks2.73 billion. Four-hundred and sixty-nine doctors and 1,062 nurses were appointed and the doctor to population and nurse to population ratios were 1:2,348 and 1:1,033.

In the road/bridge sector, 361 works were implemented with Ks12.11 billion, while in the irrigation sector, 413 works were implemented with Ks11.36 billion. In addition, the upgrade of Sinthe Letwe canal was implemented with Ks3.39 billion in World Bank loans and once it is completed, 6,973 acres of land will be provided with sufficient irrigation water and an additional 523 acres of farmland will be provided with water.

In the electrification sector, 86 works were conducted with Ks4.27 billion and in the ponds/tube wells sector, 175 works were conducted with Ks1.45 billion. In the other regional development sector, 161 works were conducted with Ks4.48 billion.

In land management affairs, during the first one-year period, 23 farmers were permitted to use 58.55 acres of farmland for other matters, while in the second one-year period, five farmers were permitted to use 10.86 acres of farmland for other matters. Of the 35,075.580 acres of confiscated land, 378.920 acres were released back to the former owners.

In the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, sector-wise annual project targets were achieved and there was 6.4 per cent growth. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita in fiscal year 2017-2018 was Ks1,529,102 according to initial figures, and is planned to reach Ks1,693,652.

On the collection of various taxes, the target was exceeded and achieved a 103.61 per cent tax collection. One Stop Shops opened in eight townships of Nay Pyi Taw provided 32,721 service works in the first one-year period and 31,160 service works in the second one-year period.

There were 49 incidences of natural disasters and Ks40.25 million in assistance was provided. ■

Rescue teams ready as severe weather enters Rakhine State

RESCUE teams are on alert before and while the deep weather depression over the Bay of Bengal approaches landfall on the Rakhine Coast near Ann Town, according to Rakhine State Fire Services Department.

Rescue groups are ready in 17 townships in Rakhine State following the storm warning of the Department of Meteorological and Hydrology.

"We made a storm warning and announced over loudspeakers to the people in the townships of Buthidaung and Maungdaw this morning. Over 100 members including rescue teams are also formed and on alert at the fire service departments in the district. Rescue activities will be carried out depending on the weather conditions," said U Thant Zin Head of Maungdaw Fire Services Department.

Officials led by assistant heads of the offices of township fire service departments in Maungdaw and Buthidaung towns announced yesterday storm warnings in Maungdaw Town as well as in Buthidaung Town. The tropical weather depression has been classified as



Firefighters perform mandatory inspection as they prepare for impending severe weather and potential storm in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: THIHA SITHU**

being in the red stage, the most severe type of storm.

Red Cross volunteers in Sittway and Manaung townships have been carrying out preparedness for the safety of the local people, with educational signboards and storm warning flags.

"Officials suspended the waterway of Angumaw-Sittway

for three days from today. When the weather condition is good, the transportations will run back to normal," said a travel agent Ko Aung Ko working in Sittway-Maungdaw route.

The weather forecast for the next 12 hours is for a deep depression to cross Rakhine Coasts near Ann Town and weaken after

making landfall. As the depression crosses near Ann Town, the maximum wind speed is forecast to about (45-50) miles. When the depression cross the Coast, storm surge will be about (7-9) feet in the Coasts of Manaung, Kyaukphyu and Sittway and (3) feet in Ayeyawady Coasts.

The low-pressure weather

system will result in fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Mon states. From 30 May to 31 May, there will be isolated and regionally heavy rainfall.

The amount of rain is expected to exceed 77mm (3 inches) in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Mon states over the next 24 hours and 38mm (1.5 inches) and above in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions.

Frequent squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced off and along the Myanmar coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 45 m.p.h. Wave heights will range from 10 to 16 feet along the coast.

The weather bureau advises that residents should be aware of strong wind, heavy rain, flash floods and landslides in the hilly areas and near small rivers. Caution is also given to those on board domestic flight, trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Myanmar coasts. —Thiha Sithu ■

Strong winds devastate over 500 households in Shwepyitha Tsp

RESIDENTIAL buildings and stores in Shwepyitha Township in the Yangon Region were damaged by strong winds at about 3:10 a.m. yesterday. There were no reports of any casualties.

U Kyaw Din, who lives in Ward (20), said the wind sounded like a passing airplane.

"The wind blew for just three minutes, but it knocked down trees and destroyed many houses," he said. "The power was out too, so we had to observe from a safe place. When it stopped, we saw that the surroundings were badly damaged. There hasn't been any report of casualties yet."

