Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, Vice Chairman of Standing Committee of NPC of China, discuss promoting bilateral cooperation

SPEAKER of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat received a delegation led by H.E Mr. Ding Zhongli, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China, at the Za-buthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, Speaker U T Khun Myat said Myanmar would promote further cooperation in the bilateral strategic friendship relations through the paukphaw relations between the two countries.

He expressed thanks to China for its support to internal peace and national reconciliation in Myanmar.

U T Khun Myat said Myanmar would promote further cooperation in the bilateral strategic friendship relations through the paukphaw relations between the two countries.

In his discussion, Mr. Ding Zhongli said China will cooperate in the legislation and in the science and technology sectors which can underpin the peace and development in Myanmar.

The purpose of the visit by his delegation is aimed at promoting the relations between China and Myanmar and investment, he said.

Myanmar is rich in natural resources and has favorable climate for agriculture, he said, adding that as far as the transportation between China and Myanmar is better, Myanmar’s economic development rate would rise in future, he added.

Afterwards, U T Khun Myat and Mr. Ding Zhongli posed for documentary photos together with attendees at the meeting.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Vice Chairman of Standing Committee of NPC of China

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received a delegation led by Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China H.E. Mr. Ding Zhongli at the guest hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

During the meeting, organisation and legislative work processes of the two parliaments, strengthening bilateral relations and promoting cooperation were openly and cordially discussed.

The meeting was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw government guarantees, pledges and undertakings vetting committee and local and international non-government organizations committee, Myanmar-China Inter-parliamentary Friendship Association chairman, bill committee secretary and officials from Amyotha Hluttaw office.

— MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Vice Chairman of Standing Committee of NPC of China

Striving together with “collective strength” of the people

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Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s ninth regular session holds 18th day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE 18th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, motions on reports tabled, receipt of a bill announced and a bill approved.

Asterisk-marked questions

In the first question of the day, U Kyaw Shwe of Yanbye constituency asked if there is a plan to construct multi-purpose cyclone shelters for workers and families living in Yanbye Township, Laytaung region, Sittin-maw port and Kyaukkooonaw port. In his reply on behalf of the ministry and Rakhine State government, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung said the two ports had a population of more than 700 and 300 from 150 and 100 houses respectively and there were even more during the open season. They were living close to the sea, and the nearest inland villages at Zayatpyin village tracts are about 6 miles away and there are no high grounds near the port. The Deputy Minister explained that a multi-purpose cyclone shelter will be constructed as a priority on an appropriate land chosen by Rakhine State government near the two ports with National Natural Disaster Management Fund in fiscal year 2018-2019.

Next, Daw Nan Htwe Thu of Pasawng constituency said student selection criteria for education training school opened by Ministry of Border Affairs in Bawlake town was not proportionate township-wise and is not transparent. She enquired about the selection criteria and if there is a plan to select students proportionately from townships. Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut answered that priority is given towards orphans and children of single parents and not to accept students who stay in outside boarding houses. Priority is also given toward students with good basic education and those who want to study. They also need to be healthy and fit and must be between 11 and 12 years old, fifth standard students. Selection and acceptance is during the set period at the start of an education year and there is no selection and acceptance during other periods, said the Deputy Minister.

For education year 2017-2018, school management committee of the school assess and select students and then submit it to Kayah State Chief Minister for approval. The ministry proposes to the Chief Minister the number of students the school is accepting for the education year and continues with the selection of the students, according to the Chief Minister’s confirmation and approval, explained the Deputy Minister.

U Sein Aung of Paletwa constituency then asked if there is a plan to construct a suspension (rope) bridge for human crossing at Phayonchaung village, Paletwa Township, and Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut answered that starting from fiscal year 2019-2020, depending upon fund permitted, proposal will be submitted to conduct the work.

Replying to a question by U Wun Hla of Nanyun constituency on action taken against Global Land company for installing sub-standard box culverts along the Nanyun Township Shatenyu-Lonkya road, in addition to replacing with standard box culverts, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut said officials inspected the construction of sixty box culverts and sub-standard box culverts were asked to be replaced. The replacement work was fully completed on 25 August and a report had been submitted about this. If a group led by the Hluttaw representative found any requirements or shortcomings, the company will be asked to work on it again. If the work is not up to standard, action will be taken against the company according to procedure, said the Deputy Minister.

Similarly, questions raised by U Tin Aye of Metmung constituency, U R Moe Hsi of Khaunglaung constituency and U Kyaw Htay of Leshi constituency were explained by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut.

Submission of motions on reports

After the asterisk-marked questions session, Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens, Fundamental Rights Committee member and Pyithu Hluttaw Health and Sports Development Committee member submitted motions to approve a report of each committee.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and Hluttaw agreed to approve it.

Receipt of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Bill

Following this, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker long term obtained the receipt of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Bill, returned by Aungthu Hluttaw with amendment, and called for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to table an amendment motion to register their names.

Approval of Consumer Protection Bill

Bill committee member U Nay Myo Tun then explained about amended motions tabled for Consumer Protection Bill, submitted by Ministry of Commerce.

After the explanation, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on the bill, and the approval of the Hluttaw.

The 19th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held today, it is learnt.

Second Amyotha Hluttaw’s ninth regular session holds 18th-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin (MNA)

THE 18th-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw’s ninth regular session was held yesterday morning at the Amyotha Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Last day, the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung replied that there is no plan yet to terminate the 50 per cent allocation at the moment. The matter needs to be discussed and coordinated with the rectors first and then submit it to the Union government for this to be changed, said the Union Minister.

U Saw Chit Oo of Kayin State constituency then asked if plans are made to prevent damage caused by rainwater inundation every year to Kayin State, Hlaingbwe town, ward 4 and villages in the township and to repair the damaged and destroyed roads and bridges in the township. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin replied that to prevent inundation in Kayin State, Hlaingbwe Township from the Hlaingbwe river that flows through it, Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River System is conducting long term plans for the river to have the required depth and width, detailed study and surveys were conducted for construction of river bank retaining wall on the outer bend of the river and discussion held with local populace. Afterwards, necessary plans and arrangements will be made, said the Deputy Minister.

Replying to a question posed by U Bwe Khane of Chin State constituency 3 on a plan to upgrade the 7-mile long village connecting road that connects Thantlaw Township Khahrang village and Hakha Township Leipi village to an all-weather road.

SEE PAGE-10
Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Vice Chairman of Standing Committee of NPC of China

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein received Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) of the People’s Republic of China H.E. Mr. Ding Zhongli and party at Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In the meeting, they exchanged views and discussed cooperation between governments, parliaments and peoples, following the visits of the leaders of the two countries; government of China further assisting, cooperating and participating in Myanmar’s transition to democracy and the peace process; bilateral trade, investment, energy and human resources developmental; and parliament matters.

