President U Win Myint received outgoing Qatari Ambassador

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

Rescue teams ready as severe weather enters Rakhine State
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. 58 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 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 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 Shwepyu 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 Shwepyu Yadana Golf Course.

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 type of land that was being applied for. The Myanmar Economic Development Bank has been accepting these lands as collateral according to its loan policy and is providing 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 farming management group. The Ministry of Planning and 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 (2), 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.
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)

**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 President and to the Chief Minister 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 the laws and regulations set by the Union Government and without contradicting the Union laws.

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

By order
Rhin Latt
Permanent Secretary
Office of the President

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**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 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 expressed 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
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 rules and regulations and illicit 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

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 Pathain umbrellas, and fishery products, while dairy products, consumers goods and raw industrial materials are imported by the Netherlands.

Bilateral trade values stood at some $141 million in the 2016-2017 FY, $61 million in the 2015-16 FY, $42 million in the 2014-15 FY, $26 million in the 2013-14 FY, $9 million in the 2012-13 FY and $23 million in the 2011-12 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 $333 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 23 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 Ks530,000 to Ks550,000 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 property 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.

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 (UMFCCI) 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 Myanmar’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

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

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IFC (International Finance Corporation)
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 Ovadacarya Sayadaws and members of Sangha at the Yang 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 Kyaikpi Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunayana and then presented offertories.

The congregation also listened to the sermon from the Presiding Sayadaw of Fali 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

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.

Chairman of the Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann met separately Denmark’s Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Peter Lynholt Hansen, at 9 a.m. yesterday and outgoing Ambassador of Qatar Mr. Hassan Bin Mohamed Rafi 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

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 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. Sai Ngaung Hsai 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 Mogok constituency were also answered by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe.

Next, U Sai Ngaung Hsai of Maukmai constituency tabled a motion to implement laws and regulations of market and golf course.

During the meeting, they decided to accept the Hluttaw decided to accept the motion and called for the Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat to 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 Htun read and explained the bill.
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By the INYA LAKE

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Stop the trade in elephant body parts

It is disheartening to see the skinned carcasses of an elephant these days in daily papers. It shows that the growing trade in elephant skins, 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 March and supposedly sold the elephant’s body parts to the same trader. Authorities have formed a joint team 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 in Myanmar if the problem continues.

The threat exceeds that from the ivory trade because poachers are targeting all elephant, not just those with tusks. Elephant 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 percent of male elephants has tusks.

But since 2011, more than 1,000 elephants have reportedly been killed, primarily in the Bago, Dima and Ayeyarwady Delta, where a lack of anti-poaching patrols has left elephants at risk.

We need to step up our efforts for the protection of elephants over the next 10 years while engaging the public in the control of corruption and insecurity across the globe.

Today, loss of habitat, poaching and human-elephant conflict are driving the species and ecosystems, fuelling organized crime and feeding crises of severe drought, low yields of crops and other properties and at least by the act of borrowing money. They should be given a suitable assistance.

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 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 conservation plan for elephants is a great step forward. We need to step up our efforts for the protection of elephants over the next 10 years while engaging the public in the control of corruption and insecurity.

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 elephants and policies are designed to face defoliators of language, culture, religion, and strong environments. They have taken risks of putting their farmlands in pawn; some have sold their lands and other properties and at least by the act of borrowing money.

Suitable assistance is readily available. It is regularly true that some get a job easily and others are forced to work at a dangerous workplace with a low pay. They should be given suitable assistance before they go overseas to find a suitable job in less dangerous places. Dairy-based International Fund for Agriculture Development has conducted a research on the bills of exchange concerning overseas workers. According to the research, workers from the countries in the Asia-Pacific Region are closely associated with bills of exchange in one way or the other. One out ten workers send money back through means of bills of exchange to their respective countries. Therefore, the bills of exchange have affected 10 percent of the total population of the Asia-Pacific Region.

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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 Cooperation 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 modelled in accord with ISO 20022 and the ASEAN framework was adopted for cross border payments.

The Central Bank has received technical assistance from payment operators and a non-bank entity were also permitted to provide mobile financial services. Two mobile network operators and a non-bank entity were also permitted to provide 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 re-construction 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 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.

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 23 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 Haighkayun 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 re-established 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 Ks43.09 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 level.

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 1:1,633.

In the road/bridge sector, 361 works were implemented with Ks12.11 billion, while in the irrigation sector, 413 works were implemented with Ks1.16 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 electricity 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 3,075.380 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 Ks51,529,102 according to initial figures, and is planned to reach Ks51,693,652.

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 40 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 Maungtaw 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 Maungtaw Fire Services Department.