Torrential rain lashed Shwepyitha Township, while strong winds blew down trees and caused more than 500 buildings in wards (8), (9), (11), (13), (19), (20), (23) to either have their roofs blown off or completely collapse.

Authorities including firefighters, Red Cross members, YCDC staff, military personnel, police officers, and civil socie-

ty organisations cleared up the debris from the destroyed buildings. "We will provide the people who suffered from the strong wind with cash assistance depending on the damages," said Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin.

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein also visited the area hit by the strong wind and made arrangements for clearing debris and restoring electricity.

The Disaster Management

Committee provided aid to the victims.

U Win Shwe, Director of Yangon Region's branch of the Department of Disaster Management, said each individual household affected by the natural disaster would be provided support. "We will immediately provide clothing, utensils, and food after we have compiled a complete list of all the affected households," he said.

The most damage seemed to occur in ward (20). Tempo-



Strong winds completely knock down small residential houses and trees, blowing debris all over the area. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

rary shelters are being set up to accommodate families who no longer have houses.

Similarly, heavy rain and

strong winds blew off tree branches in Hmawbi, Dagon Myothit (North), and other townships. —Zaw Gyi ■



YCDC staff clean up fallen branches in Shwepyitha Twsp. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**



Aid from the the Department of Disaster Management. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

Dr. Win Myat Aye travels to Hla Pho Khaung transit centre

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Re-settlement Dr. Win Myat Aye visited the Hla Pho Khaung transit centre to meet returnees who had returned home voluntarily in Maungtwaw Township yesterday.

Accompanying the union minister were Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Deputy Ministers U Soe Aung and U Kyaw Lin, and other officials. The union minister and his entourage first travelled from Sittway to Buthidaung in a launch and then to the transit centre in motor vehicles.

The union minister told the returnees the repatriation process would be carried out systematically, in accordance with the agreements made between Myanmar and Bangladesh. Returnees who initially had homes

in Myanmar will be sent back to their homes swiftly and those whose houses were burnt down will have a house built in their original place or somewhere close. The houses will be rebuilt through the cash-for-work system, he said.

The union minister told the returnees they need to be loyal to Myanmar, and the union government had followed the rules and regulations for the repatriation process. He added they must abide by the nation's law and learn to communicate effectively in Myanmar would help build mutual understanding among the people.

All the returnees have voluntarily applied for citizenship and the first step was getting a national verification card (NVC). The officials concerned have explained to the returnees



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye meets returnees at Hla Pho Khaung transit centre in Maungtwaw Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

the benefits and responsibilities of holding an NVC, said the union minister. He added that everyone must cooperate for the present and long-term benefits, and opportunities for education, healthcare, and employment would soon

be within their reach.

Later, Chief Minister U Nyi Pu spoke about the job opportunities and resettling processes. He told the returnees to openly speak their minds and asked them not to do anything without notifying the

officials at the transit centre, where they can stay safely. He added that the authorities were working for the returnees to contact their remaining family members in Bangladesh.

The union minister and his delegation then

verified the information provided by the returnees, listened to them and helped them solve difficulties at the transit centre, and provided them with support for the required administration tasks. —Myanmar News Agency

Opening ceremony of engineering refresher training course held in Nay Pyi Taw

The opening ceremony of the engineering refresher training course (1/2018) by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy was held at the central school of Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw, on 28 May.

At the ceremony, the Electricity and Energy Union Minister gave an opening speech about how the ministry always supported the development of the staffs' human resources. "This engineering training is provided with the aim of creating a qualified new generation of engineers in the electric sector for the development of the country and ensuring professionalism in the implementation of a power plant, electricity power line and substation and distribution

electricity," he said.

The engineering refresher training course will teach some 18 subjects, including four subjects related to electricity production, 13 subjects related to electricity distribution, and one subject related to basic civil engineering. During the training, experts from the Siemens, GE, UREC and Hendrix companies will discuss knowledge information. Trainees have to follow the rules and regulations of the training and learn all the subjects.

The union minister and his officials observed the training rooms and teaching equipment. The training was attended by some 30 trainees from the department, enterprises and the Ministry of Electricity and Energy. —MNA ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI AUC ONE VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI AUC ONE VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of SPW-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MARINE & SHIPPING
PTE LTD SINGAPORE.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA
SHIPPING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ARCA VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ARCA VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/TMT 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

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BIMA VOY. NO. (408N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BIMA VOY. NO. (408N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

Storms, lightning kill at least 47 in India: officials

NEW DELHI, India — Storms and lightning across a swathe of northern India have killed at least 47 people, officials said on Tuesday, the latest deaths from freak weather that has battered the country this month.

Disaster management officials in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand states said a combined total of 47 people had died in overnight storms across the region.