Present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw’s international relations committee chairman U Kyi Moe Naing, secretaries U Bo Bo Oo, U Soe Myint @ U Aung Zaw Myint, international relations committee member Daw Pyone Kaythi Naing and officials, while Mr. Ding Zhongli and party were accompanied by Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang.

After the meeting, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China H.E. Mr. Ding Zhongli and attendees posed for a commemorative group photo.

President’s Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No. 15/2018 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs’ arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 15 September.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 15 September. The full text of the press release will be reported in the 19 September issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar — GNLM

UEC, IIIDEM conduct Training of Trainers and Facilitators in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Union Election Commission (UEC) and Election Commission of India jointly conducted Training of Trainers and Facilitators (TTF) at the office of UEC in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The training is a part of the Memorandum of Understanding between India and Myanmar, signed on 6 September last year.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the training, U Hla Thein, Chairman of the UEC, expressed UEC’s willingness to make further cooperation with the Election Commission of India. A total of 25 trainees are attending the five-day course and trainers from India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) are giving lectures at the second training under the MoU. The first training was conducted in India and a total of 25 trainees attended it from 16 to 25 July in New Delhi, India.

A total of nine trainings will be conducted in 2018 and 2019 in India and Myanmar alternately, said Dr. Bhagban Prakash, Senior Advisor of the IIIDEM.

He said that India will cooperate with Myanmar in transition to democracy and will share its experiences with Myanmar.

Chairman of the UEC U Hla Thein poses for a documentary photo with representatives from Training of Trainers and Facilitators.

FROM PAGE 1

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein, chairmen of Hluttaw committees U Khin Maung Win, U Aung Min, U Zaw Thein, U Khun Maung Thaung, Dr. Tin Aung, Dr. San Shwe Win, U Yan Lin and U Tin Maung Win, Secretary U Bo Bo Oo and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, while Mr. Ding Zhongli was accompanied by the Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang.

Later in the evening, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker hosted a dinner for H.E. Mr. Ding Zhongli and party at the Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives Norwegian Ambassador

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Ambassador of Norway H.E. Mrs Tone Tinnes at the Union Attorney-General’s Office yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to strengthening the practice of democratic system, holding discussion on the Constitution, amending laws to be in accord with the times, improving and developing the media sector, providing scholarships and supporting law officers in training courses and increasing cooperation. — MNA

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives Norwegian Ambassador Mrs Tone Tinnes at the Union Attorney-General’s Office. PHOTO: MNA
New clinics in Insein Prison to be opened later this month: 3MDG

FUNDED by Three Millennium Development Goal Fund (3MDG), a programme strengthening Myanmar’s national health system at all levels, newly constructed clinics in Insein Prison in Yangon Region will officially be opened later this month, according to a press release.

Also, plans are underway to implement construction of new clinics in Mandalay Prisons within this year. The costs of construction of the healthcare facilities in Insein and Mandalay prisons are US$1.2 million.

This is part of the 3MDG’s healthcare programmes to offer better healthcare services to those in prisons nationwide.

Under the programme, the 3MDG Fund has helped Myanmar’s Ministry of Health and Sports control communicable and non-communicable diseases in the country’s correctional facilities.

In a report of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, the number of inmates exceeded the space available in the country’s prisons. Overcrowding, poor ventilation and repeated prison transfers can create an environment, where infectious diseases, including HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis and cholera can spread quickly causing fatalities.

There are approximately 90,000 prisoners in the country, with nearly half serving sentences for drug-related offences, said the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, at the launching ceremony of Standard Operating Procedures for Health in Prisons.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Thandar Lwin, Deputy Director General of the Department of Health under the Ministry of Health and Sports, said, “Health in prisons is not only for the prisoners, but also for the community outside, since it is closely linked to communicable and non-communicable diseases. The Ministry of Health and Sports and the National AIDS Programme (NAP) are implementing HIV and TB screening in several other prisons, including Insein, Mandalay and Thayet.”

The country has a high rate of HIV-TB co-infections, which were responsible for around 4,100 deaths in Myanmar in 2014, out of the estimated 32,000 deaths for all TB forms. Myanmar has been ranked as a high-burden country for both TB and HIV incidences. According to the UNAIDS Programme 2017, HIV prevalence among inmates in Myanmar is 5.6 per cent.

As part of its plan, the 3MDG on Saturday opened new clinics worth $132,000 in Lashio Prison in northern Shan State. The new facilities will provide basic healthcare services, with a focus on treatment for tuberculosis. This was the second prison to undergo a refurbishment of its health facilities. The first was the Myitkyina Prison in Kachin State, which was handed over to the Ministry of Home Affairs earlier this year. — GNLM

Entrance road to staff housing upgraded

THE entrance road to the left side of staff housing in Taninthayi Township, Myeik District, Taninthayi Region, was upgraded to a concrete one, spending a fund of over Ks 5.2 million by Taninthayi Township Development Department.

The project, being implemented under the supervision of Township Development Committee Chairman U Min Wai and members, Township Development Executive Officer U Hon Soe and Junior Engineer-2 U Aung Thein, was completed on 16 September.

The improvement of the 243 feet long, 12 feet wide and six feet high earth facility will contribute a lot to smooth and secure transport in the region. — MDN

Yaba, heroin seized in Phakant Township

ACTING on a tip-off, authorities searched the house of Daw Khin Mya, 54, in ward-3, Namyar village, Kamine Township, Phakant Township, on 17 September and found 205 Yaba tablets worth Ks 1,025,000 and heroin powder weighing 02 grams, worth Ks 19,000, and two bags of opium oil weighing 3 grams in each bag, worth Ks 28,800.

Police have filed charges against her under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — Kamine IPRD

Fire breaks out at timber factory in Thanbyuzayat

A fire broke out at Dammar Pine Family timber factory near mile post No. 45 on the road between Thanbyuzayat and Ye towns, in the early hours of Sunday morning, according to a police report.

The fire occurred in the heating room due to overheated drying machine at 7:20 am on 16 September. However, no death has been reported.

Led by U Aung Kyaw Htwe, head of the township Fire Services Department, firefighters, Tatmadawmen and residents put out the blaze using 16 fire engines. The flame was successfully controlled at 8:30 am on the same day.

Action has been taken against U Myint Wai, manager of the factory, according to the law. The cause of the fire is being investigated. — Township IPRD

Daw Khin Mya and seized stimulant tablets. PHOTO: KAMINE IPRD
**Indonesia expects boosting bilateral trade with Myanmar**

By May Thet Hnin

INDONESIA is expecting to boost bilateral trade with Myanmar, said Ambassador of Indonesia to Myanmar Prof. Dr. Uza Fadri at Indonesia-Myanmar Business Matching 2018, held in Yangon on 17 September.