Officials led by assistant heads of the offices of township fire service departments in Maungtaw and Buthidaung towns announced yesterday storm warnings in Maungtaw Town as well as in Buthidaung Town. The tropical weather depression has been classified as being in the red stage, the most severe type of storm.

Red Cross volunteers in Sitway and Manauung 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-Sitway 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 Sitway-Maungtaw 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 Manauung, Kyaukphyu and Sittway and (0) 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 sociedad 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). Temporary shelters are being set up to accommodate families who no longer have houses. Similarly, heavy rain and strong winds blew off tree branches in Hpyawbi, Dagon Myothit (North), and other townships. —Zaw Gyi
Dr. Win Myat Aye travels to Hla Pho Khaung transit centre

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye visited the Hla Pho Khaung transit centre to meet returnees who had returned home voluntarily in Maungtaw 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 laws and learn to communicate effectively in Myanmar and 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 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.

Nay Pyi Taw

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

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

The opening ceremony of the engineering refresher training course (3/2018) 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/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 SINA VOY. NO (408N)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINA 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 swath 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 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 sand storms 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

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 current 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

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**Mr. Seo Ho Gwon and Public Announcement**

According to instructions of Daw Khai Kang Zar Lin (12 Ma Ya Ka(N)142788), who was Irving in No-43, U Chin Tum street, 2 ward, Mayangone, Tou, Yangon, Myanmar announce are follows hereby:

Our Client Daw Khai Kang Zar Lin (12 Ma Ya Ka(N)142740) and Mr Seo Ho Gwon (South Korean), who was holder of Passport number (M2087876) were Irving 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 became different altitude and unable to coordinate. Accordingly, both parties are made decision to agree for divorce in 2011. 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 27-Feb-2018 by our client Daw Khai Kang Zar Lin to Mr Seo Ho Gwon according to the current value of belonging without debt for entitlement of wife. Mr Seo Ho Gwon was agreed to made decision for in case of two daughters will fully undertake by Daw Khai Kang Zar Lin. We wanna announce that Mr Seo Ho Gwon and Daw Khai Kang Zar Lin were not relevant with any relationship from now and future and also ensuring prohibited to Mr Seo Ho Gwon (M2087876) that any disturbing or to delame on our client, if not obey above mention will take action with under the law of Union of Myanmar.

According to the instructions for delegating Advocate Lawyers

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>(No-12840)</td>
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**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**Yangon Regional Government**

**Tender Invitations for Figures Pin Le Integrated Logistics Zone & IWT Jety Link Port Project**

1. Yangon Regional Government, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, intended to develop the Jety, 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.

2. Sealed bids are invited from the qualified developers who interested to develop the Ngwe Pin Le Integrated Logistics Zone & IWT Jety Link Port Project with Build-Operate-Transfer Program as the following.

**Tender Description**

1. Jety, Inland Container Depot, Container Freight Station and CFS Warehouse
2. Warehouse/Bonded Warehouse

1. The bidding document may be purchased by interested bidders after signing the Non-disclosure Agreement (NDA) upon submission of a formal request of payment of a non-refundable fee indicated above for each set of tender documents.

2. The bidding document shall be submitted, in a sealed envelope, to the Yangon Regional Government by 30th May 2018 (From 9.00 hour to 16.00 hour, local time)

3. 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).

4. The bid document will complete in all respects, including 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).

5. 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 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.

6. Pre-bid meeting will take place at the above address and date and time will be confirmed later for discussions of various issues raised by the prospective bidders.

7. 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 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.

8. 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 95013150

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**Yangon Metropolitan Development Public Co., Ltd.**

Mr Seo Ho Gwon (M39067765) that any disturbing or to defame on our client, if not obey above meantion will take action with under the law of Union of Myanmar. We wanna announce that Mr Seo Ho Gwon and Daw Min Shandy Hpyse, Daw Su Su Mon will fully undertake by our client date of 27th-Feb-2018 by our client...
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 right-hand 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 road 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 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

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 Winslet, 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 RAF-TA-nominated actor and bookseller Neil Pearson, working with Rickman’s estate.—PTI
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 Gonzales, after finishing his ride 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 Vietnam 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 Vietnam 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 1,590 of the missing are from the war in Southeast Asia, a conflict still fresh in the memories of older veterans.

“Still there are families waiting 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 Jogakuen senior high school launched the initiative in November last year, aiming to make the images 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 Hataokaichi, 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

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

PHOTO: AP

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 lewthei 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 100 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 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 Badato and Saw Nga Man, Tha Pyae Nyo versus Phoe La Pyae, Antonio Faria versus Mite Yine and Saw Htoo Aung versus

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 of 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 defensive midfielder, Fabinho has scored 31 goals in 233 appearances for Monaco since arriving at the club in 2013 from Real 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 Brazilian 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 Liverpool 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

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

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

PHOTO: AFP