Bihar was the worst hit, pounded by strong winds and thunderbolts.

“At least 19 people have been confirmed dead. 11 of them due to lightning,” Yoginder Singh, a state disaster management official, told AFP.

The wild weather stretched into neighbouring Uttar Pradesh, where winds of up to 70 kilometres (43 miles) an hour buffeted India’s most populous state.

“Fifteen people were killed by overnight lightning and high speed winds,” said TP Gupta, an official from the Uttar Pradesh disaster management department.

Another 10 people were injured, some with burns after being struck by lightning, he added.

Many in rural India sleep outdoors during the summer to escape the searing heat.

Nearly 200 people have died in Uttar Pradesh this month alone as strong winds and sandstorms brought down walls and electricity poles in Jharkhand, east of Bihar, 13 people died and six were injured in violent weather overnight, said Sushil Kumar, the head of the state’s disaster management department.—AFP ■



PHOTO:AFP

Top North Korean general on way to US ahead of summit: report

SEOUL—A top North Korean general is headed for the United States in what would be the highest-profile visit in years, reports said Tuesday as the two countries prepare for a momentous summit.

General Kim Yong Chol landed at Beijing airport on Tuesday and will journey on to New York the following day after talks with Chinese officials, according to South Korea’s Yonhap news agency, which cited diplomatic sources.

The trip is part of a flurry of diplomacy as preparations gather pace for the on-again, off-again summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korea’s leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore on 12 June.

Trump cancelled the talks last week, citing “open hostility” from the North, but since then both sides have dialled down the rhetoric and the process appears to be back on track.

US negotiators, headed by Washington’s cur-

rent ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim, met with North Korean counterparts in the truce village of Panmunjom that divides the two Koreas on Sunday.

The State Department said a separate team of White House officials has also headed to Singapore to sort out logistics for the historic meeting.

Chung Sung-yoon, an analyst at the Korea Institute for National Unification, said Kim Yong Chol would be the most senior North Korean official to step onto US soil since Vice Marshall Jo Myong Rok met President Bill Clinton in 2000.

The general has long been a right hand man to North Korea’s leader, playing a front-seat role during recent rounds of diplomacy aimed at ending the nuclear stalemate on the Korean peninsula.

He sat next to Trump’s daughter Ivanka, who is also a White House aide, during the closing ceremony of the Winter Olympics in the South Korean resort

of Pyeongchang which was a turning point in the nuclear crisis.

He also accompanied Kim Jong Un on both of his recent trips to China to meet President Xi Jinping and held talks with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo when he travelled to Pyongyang.

“Kim’s official counterpart is Pompeo but he may also push for meetings with (National Security Advisor John) Bolton and even Trump if possible,” Chung told AFP.

Controversial figure

General Kim is a deeply controversial figure in South Korea, where he is blamed for masterminding the 2010 sinking of the navy corvette the Cheonan, which killed 46 sailors, an attack North Korea denies playing any role in.

From 2009 to 2016 he was also director of North Korea’s General Reconnaissance Bureau, the unit tasked with cyber warfare and intelligence gathering.—AFP

Mr. Seo Ho Gwon and Public Announcement

According to instructions of Daw Khaing Zar Lwin (12/ Ma Ya Ka(N)143708), who was living in No-425, U Chit Tun street, 2-ward, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar was announce are follows hereby.

Our Client Daw Khaing Zar Lwin (12/Ma Ya Ka(N)143708) and Mr Seo Ho Gwon (South Korean), who was holder of Passport number (M39067765) were living together in 2008 with the association as husband and wife and their two daughters were born in South Korea(Busan City). A few years later, the situation of their combination was became different altitude and unable to coordinate. Accordingly, both parties are made decision to agree for divorced in (2015). Since that time, Mr Seo Ho Gwon was not provided not only to pay for the wife but also to pay for the children. Also, the properties had belonged when they association as a couple were been refunded at the date of 27th-Feb-2018 by our client Daw Khaing Zar Lwin to Mr Seo Ho Gwon according to the current value of belonging without deduct for entitlement of wife. Mr Seo Ho Gwon was agreed to made decision for in care of two daughters will fully undertake by Daw Khaing Zar Lwin. We wanna announce that Mr Seo Ho Gwon and Daw Khaing Zar Lwin were not relevant with any relationship from now and futhure and also ensuring prohibited to Mr Seo Ho Gwon (M39067765) that any distrubing or to defame on our client, if not obey above meantion will take action with under the law of Union of Myanmar.