Bilateral trade between Indonesia and Myanmar has gradually increased year after year. In 2017, between January and December, bilateral trade between Myanmar and the Republic of Indonesia reached over US$973 million. This year, bilateral trade is expected to reach $1 billion. Myanmar-Indonesia trade increased by 31 per cent, compared to the same period of last year, he added.

“Indonesia will continue to encourage state-owned and private companies to invest in Myanmar,” he added further.

Indonesia exports palm oil, electronic devices and foodstuffs while importing only some agricultural products from Myanmar.

“Bilateral trade between Myanmar and Indonesia has increased, though. Among ASEAN countries, Indonesia is the largest and the most populous country. However, Myanmar’s export volume to Indonesia is less than the import volume. Therefore, the country needs to increase its export volume. Myanmar needs to learn the needs of their market situation. The main challenge for developing countries is supply constraints. The most important thing is, we must have product to sell. Next, we need to care about products quality. Our country can produce only a few products,” said U Aung Soe, director general of Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization.

He added further, “The new government has emphasized on private sector development and encouraged public private partnership (PPP). Myanmar has also focused on the expansion and diversification of external trade by laying down new trade policies and practices, after adoption of the market-oriented economic system and has carried out a number of trade reform measures by liberalizing, facilitating, and streamlining restrictive measures which may hinder fair and free trade and also to be in compliance with our obligations as a member of the WTO.”

Economic Affairs Officer of the Indonesia Embassy in Myanmar Second Secretary Mr. Vinsky G. Wattimena said the Indonesia Embassy holds business matching in Myanmar annually. Although there are some conflicts in Myanmar, Indonesian businesspersons are told that major cities like Yangon and Mandalay are safe, as they worry about these conflicts, added the Economic Affairs Officer.

Indonesia-Myanmar Business Matching 2018 was attended by businesses from both countries, related to food, packaging, construction, telecommunications, banks, electronic devices manufacturing and pharmaceutical manufacturing. One-on-one business meetings were also held.

According to figures from Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar-Indonesia trade was $741 million in 2015-2016 FY, $827 million in 2016-2017 FY and $1,025 million in 2017-2018 FY.

**Over 250,000 viss of onions enter Yangon market**

The price of onions has declined after 250,000 viss (one viss equals 3.6 lb) of onions entered the Yangon market on 17 September.

The price of Seikphyu onions have declined to between Ks 700 and Ks 1,250 per viss in the wholesale market, according to traders.

On 15 September, only 66,000 viss of onions entered the market and the prices of onions continued to rise.

But on that day, demand was less than supply, even though the supply was less than usual and not much was sold.

Some traders were even predicting that the price was unlikely to rise on Monday and true to their prediction the price fell on 17 September.

Onions in the wholesale market was sold between Ks 400 and Ks 600 per viss on 28 August, between Ks 500 and Ks 775 per viss on 8 September, between Ks 900 and Ks 1,200 per viss on 11 September, between Ks 600 and Ks 1,050 on 13 September and between Ks 800 and Ks 1,350 per viss on 15 September.

“On 17 September, the price of onion fell by Ks 100 a viss,” said Ko Zaw Tun, a buyer in the market. Onion dealers are selling their goods because prices are not likely to increase further, he added. Dealers usually control demand by selling under a quota system if prices are likely to rise.

In regions where they are cultivated onions fetch Ks 1,200 per viss. Onion price has also increased to 2,500 Yuan (Ks 514.772) per ton on 11 September from 1,950 Yuan (Ks 434.977) on 7 September in the Muse market.

In Fiscal Year 2017-2018, Myanmar exported 22,897 tons of onion worth US$89 million. As of 31 August 2018, Myanmar exported 29,486 tons worth US$87.77 million.

Even though the export amount increased, revenue decreased because the price of onion has declined.

As onion prices in Yangon wholesale market reached Ks 1,000 per viss, export onions re-entered the local market and were sold between Ks 700 and Ks 800 per viss.—Maung Say Aung
Democratic Party for a New Society presents policy, stance and work program

Chairman U Aung Moe Zaw

CHAIRMAN U Aung Moe Zaw of Democratic Party for a New Society presented the party’s policy, stance and work program on radio and television on 17 September.

In his presentation, which was a translation of the presentation:

Respected and esteemed people,

First of all, allow me to extend our heartfelt wishes to the people for peace, liberty and good livelihood without anxiety.

Our Democratic Party for New Society demands for peace, liberty and equality of Myanmar society. For this, no matter what barriers and obstacles we have to face, we have struggled and still struggling. Counting from the year 1988, our party initiated the 8888 democracy movement, which has entered in struggle for over 30 years. During these years, we have never missed a single day in our struggle for the independence of human society with equality and justice and development and peace.

Today, we can say that our society is heading with more chances towards liberty, equality, and justice. However, we need to continue to struggle much more. We firmly promise and pledge to carry on our struggle.

It is correct. Our society needs to be fully independent. We also need full equality and full justice. Only then, our people could enjoy peace with full satisfaction. Without fear and anxiety, people could engage in their livelihoods happily and work for the welfare of the family and the locality with a broader sense for the development of the country.

Today, people are hearing many disturbing news such as that of inequality in politics, economics and social matters in the context of not having a level playing field, losing in competition, that of inequality of wealth and opportunities between persons with power and the people with bare hands; that of discrimination over race, nationality, religion and gender; that of the deprivation of human dignity and human rights. Our party has noticed these unpleasant situations.

We would like to make an effort in the general elections is that we would make an effort in the general elections to see our society as practising equality and highly tolerant and peaceful in the long term. We need to invest in education, health, and energy resources. Similarly, we need to take care of the kids and youth through highly funded investment. Our party demands educational democracy wherever there is liberty, equality and self-determination. We would struggle for this goal.

Our people need to be healthy. Our society needs to be healthy. We would be able to work for the development of the country only when we live a healthy life. Our party believes that the access to health is also human rights. Irrespective of race, religion, social, and economic conditions, all citizens have the right to health care. We would try our best to supplement the budget for healthcare; the cost of quality, the expansion of public health care, access to medical care by each and every citizen. We would strive for the protection of the public health care and health insurance.

Our country is still an agricultural country, where there is a large number of peasants and farmers reside. In this situation, food, clothing and shelter of the people entirely depend on us. We need to pay more attention to agro-based economy and trade.

In our country, land reform tasks and process depends and covers all aspects, such as that of the land related laws, rights and protection of the cultivators, laborers, farmers, and land owners. Our party is competing for the seat at the Ministry of Agriculture.