According to the instructions for delegating-
Advocate Lawyers

Daw Minn Shandy Hpyoe Daw Su Su Mon
(No-12846) (No-13496)

Higher Grade Lawyers

Daw Swe Hnin Yu Daw Thinzar Htay
(No-40337) (No-40882)

No-(1007), (12+1) Parami Condominium, 16-ward, Hlaing Township, Yangon.

Ph: 09 799664556, 09 799664557, 09 5049174, 09420084989

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Yangon Regional Government

ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး အစိုးရအဖွဲ့
Tender Invitation for Ngwe Pin Le Integrated Logistics
Zone & IWT Jetty Link Port Project
ငွေပင်လယ် အစိတ်အပိုင်းနှင့် IWT Jetty Link Port
Project အတွက် တင်ဒါအဆိုပြုလွှာ စိတ်ဝင်စားခြင်း

- Yangon Regional Government, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, intended to develop the Jetty, Inland Container Depot, Container Freight Station and CFS-Warehouse and Warehouse/Bonded Warehouse project near the Ngwe Pin Le Industrial Zone and Ale-Ywa to support the transportation and logistics sector within the Yangon Region.
- ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီးအစိုးရအဖွဲ့အနေဖြင့် ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီးအတွင်းရှိ ကုန်စည်သယ်ယူပို့ဆောင်ရေးကဏ္ဍကို ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်စေရန် ရည်ရွယ်၍ လှိုင်သာယာမြို့နယ်၊ ငွေပင်လယ်စက်မှုဇုန်နှင့် အလယ်ရွာအနီးတွင် ငွေပင်လယ်ကုန်းတွင်း ဆိပ်ကမ်းနှင့် Bonded Warehouse စီမံကိန်းများ ဆောင်ရွက်ရန်ရှိပါသည်။
- Sealed bids are invited from the qualified developers who interested to develop the Ngwe Pin Le Integrated Logistics Zone & IWT Jetty Link Port Project with Build-Operate-Transfer Program as the following.
- သို့ပါ၍ ငွေပင်လယ်ကုန်းတွင်းဆိပ်ကမ်းနှင့် Bonded Warehouse လုပ်ငန်းများအား BOT စနစ်ဖြင့် ဆောင်ရွက်ရန် စိတ်ဝင်စားသူ Developer များအနေဖြင့် အောက်ပါအချက်အလက်များနှင့်အညီ အိတ်မိတ်တင်ဒါ တင်သွင်းနိုင်ပါကြောင်း ဖိတ်ခေါ်အပ်ပါသည်။

Tender Description	Bidding Document Fee (USD)
1. Jetty, Inland Container Depot, Container Freight Station and CFS-Warehouse	5000 USD
2. Warehouse/Bonded Warehouse	3000 USD