In the context of land policy, it is necessary to measure and gauge with human rights standards, the international norms, democracy criteria, human rights standards, the international norms, democracy criteria, human rights standards, the protection of the farmers, and the policy of land utilization. These work plans have some defects and drawbacks. In the context of land policy, it is necessary to measure and gauge with human rights standards, the international norms, democracy criteria, human rights standards, the protection of the farmers, and the policy of land utilization. These work plans have some defects and drawbacks. In the context of land policy, it is necessary to measure and gauge with human rights standards, the international norms, democracy criteria, human rights standards, the protection of the farmers, and the policy of land utilization. These work plans have some defects and drawbacks.
ASEAN preventive diplomacy workshop held in Nay Pyi Taw

The ASEAN Regional Forum Workshop on Preventive Diplomacy: Skills and Tools Towards Effective Peacebuilding was held in the Grand Ball Room of the Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Attending the workshop were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, high-level officials and representatives from ASEAN regional forum member countries, members of the administrative council and advisory board of the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, MPs from Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws, representatives from the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, the office of the ASEAN secretary-general, and the United States Institute of Peace, experts from international and regional organizations, and other officials.

Firstly, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin delivered the opening speech, followed by individual speeches from New Zealand Ambassador Mr. Steve Marshall and US Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel.

Next, U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Jeri Helsing, Senior Advisor for the US Institute of Peace, formally introduced the workshop to the attendants.

This was followed by Ambassador Rezian Jenie, Executive Director for the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, giving a presentation on the institute’s prioritized operations for the one-year term.

Afterwards, the first topic for discussion, ‘Effective Peacebuilding and Practical Procedures’, was led by Ms. Pyamal Pichaiwongse, the deputy liaison officer for International Labour Organization in Myanmar, and Ms. Shadia Marhaban from Mediators Beyond Borders, with Ambassador Mr. Steve Marshall acting as the moderator.

The second topic for discussion, ‘Effective Peacebuilding, Challenges for Myanmar’s Peace Process and Journey Moving Forward’, was led by U Zaw Htay, Director General of the Ministry of the State Counsellor’s Office, and U Htay Win Aung (a) U Pyone Cho, member of the Pyithu Hluttaw’s Committee on Citizen’s Fundamental Rights, with U Hauk Kant Some, Director General of the ASEAN Affairs Department under MOFA, acting as the moderator.

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This was followed by an explanation on the basic principles of peace process development and conflict analysis by Mr. Anthony Wani-St. John from American University.

Next, attendants at the workshop discussed about conflict analysis.

Later at night, U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of MOFA, hosted a banquet for the workshop attendants at M Gallery Hotel.

The workshop will be held from 17 to 19 September. Today, the workshop will focus on effective communications in applying diplomatic protection, discovering solutions to conflicts and negotiation skills, reporting the results of trainings, solutions to conflicts and conciliation skills, understanding and negotiating, policies and principles, among other topics. On 19 September, tomorrow, attendants will watch a documentary on establishing agreements, discuss on relevant topics, and make final evaluations on the workshop. —MNA

Discussions held on all-round, socio-economic development in Rakhine State

UNION Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe met Ms. Ellen Goldstein, Country Director of World Bank for Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR, at the meeting hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, matters relating to assistance provided by World Bank towards the government setting up and implementing all-round development projects in Rakhine State, successful implementation of peace process and Rakhine State development work processes, status of work conducted under MoU signed between the ministry and UNHCR in the repatriation of returnees from Bangladesh, status of attempts toward socio-economic development and job creation for people in Rakhine State, status of creating investment and skilled workers, ministry’s cooperation with World Bank’s field trip to Rakhine State for rehabilitation and development were discussed.—MNA

The meeting ended after resolutions were made.—MNA

Repatriation & Resettlement Committee holds 5th meeting

COMMITTEE on Repatriation and Resettlement of Displaced People held its 5th meeting at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye called for cooperation of the people and representatives of peoples in Rakhine State in solving the Rakhine State issue and urged the people in Rakhine State to cooperate with the authorities, as the government has planned to carry out short-term and long-term plans.

The government has drawn plans for repatriation under the Myanmar-Bangladesh agreement and stressed the need to discover and deal with the hindrances to repatriation processes.

The Union Minister also highlighted the security sector for the repatriation of returnees.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Khin Maung Tin, Deputy Minister for SWRR U Soe Aung, Joint Chairman of the committee U Aung Kyaw Zan and members of the committees concerned participated in the discussion.

The meeting ended after resolutions were made.—MNA
Spotting fake news in a digital world

By Aung Min

For many of us, news beyond borders on this planet creates a mottled assortment of fake news and even fake news on our own social media feeds, and even more so if we search our own phone's group chat, dancing and dashing and dubious news. Herein lies a sole person in your group who has, latching on to the ‘fake news’ bandwagon, spread a lie into the universe to get lost – but only on this lonely planet to grab the news.

If you are aware of any events, particularly in the case of a small nation like Fiji – that at the time it was reported as a news source, that it can and has been used and misused for political manipulation.

In April, Myanmar enacted the Anti Fake News Act, the latest in a series of adverse action towards the issue of “fake news” and rumour-sowing. For instance, Section 1A of the Printing Press and Publication Act 1984 penalises anyone who publishes or prints any advertisement, statement or article, which is not in accordance with the law.

As with such news online created by shaved and sharp-sighted scumbags, it can be easily made use of in politics, in the truth. But some countries are now declaring the practice of “fake news” as a legal – attracting hefty fines and imprisonment. Therefore, it is necessary to identify the facts and the truth.

We thought you might need to brush up on your English as you brush up on a crash course on how to tell what’s fake and what’s not.

In conclusion, the author of this piece suggests that we should be aware of the dangers of misinformation and disinformation, and that it may be used as a tool to influence public opinion and undermine democratic systems. It is therefore important to critically evaluate the information we encounter online and to verify its accuracy before sharing or forwarding it.
Deputy Commander-in-Chief attends dinner marking BIMSTEC Army Chiefs’ Conclave in Pune, India

MYANMAR military delegation, led by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife, attended a dinner hosted by India’s Army Chief General Bipin Rawat to commemorate the BIMSTEC Army Chiefs’ Conclave at Pune, India, on 15 September, according to a news release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.

Before the dinner, he enjoyed the Army Symphonic Band Concert of India, together with army chiefs of BIMSTEC member countries, and presented gifts to the band.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended the BIMSTEC Army Chiefs’ Conclave on 15 September morning.— MNA III

Myanmar-Bangladesh conduct coordinated border patrols

ON 16 September, from 9:45am to 11:20am, Myanmar and Bangladesh border police forces performed a coordinated patrol along their respective borders from milepost 49 to 50. The 20-officer team from Myanmar was led by Police Sub-Lieutenant Aung Kyaw Soe from milepost 50 outpost under the Aungthabyay Area Station, No. 5 border police subdivision, Area 1, Maungtaw Township. The 15-officer team from Bangladesh was led by officer Subedar Md. Mahamud Hossain from Lembuchari outpost of No. 11 Border Guards Bangladesh.