- The bidding document may be purchased by interested bidders after signing the Non-disclosure Agreement (NDA) upon submission of a formal request on payment of a non-refundable fee indicated above for each set of tender documents.
- တင်ဒါလျှောက်လွှာများအား အခြားသူများထံ ထုတ်ဖော်ပြောဆိုမှု ပြုမည် မဟုတ်ကြောင်း သဘောတူညီချက် Non-disclosure Agreement (NDA) တွင် လက်မှတ်ရေးထိုး၍ သတ်မှတ်ချက်များအတိုင်း ဝယ်ယူရမည်ဖြစ်ပြီး တင်ဒါလျှောက်လွှာများအား ပြန်လည်ထုတ်ပေးမည်မဟုတ်ပါ။
- The bidding documents will be available from the office as noted in paragraph 8 on any working day with effect from 31.5.2018 (From 9.00 hour to 16.00 hour, local time).
- တင်ဒါလျှောက်လွှာများအား အပိုဒ် (၈) ပါ လိပ်စာတွင် (၃၁.၅.၂၀၁၈) နေ့ ရုံးဖွင့်ရက်များအတွင်း (မြန်မာ စံတော်ချိန် နံနက် ၀၉၀၀ နာရီမှ ၁၆၀၀ နာရီ အတွင်း) ဝယ်ယူရရှိနိုင်ပါသည်။
- Pre-bid meeting will take place at the below address and date and time will be confirmed later for discussions of various issues raised by the prospective bidders.
- တင်ဒါအကြံပြုလုပ်ငန်းလင်းတင်ပြသည့် အစည်းအဝေးအား အောက်ပါလိပ်စာတွင် ပြုလုပ်မည်ဖြစ်ပြီး ကျင်းပသည့် နေ့ရက်၊ အချိန်နှင့် နေရာအား ထပ်မံကြေငြာ မည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။
- The bid duly completed in all respects as described in the bidding document shall be submitted, in a sealed envelope, to the Yangon Regional Government on or before Friday 27.7.2018 at 12:00 noon (local time).
- ချိတ်မိတ်ထားသည့်တင်ဒါ အဆိုပြုလွှာများအား ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး အစိုးရအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ (၂၇.၇.၂၀၁၈) ရက်နေ့၊ နေ့လည် ၁၂ နာရီ မတိုင်ခင် ပေးပို့ရမည်။
- The bid received after the expiry of the stipulated time of submission shall not be considered. Yangon Regional Government reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at on its discretion without assigning any reason whatsoever. The Yangon Regional Government is not bound to accept the lowest offer/bid and reserves the right to negotiate with bidders.
- နောက်ကျတင်သွင်းလာသည့် တင်ဒါအဆိုပြုလွှာများအား ထည့်သွင်း စဉ်းစားမည် မဟုတ်ပါ။ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး အစိုးရအဖွဲ့သည် တင်ဒါအဆိုပြုလွှာများအားမည်သည့် အကြောင်းပြချက်ပေးရန် မလိုဘဲ လက်ခံခြင်း၊ ငြင်းပယ်ခြင်းများ ပြုလုပ်နိုင်ပါသည်။ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး အစိုးရအနေဖြင့် တင်ဒါတင်သွင်းသူများနှင့် ညှိနှိုင်းခွင့်ရှိသည့်အပြင် ဈေးနှုန်း အနည်းဆုံး တင်သွင်းလာသည့် တင်ဒါအဆိုပြုလွှာအား လက်ခံရန်တာဝန် မရှိပါ။
- Contact Address is as mentioned the following, Yangon Regional Government
Room 222, Ahlone Road, Yangon Regional Government Office, Yangon, Myanmar.
Telephone No +959 448 144 744, +959 448 144 755, +959 95015150
Email: project.finn.sg@sg.pwc.com
- အသေးစိတ်သိရှိလိုပါက စုံစမ်းရန်
Yangon Metropolitan Development Public Co.Ltd
အခန်းအမှတ် ၂၂၂၊ အလုံလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး အစိုးရအဖွဲ့ရုံး
ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး၊ ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်။
တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ်။ ၀၉ ၄၄၈ ၁၄၄ ၇၄၄၊ ၀၉ ၄၄၈ ၁၄၄ ၇၅၅၊ ၀၉ ၉၅၀၁၅၁၅၀
အီးမေးလ်လိပ်စာ: project.finn.sg@sg.pwc.com

Vuitton in starry homage to fashion's 'Amazing Grace'

PARIS — Fashion giant Louis Vuitton bent the knee to legendary Vogue stylist Grace Coddington in a show in rural Provence paying tribute to her daring through the decades.

The Welsh-born creative director at large for American Vogue magazine is credited with creating some of fashion's "most memorable imagery" and is known as "Amazing Grace" to her many fans.

Vuitton designer Nicolas Ghesquiere even sent several red-haired models weaving down a catwalk between Miro sculptures at the Maeght Foundation art gallery and gardens on Monday in a nod to Coddington's own trademark mane.

The 77-year-old was the longtime righthand woman of Vogue editor Anna Wintour, and the star of an acclaimed 2009 documentary about the iconic magazine, "The September Issue".

Ghesquiere, who has just renewed his contract with fashion's richest luxury brand, said he wanted to celebrate Coddington's unique eye, and the way she juxtaposes clothes and designs no one else would dare to.

"Eccentricity is to define your own personality and to mix things in a unique way," he told AFP. "For me, Grace with her very strong style represents a kind of eccentricity."

Hollywood stars

The designer tried to recreate that glorious individuality in 59 looks which covered her time as model in the London of the swinging sixties right up the present.

With Coddington looking on, "Beautiful Mind" star Jennifer Connelly read from her memoir, "Grace", as the models traipsed around the artworks in the foundation's gardens at Saint Paul de Vence, in the hills behind the



(From left) US actress Jennifer Connelly, French actress Lea Seydoux, US actress Emma Stone, director and executive vice president of Louis Vuitton Delphine Arnault and French actress Marina Fois applaud Vuitton designer Nicolas Ghesquiere. **PHOTO: AFP**

French Riviera.

Connelly's fellow film stars Emma Stone, Isabelle Huppert and Lea Seydoux were also on the front row to see a collection that was strong on a typically Coddington mix of short skirts, Prince of Wales check jackets and lots of spots, stripes and flower motifs.

Coddington also designed

some of the accessories to go with the cruise collection, with her illustrations of dogs and cats intertwined with Louis Vuitton's famous monogram.

Ghesquiere said he also drew inspiration from works in the Maeght gallery, which includes work by Balthus, Bonnard, Braque, Calder, Chagall, Giacometti and Leger.

"I also wanted to pay homage to this place, which for me is the genesis of (all the other) art foundations. It is a love story between a family, artists and architecture," he said.

The Louis Vuitton Foundation opened its own art gallery designed by Frank Gehry in the Bois de Boulogne on the edge of Paris in 2014.—AFP



Iranian writer-director Asghar Farhadi. **PHOTO: AFP**

Oscar-winner Farhadi to chair 24th Sarajevo Film Festival jury

SARAJEVO — Iranian writer-director Asghar Farhadi will be president of the jury of this year's Sarajevo Film Festival, which will take place in August, organizers announced on Tuesday.

"We are proud to announce that one of the most prominent contemporary filmmakers, Iranian writer-director Asghar Farhadi, two times Oscar winner, will preside over the jury of the competition programme — feature Film of the 24th Sarajevo

Film Festival," organizers said in a press release.

The festival's audience will also have a chance to see Farhadi's latest film "Everybody knows" which premiered in the competition program of the Cannes Film Festival.

The Sarajevo Film Festival, launched in 1995, has become a leading cultural event in the Balkan region. The 24th Sarajevo Film Festival is scheduled to open on 10 August and run until 17 August.—Xinhua ■

Alan Rickman was 'frustrated' with Severus Snape

LOS ANGELES — The personal letters of Alan Rickman have revealed that the late actor was "frustrated" by one of his most iconic roles, Severus Snape, the sneering teacher in the "Harry Potter" movies.

The revelation was made in the letters that were released for an auction. The archive was a personal collection of papers and letters that span Rickman's 40-year-long career as an actor, reported Deadline.

In one particular letter, director David Heyman wrote to him, "Thank you for making HP2 ('Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets') a success. I know, at times, you are frustrated but please know that you are an integral part of the films. And you are brilliant." A note written by the actor while working on 2009's "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" suggests he was unhappy about the lack of attention given to his character.

In the note titled "Inside

Snape's Head," Rickman wrote, "It's as if David Yates (director) has decided that this is not important in the scheme of things i.e. teen audience appeal."

The archive, which has been valued at 950,000 pounds includes letters from the Prince Charles, Bill Clinton and Tony Blair, as well as "Harry Potter" author JK Rowling, who thanks Rickman for "doing justice to my most complex character." There are also heartwarming letters from actors including Kate Win-

slet, who starred with him in "A Little Chaos" as well as a note from Nicole Kidman who called his performance in the London production of "Private Lives" "inspiring."

Other items include Rickman's copy of the script for his first film, 1988's "Die Hard," in which he played the terrorist Hans Gruber. The archive has been assembled by BAFTA-nominated actor and book-seller Neil Pearson, working with Rickman's estate.—PTI ■



Alan Rickman portrayed the role of Severus Snape in Harry Potter. **PHOTO: PTI**



Thousands of bikers and military veterans take part in the Rolling Thunder motorcycle parade in Washington. **PHOTO: AFP**

Never forgotten: war veteran bikers rally in US for missing comrades

WASHINGTON — Wearing bandanas, cowboy hats or gleaming helmets, tens of thousands of war veteran bikers roared through Washington on Sunday to honor US soldiers missing in action in foreign wars.

For 30 years their slogan has been the same: “We will never forget.”

“It’s exhilarating, everybody is so happy to see us,” said Keith Gonzales, after finishing his ride that passed supporters who lined the streets and waved flags or other signs of support.

Gonzales, 64, is a Vietnam veteran. His helmet, jeans, T-shirt, leather vest adorned with colored patches, his energy and an easy laugh, all belie the traumas of that long war which ended in 1975.

“When we came back from Vietnam we didn’t get this kind of reaction at all. So it’s nice now,” he told AFP. For Doug Torres, 54, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, Sunday’s ride was an overwhelming experience.

“Riding along, I could feel a lump in my throat ‘cause Iraq and Afghanistan weren’t very popular either,” he said.

“To see the American public out there in the street really felt great.” Waving banners in the red, white and blue of America’s flag, Shayla Mathei, 43, and Chaz Stamps, 42, clapped and warmly encouraged the riders, many of whom were aboard heavy American-made Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

In a dress, shorts and sneakers — with no leather in sight — this pair in their forties had

travelled from California for the weekend, and looked nothing like the bikers passing before them.

“We’re here to show our patriotism,” said Mathei, a speech therapist. “It makes me feel proud and it’s good to honor people that have served our country.”

Stamps is himself a former US Navy sailor.

Honoring the missing as well as soldiers who died under the US flag is the aim of the gathering dubbed “Rolling Thunder,” which was also the name of a major operation which the US carried out to bomb North Vietnam during the war.