Similarly, another coordinated patrol was conducted on the same day from milepost 36 to 38 from 9am to 11:20am. The 15-officer team from Myanmar was led by Police Captain Aung Mio Zaw Lwin from Taunggyo (right) border police outpost, No. 1 border police subdivision, Area 3, Maungtaw Township. The 15-officer team from Bangladesh was led by officer Subedar Md. Rafiqul Islam from Baishilari outpost, No. 34 border cantonment, according to the news release from the Myanmar Police Force. — MPF Information Department

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations transferred

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names, from the date they assume charge of their duties.

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<td>Director General (Mines)</td>
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<td>Ministry of Natural Resources</td>
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Second Amyotha Hluttaw’s ninth regular session holds 18th-day meeting

FROM PAGE 2

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin said fund will be proposed from Chin State government fund in fiscal year 2020-2021 and work will be conducted based on fund availability.

Similarly, questions raised by U Maung Kyaw Zan of Rakhine State constituency 9 and Daw Hia Htay @ Daw Ohn Kyi, of Mandalay Region constituency 4 were answered by Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe.

Hluttaw approves Boundary Measurement and Demarcation Bill

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Ohn Kyi read and explained the committee report on Boundary Measurement and Demarcation Bill. As there was no objection to the report, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khang Thaw obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on whether to enact the bill as law. As the majority voted for the report, an announcement was made for Hluttaw to proceed further on the bill.

Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on the bill by paragraph and Hluttaw approved it.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw then tabled a motion to approve the bill and U Saw Chit Oo of Kayin State constituency 3 supported the motion.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw’s approval of the bill, after its decision was obtained.

Hluttaw approves Myanmar Mines Rules

Following this, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Kyein Ngai Mahn read and explained the committee report on Myanmar Mines Rule.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and approved the rules.

The 19th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 18 September.

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment and hear civil cases

CHIEF Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, Supreme Court judges U Myint Aung and U Aung Zaw Thein of Special Appellate Bench sat at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning and heard six (Certiorari) civil cases, passed judgment on one (Certiorari) criminal case and five (Certiorari) civil cases. —MNA
WASHINGTON SET TO REPLACE US MILITARY COMMANDER IN SOUTH KOREA

SEoul (South Korea)—Washington is set to replace the commander of US forces in South Korea amid a rapid diplomatic thaw on the peninsula, even as denuclearisation of the North stalls.

The US stations 28,500 troops in the South, a treaty ally, to defend it against its nuclear-armed neighbour, which invaded in 1950, triggering the Korean War.

General Robert B. Abrams, commander of the US Army Forces Command, will undergo a confirmation hearing next week to be head of US Forces Korea (USFK), the Senate Armed Services Committee’s website showed.

If his nomination is approved, he will succeed General Vincent Brooks as commander of USFK, the UN Command and the South Korea-US Combined Forces Korea, who has been in the post since April 2016.

The outgoing commander has described his time in the South as “a rollercoaster ride”, with the peninsula turning from the fears of war to a historic summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

“We have gone from points of great tension and great danger to points of great opportunity and sometimes back and forth between those, never being completely certain about what will come next,” Brooks told reporters in Seoul last month.

“So it’s been quite a ride and a great honour to have been part of such a historic period of time,” he added.

Abrams, whose father was a former Army Chief of Staff, General Creighton W. Abrams Jr comes from a family of career military officers.

He has held various command and staff positions across the Army and Joint Community in Germany, the US and Southwest Asia during his 34 years of active service. —AFP

Several people injured in street knife fight in Luton, Britain

LONDON — A number of people have been taken to hospital with stab wounds after a massive street brawl in Britain’s Luton, said local police on Sunday.

The Bedfordshire police were called to Saxon road in Luton after receiving reports of a large number of individuals fighting.

Witnesses said they saw several people were bleeding and some ambulances came to treat them. Cops and the local council held a meeting in May to discuss the “shocking rise of violence” in the area, following a number of murders.

A Home Office report claimed that one of the reasons behind the increasing knife crime is that expanding London drugs gangs were engaging in turf wars with local drug dealers. —Xinhua

US-Cuba relations ‘in decline,’ president says

HAVANA (Cuba) — Relations between Cuba and the United States are in decline under President Donald Trump, his Cuban counterpart Miguel Diaz-Canel said in an interview broadcast on Sunday.

“Relations today are in decline. We still maintain channels of dialogue and our position is that we do not reject the possibility of dialogue at any time, but it must be between equals,” Diaz-Canel said in the interview with the Telesur network, his first since taking office earlier this year. Since Trump’s election as US president, ties with Cuba have deteriorated after a historic rapprochement overseen by his predecessor Barack Obama.

Diaz-Canel took aim at the US economic blockade of Cuba, terming it “the main obstacle to the development of the country.”

He also said Cuba was not behind mysterious “health attacks” that have plagued US diplomats in the country, saying: “We have not attacked anyone.”

The apparent victims of what Washington has called sonic “attacks” have suffered symptoms consistent with mild brain trauma — including, in some cases, disorientation and hearing loss.

In the same interview, Diaz-Canel expressed support for same-sex marriage. “The approach of recognizing marriage between two people, without limitations, responds to a problem of eliminating all types of discrimination in society,” he said.

A new constitution to replace the 1976 version — which limits marriage to the “voluntary union of a man and a woman” — has been approved by parliament and submitted to public debate.

Spearheaded by Mariela Castro, the daughter of former president Fidel Castro, changes to the new constitution would include a provision that defines marriage as between “two people” rather than “a man and a woman.” The silver-haired Diaz-Canel assumed power in April from Castro, who himself took over from his elder brother Fidel, father of the 1959 revolution. —AFP

My Brexit plan or crash out of EU: UK PM

LONDON (United Kingdom) — British Prime Minister Theresa May has warned that her Brexit plan is the only alternative to crashing out of the European Union without agreement, in an interview broadcast on Monday.

Despite strong opposition in her Conservative party and criticism in Brussels, May has stuck by the so-called Chequers proposal to keep close trade ties with the EU after Brexit on 29 March next year.

“The alternative to that will be not having a deal,” she told the BBC.

May will meet EU leaders in Salzburg on Wednesday and Thursday, as she seeks a breakthrough in talks on the Brexit divorce and the future UK-EU trading relationship.

Even if she gets a deal in the coming weeks, it must be agreed by the House of Commons in London, where she has only a small majority.

A senior figure in the main opposition Labour party has said it was likely to vote against the deal, meaning only a small number of May’s Conservative MPs need rebel to kill it.

May expressed confidence parliament would approve the deal — but warned there was no alternative if Britain wanted to avoid a potentially disruptive “no deal” scenario.

“If we really think… that if parliament was to say, ‘No, go back and get a better one’, do we really think the EU is going to give a better deal at that point?’” she said.

May has proposed that Britain follow EU rules in trade in goods after Brexit, to protect manufacturing supply lines and avoid a “hard border” between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

“I don’t want manufacturers to feel that they’ve got to operate under all sorts of different rules, because that complicates life for them and that potentially means business leaving this country,” she said.

May also insisted no other plan on the table would ensure “frictionless” trade in Ireland.

But critics say her proposal would tie Britain too closely to the EU, and argue that the Irish issue can be resolved through trusted trader schemes and the use of technology.

Former foreign minister Boris Johnson, who quit in July in protest at the Chequers plan, launched a fresh attack on it in his weekly newspaper column on Monday.

“The whole thing is a constitutional abomination,” Johnson, who has previously compared the plan to a “suicide vest”, wrote in the Daily Telegraph. —AFP

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Denuclearisation to top Moon’s Pyongyang agenda

SEUL (South Korea) — Denuclearisation will be high on South Korean President Moon Jae-in’s agenda when he meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang this week, Moon’s office said on Monday.

Moon will fly to the North Korean capital on Tuesday for his third summit with Kim in the latest stage of a diplomatic thaw on the peninsula, although progress has stalled in denuclearisation talks between Pyongyang and Washington.

“We will push for North Korea’s advanced denuclearisation and a reciprocal measure from the US by swiftly reviving sincere dialogue aimed at establishing new, peaceful relations,” Moon’s chief of staff Im Jong-seok told reporters.

Moon, who met Kim twice this year, was instrumental in brokering the historic Singapore summit between US President Donald Trump and Kim in June, when Kim backed denuclearisation at the “Korean peninsula”.

North Korea’s leader Kim Jong-un (top) and South Korea’s President Moon Jae-in (bottom) as they meet at the Military Demarcation Line that divides their countries at Panmunjom on 27 April, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

But no details were agreed and Washington and Pyongyang have sparred since over what that means and how it will be achieved.

The US is pressing for the North’s “final, fully verified denuclearisation”, while Pyongyang has demanded demands for it to give up its weapons unilaterally as “gangster-like”.

Im said the South Korean leader will try to close the gap between the US and the North by playing the role of a mediator:

“Through various meetings and phone calls, President Moon has a better understanding of what the US is thinking than Chairman Kim,” he said.

Moon will become the third South Korean leader to visit Pyongyang and will hold at least two meetings with Kim, who may make a rare appearance at the airport to welcome his guests, the chief of staff said.

He is also scheduled to attend a concert and visit key sites in the North’s capital with his delegation, which includes tycoons Lee Jae-yong — the heir to the Samsung group — and the vice chairman of Hyundai Motor.

Moon has been pushing inter-Korean economic co-operation but several South Korean newspapers urged caution Monday, with the Korea Herald calling the businessmen’s presence on the trip “untimely”.

“It is better to postpone economic projects involving the North until after negotiations to remove its nuclear program make substantial progress,” it said in an editorial.

And investment in the North was “fraught with risks and uncertainty”, it added.

Other issues on Moon’s agenda will be improving inter-Korean ties and easing military tensions on the peninsula, which the South said could lay the ground for declaring a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty.

That suggested a declaration — which Pyongyang has been pressing for strongly — was unlikely during Moon’s trip.

Death toll from super typhoon Mangkhut climbs to 65 in Philippines

MANILA — The death toll from super typhoon Mangkhut has climbed to 65 in the Philippines, police said on Monday.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) said 54 of the fatalities were from the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) in Luzon island.

The other casualties were also from the northern Philippines according to the PNP. Seven people were killed in Cagayan Valley; two in central Luzon, one in Ilocos region and one in Metro Manila.

The PNP added 43 others are missing while 64 people were wounded. Presidential adviser Francis Tolentino, who was appointed by President Rodrigo Duterte for preparation and response efforts of typhoon Mangkhut, said among the 54 victims from the CAR, most died in landslides triggered by the powerful typhoon. CAR, one of the worst-hit areas, is the only land-locked region of the Philippines. It consists of the provinces of Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Mountain Province and Apayao. The regional center is Baguio City. Tolentino said 42 people are still missing in the CAR. Five of these missing people are from Baguio, 36 in Itogon town and one in Benguet province. Tolentino said search and rescue operation continued to find the missing people especially in Itogon town where people, mostly miners and their families, are still feared trapped after a landslide in the remote village of Ucab.

Mangkhut, which made landfall at 1:40 am local time on Saturday in the northern Philippines, already exited this Southeast Asian country on Saturday night. However, the strongest typhoon in the region so far this year left a trail of destruction across the Philippines’ main Luzon island.

The Philippine National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said nearly 220,000 residents were still being served inside and outside evacuation centers provided by local governments until Monday morning. The government declared a total of seven provinces and cities under a state of calamity due to the typhoon.

Photo taken on 6 September, 2018, shows the Tomatoatsuma thermal power plant operated by Hokkaido Electric Power Co in Atsuma on the northernmost Japanese main island of Hokkaido. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS
Dominica’s beloved wildlife still shaky a year after Maria

ROSEAU (Dominica) — ‘Sad’ parrots and ‘stressed-out’ frogs might be unlikely contenders for concerns in the aftermath of a catastrophic natural disaster.

But the fate of two of Dominica’s most prized species is still a source of worry a year after Hurricane Maria tore apart the tiny Caribbean island.

Dominica’s famously lush forests are slowly coming back to life after the worst destruction in the country’s history, prompting a return of the intriguing creatures that call them home.

The sisserou parrot and the mountain chicken frog — both national emblems and both endangered — have grown notably more scarce, however.

“The impact on their habitat affects everything, from their feeding habits to their stress levels and the way they relate to each other,” forestry officer Bradley Guye told AFP.

The endemic sisserou — at the centre of the national flag — was badly hit by the 160 mile (267 kilometre) per hour winds. Up to half of the estimated 400 birds left in the wild may have been lost, according to Guye.

Exact numbers are elusive because much of the woodland is inaccessible. The parrots mate for life, are said to be extremely faithful to each other and even grieve for a lost partner.

Traumatic blow

The sisserou birds are still reeling from Maria’s onslaught: “Just like humans, some animals want to feel loved and comforted when they’ve suffered trauma, which can lead to exaggerated mating,” Guye said.

And some just want to hide away and not see anybody.” Exacerbating the parrots’ plight was the loss of Dominica’s abundant fresh fruit trees, an important food source.