‘I needed to come’

The parade began in 1988 with fewer than 3,000 participants under the motto “We will never forget” to press for an accounting of the Viet Nam missing.

It has grown every year since into a rumbling, roaring extravaganza that organizers say attracts more than a million people, including spectators.

The route took riders into the center of official Washington, past the monuments on the National Mall and the austere black marble memorial engraved with the names of the nearly 60,000 US soldiers killed during the Viet Nam War. According to organizers, more than 85,000 US troops remain unaccounted for in wars as far back as World War I.

Most are from World War II, but 1,598 of the missing are from the war in Southeast Asia, a conflict still fresh in the memories of older veterans.

“Still there are families wait-

ing back home here in the United States that have not found out where their dads, their fathers, their brothers — they don’t know where they are,” said Jack Richardson, a retired Los Angeles police officer who served two tours in Vietnam in the 1960s.

“They don’t know if they’re still in Viet Nam, they don’t know if they’re still alive, they don’t know if they’re dead, they don’t know if they’re captured,” said Richardson, who at 73 crossed the country from California for the 13th time to participate in the annual Memorial Day weekend spectacular. Mel Goudge, 76, who served in Viet Nam from 1965-66, made a similarly long journey, from Washington state, but for him it was the first time.

“The ride was hard on me,” he said of the 10-day trip. “But I’m glad I did it.”

“It was a pilgrimage. I grew up with a friend who lived across the street and he was shot down in 1968, 25th November and I needed to come to the wall and touch his name on the wall. It was kind of something I had to do,” he said. Most of the riders avoid talk about politics, but Donald Trump won many over by visiting Rolling Thunder during his 2016 presidential campaign.

The US president tweeted his appreciation ahead of Sunday’s parade. “Fantastic to have 400,000 GREAT MEN & WOMEN of Rolling Thunder in DC showing their patriotism. They love our Country, they love our Flag, they stand for our National Anthem!”—AFP ■

Students colourize Hiroshima photos taken before A-bomb

HIROSHIMA — With artificial intelligence-powered technology, high school students are colourizing black and white photos of Hiroshima taken before the 1945 US atomic bombing of the western Japan city.

The 14 students at Hiroshima Jogakuin senior high school launched the initiative in November last year, aiming to make the images come more alive for viewers and help revive the memories of survivors so they can better pass on their experiences to the next generation.

“We are the last generation who can talk to atomic bomb survivors. We want to treasure conversations generated through the photos and contribute to keeping records of their accounts,” Anju Niwata, a 16-year-old project member, said.

The students began the work after learning about AI colourization technology freely available online from their collaborator Hidenori Watanabe, a professor of information design at the graduate school of the University of Tokyo.

The AI technology, which stores data on 2.3 million matching colour and black and white photos of the same subject, first picks the appropriate colours.

The students then modify the colours to bring them as close as possible to the colors of the original scenes based on the accounts of atomic

bomb survivors they interviewed.

The students are colourizing photos they received from four atomic bomb survivors, and also keeping video records of survivors’ accounts.

Tokuzo Hamai, an 83-year-old atomic bomb survivor from Hatsukaichi, Hiroshima Prefecture, provided 35 photos from the prewar period, including those capturing him with his parents and siblings, who died due to the atomic bombing.

The pictures were kept safe in the aftermath of the bombing at the place to which he was evacuated.

“Adding colours to the photos made the scenery in the photos more stereoscopic,” Hamai said, adding happily that the images had brought back forgotten memories of a friend.

Watanabe said that black and white pictures seem to divide the lives of modern people and those of the prewar period. “I hope colourization (technology) will bridge the postwar and prewar periods,” he said.

The United States dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on 6 August, 1945, and the second on Nagasaki three days later. Around 210,000 people are estimated to have died from the attacks by the end of 1945. Japan surrendered on 15 August, bringing World War II to an end.—Kyodo News ■



Anju Niwata (L) works on colourizing a black and white photo. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Saw Ba Oo to fight Arthur Saladiak for WLC world title

THE “WLC-5: Knockout War fight” for the World Lethwei Championship title between Myanmar’s welterweight lethwei fighter Saw Ba Oo and Arthur Saladiak from Poland will take place at Wunna Theikdi Indoor Stadium (B) in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 June, Saturday (5 p.m.).

“The fight will decide who is more courageous. I have decided to go for the knockout before the title is decided through points,” Myanmar fighter Saw Ba Oo wrote in a post, according to the World Lethwei Championship Facebook page.