Apples, pears and grapes were flown in especially for them to eat. But losing their livelihoods they would be hit full-force, flanked by Luzon island, knew “it’s really heartbreaking... for people who already have so little,” Felizco.

Residents of the storm’s ground zero, in Baggao on the eastern flank of Luzon island, knew they would be hit full-force, but losing their livelihoods was a disaster they were willing to risk everything to prevent.

“Our house was blown away. We were flooded,” Day-lot Felizco, 55, told AFP. “But we did not evacuate because we didn’t want to leave our carabao (water buffalo) and livestock.”

Llorente lives in the coastal farming area of Baggao that is home to some 800 to 1,000 people, and which took a direct hit from Mangkhut when it made landfall there in the pre-dawn darkness on Saturday.

In this key farming region of northern Luzon island, a quarter of the people live in poverty — getting by on less than US$2 per day. Like many in the region Llorente is a small-scale farmer, eking out a fragile existence from the land.

Two hectares (five acres) of corn she farms with her husband were drowned in flood waters.

Yet, for those in Baggao the threat of losing their produce, to the violent weather or to thieves, has a powerful influence.

Aida Acopan, 59, evacuated from her home during the last massive storm that struck the area, 2016’s deadly Typhoon Haiyan. She survived, but at a cost.

“She came home... and no rainy-day savings to bridge the gap.”

For farmers like her, there is no insurance to compensate for a destroyed crop or dead cow, and no rainy-day savings to bridge the gap.

“We think from their perspective, these are really their greatest assets... whatever little they have is all they have,” Lot Felizco, country director for Oxfam Philippines charity, told AFP.

No means to live

The decision not to evacuate can have horrendous consequences. Many of the 7,350 people killed or missing in the nation’s deadliest storm, Super Typhoon Haiyan of 2013, did not heed warnings of a heavy storm surge.

Claim’s day

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

Shipping agency

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

M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (1825/1826)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (1825/26) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping agency

Yangon region port authority agent for: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’Pore) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

Request for expression of interest

1. The Yangon Region Government, Tender Committee invites the local and foreign companies to submit the expression of interest for upgrading and renovation of Yangon City Golf Course owned by Yangon City Development Committee on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

Location of City Golf Course - Yangon Region, Insein Township, Ywama East Ward, 10 miles, Thiri Mingalar Street.

2. The EOI documents will be available for purchase from 17-9-2018 at City Golf course office, Yangon City Development Committee, Insein Township, Yangon Region during office hours. The EOI documents must be submitted to the above office no later than 16:30 hours on 28-9-2018. Late applications will not be considered.

3. Further information may be obtained at the Playgrounds, Paths and Gardens Department, Yangon City Development Committee, Phone no: 095083384, 0949445465 during office hours.

Yangon region government

Tender Committee
‘Green Book’ wins Toronto film festival audience prize

TORONTO (Canada) — Peter Farrelly’s “Green Book,” starring Mahershala Ali and Viggo Mortensen, won the Toronto International Film Festival audience prize on Sunday, giving it a lead in the race for Oscar glory.

The film follows a working-class Italian-American bouncer who takes a job chauffeuring an African-American classical pianist through the US South in the 1960s, because it is too dangerous to travel alone.

“I’m still reeling from the response to the film (in Toronto) so this is incredible,” Farrelly said in a statement.

“This win is beyond my wildest dreams.”

The film beat out Alfonso Cuarón “Roma” (second runner up) and Barry Jenkins’s “If Beale Street Could Talk” (first runner up) for the festival’s top prize.

Based on a true story, the film tells of Don Shirley (Ali), the well-dressed son of a Jamaican immigrant family who carries himself with the confidence of a prince, and speaks perfect English but, according to a write-up by festival organizers, “not built for the brutal bigotry of his time.”

So he hires street-fighting loud-mouthed Tony “Lip” Vallelonga (Mortensen) to accompany him on his journey, guided by the Negro Motorist Green Book to safe hotels and restaurants in the segregated South.

PHOTO: AFP

Paris show blends happiness and melancholia of young Picasso

PARIS (France) — More than 300 works from two key periods in Pablo Picasso’s early years go on display in Paris on Tuesday, the first time they have been brought together in the city where the Spanish master took his first steps toward revolutionary new territories of modern art. “Picasso: Blue and Rose” delves into the formative years of the artist in his early 20s as he absorbed what would become the strongest walls would open before me,” he would proudly write while absorbing the influence of Manet, Degas, and his close friend Carles Casagemas, who shot himself in the head at 18 to 25 years old, before cubism. It’s all taking shape,” said Stephanie Molins, a curator of the show. “He’s not only the unrivalled master of the 20th century but also a child of the 19th century,” she said.

The show begins with the Blue period, marked by the artist’s frequent travels between Paris and Barcelona, discovering the possibilities of avant-garde expressionism while still under the more classic influences of his father, an art teacher.

An early work includes “Yo Picasso” (1 Picasso), a vivid self-portrait showing him confident at his easel. But just a few months later the paintings take on a markedly sombre tone, following the death of his fellow painter and close friend Carles Casagemas, who shot himself in the head at a Montmartre café following a soured love affair.

Many of the Blue period works are nearly monochromatic and depictions of poverty and old age recurring subjects, including prostitutes with a child languishing in a prison cell. There are also several funereal portrayals of Casagemas, culminating in the 1903 masterpiece “La Vie” (Life), where his body is embraced by a nude woman alongside a mother holding her child. —AFP

LOS ANGELES (United States) — “The Predator” — the latest installment in the long-running sci-fi action series — chewed up its rivals to debut atop the North American box office this weekend, industry data showed on Sunday.

But the Fox reboot, which cost $88 million to make, will look to earn back some money in international markets, as its estimated $24 million haul did not meet expectations.

The movie, which comes more than 30 years after the franchise’s original film starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, courted controversy before its release when the studio cut a scene featuring an actor who was a registered sex offender.

Star Olivia Munn had requested the change, saying she was unaware of the actor’s past when the scene was filmed. Director Shane Black initially said he was not aware of the actor’s past either but later issued a strong apology.

Dropping to second place was last week’s top draw, horror movie “The Nun” — the latest fright fest in the popular “Conjuring” series. It earned an estimated $18.2 million in its second week, box office tracker Exhibitor Relations said.

“The Nun” stars Taissa Farmiga whose sister Vera headlined two “Conjuring” films in a story about a young nun, an exorcist and a guide stumbling onto a dark secret deep in Dracula country: the Romania of 1932 — Transylvania, no less.

Opening in the third spot was “A Simple Favour,” a tale about a mommy blogger (Anna Kendrick) investigating the disappearance of her friend (Blake Lively). The Lionsgate film raked in $16.1 million on the back of positive reviews.