Poland fighter Arthur Saladiak posted: “I have observed Saw Ba Oo’s fights. I must watch out for his right fist. It will be a historic win for me, and I am 150 per cent confident.”

The winner will become WLC’s welterweight (67-71kg) World Lethwei Champion.

The fight between Saw Ba Oo and Arthur Saladiak will be the main event of the competition, whereas the co-event is the match between Kyaw Zin Latt and Saw Darwait.

The main card events will



WLC-5: KNOCKOUT WAR event will take place at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 June. **PHOTO: WLC**

be the fights between Michael Badato and Saw Nga Man, Tha Pyae Nyo versus Phoe La Pyae, Antonio Faria versus Mite Yine and Saw Htoo Aung versus

Lethee Moe. A fight between Shwe Nadi and Nou Srey Pov in the women’s category is also included in the main card event. — GNLM ■

Egypt star Salah to travel to Spain for treatment: federation

LONDON — Liverpool and Egypt star Mohamed Salah will travel to Spain on Tuesday for treatment on the injured shoulder that wrecked his Champions League final bid and threatens his World Cup participation.

Egypt’s football federation (EFA) said Salah’s entourage had chosen Spain for a rehabilitation programme that Egyptians will hope helps Salah return in time for next month’s World Cup in Russia.

According to an EFA statement Salah will be accompanied by Liverpool’s medical staff “for the duration of the treatment period”, having “started his rehabilitation on Sunday”.

Salah, who hit a stunning 44 goals for Liverpool last season in all competitions, was forced out the Champions League final in tears on Saturday clutching his left shoulder after being wrestled to the ground by Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos.

It was feared the injury had ruled Salah out of the 14 June-15 July World Cup, but on Sunday the Reds’ striker said he was “confident” he would be back in time.

“It was a very tough night, but I’m a fighter.

Despite the odds, I’m confident that I’ll be in Russia to make you all proud,” Salah wrote on his official Twitter account on Sunday.

Egyptian media reported Salah wouldn’t kick a ball in anger for three weeks.

Egyptian federation officials meanwhile are set to pay Salah — described by the EFA as “the symbol of Egypt” — a morale-boosting visit on Wednesday.

Egypt, who were drawn in Group A, open their World Cup campaign against Uruguay on 15 June, before facing hosts Russia and Saudi Arabia.

The Pharaohs play a first warm-up match, against Colombia, in Bergamo, Italy on 1 June.—AFP ■

Brazil midfielder Fabinho to join Liverpool: official

LONDON — Monaco midfielder Fabinho will join Liverpool following the World Cup finals in Russia, the French Ligue 1 club and the Premier League giants announced on Monday.

Brazilian international Fabinho, 24, had agreed at the end of last year’s title-winning campaign to remain one more season in the Principality.

But agreement has now been reached with the Premier League club that will see Fabinho join the Reds after the finals in Russia.

No financial details were given by either club, although some reports claim the deal is worth £44m (\$58m US).

“AS Monaco has reached agreement with Liverpool for the transfer of Fabinho to the English club on 1 July,” said a statement on www.asmonaco.com.

Usually deployed as a de-

fensive midfielder, Fabinho has scored 31 goals in 233 appear-

ances for Monaco since arriving at the club in 2013 from Real



After five seasons at Monaco, Brazil midfielder Fabinho is ready to “create his own history” after completing his move to beaten Champions League finalists Liverpool. **PHOTO: AFP**

Madrid, winning the French league title in 2017.

Liverpool, looking to bolster their squad following a great season in which the Anfield giants reached the Champions League final, only to suffer a 3-1 defeat to Real Madrid, confirmed the deal on their website.

“Liverpool Football Club can confirm a deal has been agreed for the transfer of Fabinho from AS Monaco,” said a statement.

“The Brazil midfielder will formally seal a switch to the Reds on 1 July after successfully completing a medical and finalising terms on a long-term contract at Melwood.”

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp was quick to show his excitement at the signing.

“We have signed a fantastic player, but someone who is an equally fantastic person I think,” the manager told Liver-

pool opportunities and for that I am excited. I’m sure our supporters will make him very welcome and at home at our wonderful club and in our amazing city.”

Fabinho told Liverpoolfc.com: “I am really excited about this move.

“This is something that I always wanted — this is a giant of a team. The infrastructures of the club look exceptional.

“A football club of this size coming after my services, I didn’t have to think that much about coming over. “I will try to create my own history at this football club. Hopefully, on a personal level, I’m able to win titles with this club. “I will try to grow and learn and improve myself, and to be part of the club’s history.”

Fabinho, who has four caps for Brazil, becomes Liverpool’s first signing of the summer transfer window.—AFP ■