Matthew McConaughey’s new film “White Boy Rick” opened in fourth place with $11.8 million. The movie, based on a true story, stars the Oscar winner as the father of a teenage boy who became an informant for the FBI in the 1980s. Glitzy rom-com “Crazy Rich Asians,” another Warner Bros product along with “The Nun,” fell to fifth place. The film, with a nearly all-Asian cast led by Henry Golding and Constance Wu, took in $8.7 million, building on a crazy-good run.

Its North American take stands at nearly $150 million, with another $38 million earned overseas.

Rounding out this weekend’s top 10 were: “Peppermint” ($6.1 million), “The Meg” ($3.8 million), “Searching” ($1.2 million), “Unbroken: Path to Redemption” ($2.4 million), “Mission Impossible — Fallout” ($2.3 million). —AFP

PHOTO: AFP
Machines will do more tasks than humans by 2025: WEF

PARIS — Robots will handle 52 per cent of current work tasks by 2025, almost twice as many as now, a World Economic Forum (WEF) study said on Monday.

The sharp increase could also see a net gain in “new roles” for humans, who will have to re-vamp skills to keep pace with the “seismic shift” in how we work with machines and computer programmes, the forum estimated.

“By 2025 more than half of all current workplace tasks will be performed by machines as opposed to 29 per cent today,” a statement by the Swiss non-profit organisation said.

Simultaneously, rapid changes in machines and algorithms, or computer processes that are designed to solve problems, “could create 133 million new roles in place of 75 million that will be displaced between now and 2022,” the group forecast.

Based near Geneva, the WEF is known for the annual gathering of politicians and business leaders that it organises in Davos, Switzerland.

India successfully tests man-portable anti-tank guided missile

NEW DELHI — India’s Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has conducted the first successful test firing of a new indigenously designed and developed man portable anti-tank guided missile (MPATGM) in western state of Maharashtra, officials said on Sunday.

The missile test was carried out at the Ahmednagar test range.

“Indigenously developed MPATGM was successfully flight tested for the second time from the Ahmednagar range today. All the mission objectives have been met,” a statement issued by the Defense Ministry said.

“The two missions on 15 and 16 September 2018 have been successfully flight tested for different ranges including the maximum range capability.”

A Defence Ministry spokesman said Indian Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman congratulated the DRDO team, Indian army and associated industries for the two successes of the MPATGM weapon system.

Newly formed blood vessels may contribute to eye disease: study

CHICAGO — A study of Northwestern University (NU) found that blood proteins linked to macular degeneration crossed the blood-ocular barrier of new blood vessels in mouse models.

This indicated that newly formed blood vessels may be cracks in the barrier between the bloodstream and the eye.

In the study, NU researchers drew blood from nitrogen-15 mice and injected it into normal mice with one of two eyes induced for new blood vessel growth.

Within hours, the researchers detected nitrogen-15-labeled proteins in both eyes, but only the induced eye let through certain immune suppressor proteins linked to age-related macular degeneration.

“These new vessels are different when compared to older or more typical vessels in the eye,” said Jing Jin, assistant professor of Medicine in the Department of Nephrology and Hypertension and senior author of the study.

“There are some pathological consequences associated with this.”

Newly formed blood vessels are involved in a number of human eye diseases,” Jin said. “Our method characterizes the protein basis for that barrier permeability.”

The study became possible through a method of marking mouse models’ protein with nitrogen-15, a nitrogen isotope slightly heavier than normal nitrogen.

Mice are fed a diet containing nitrogen-15 and without nitrogen for three months. During the time the mice incorporate nitrogen-15 to make proteins. These “heavy” proteins are detectable by mass spectrometer, an instrument that detects molecules by weight.

The study has been published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Scientists develop new photonic chip for potentially robust quantum computers

WASHINGTON — Australian, Italian and Swiss scientists have developed a new kind of photonic chip to process quantum information, promising a more robust option for scalable quantum computers.

The study published on Friday in the journal Science Advances demonstrated for the first time that quantum information can be encoded, processed and transferred at a distance with topological circuits on the chip.

The breakthrough could lead to the development of new materials, new generation computers and deeper understandings of fundamental science, according to the study.

The researchers from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, in collaboration with scientists from the Politecnico di Milano and ETH Zurich, used topological photonics to fabricate a chip with a beam splitter creating a high precision photonic quantum gate.

Topological photonics is a rapidly growing field that aims to study the physics of topological phases of matter in a novel optical context.

“We anticipate that the new chip design will open the way to studying quantum effects in topological materials and to a new area of topologically robust quantum processing in integrated photonics technology,” said Albert Peruzzo with RMIT.

Peruzzo said the topological photonics had the advantage of not requiring strong magnetic fields, and featured intrinsically high-coherence, room-temperature operation and easy manipulation.

“These are essential requirements for the scaling-up of quantum computers,” said Peruzzo.

The team was able to use the photonic chip to demonstrate, for the first time, that topological states can undergo high-fidelity quantum interference. Topologically protected states could add robustness to quantum communication, decreasing noise and defects prevalent in quantum technology, according to the researchers.

Demonstrating high-fidelity quantum interference is a precursor to transmitting accurate data using single photons for quantum communications, a vital component of a global quantum network.”
Yarmolenko double helps Hammers to first league win under Pellegrini

LONDON — Andriy Yarmolenko scored twice on his first start for West Ham as they climbed off the foot of the English Premier League table with a 3-1 win away to Everton on Sunday.

It was the Hammers’ first league win under manager Manuel Pellegrini, whose four previous top-flight games in charge of the east London club at the start of this season had all ended in defeat. This victory at Goodison Park also catapulted West Ham out of the bottom three.

Chilean boss Pellegrini, celebrating his 65th birthday on Sunday, had spent £100 million ($129 million) bringing nine new signings to the London Stadium in the close season.

But such had been the Hammers’ poor start to the new campaign that questions were already being asked about the former Manchester City manager’s long-term job prospects.

“This is the way”

“It’s easy to say we were going to change, but I was absolutely convinced this is the way,” Pellegrini, who said his birthday was the “last thing” on his mind, told Sky Sports.

“We score goals and always try to continue scoring goals. I saw the players working every day of the week...I am convinced and the players are convinced.”

Ukrainian forward Yarmolenko, one of Pellegrini’s new signings, gave his manager some breathing space on Merseyside with a double strike that put the visitors 2-0 up just after the half-hour mark.

Gylfi Sigurdsson pulled a goal back in first-half stoppage time before Marko Arnautovic restored West Ham’s two-goal lead in the 61st minute as Everton suffered their first defeat under manager Marco Silva. “We didn’t play with enough quality to win the match,” Silva told the BBC.

“It’s a tough result for us.” It took West Ham just 11 minutes to break the deadlock when one long ball out of defence proved too much for Everton to handle.

Arnautovic unselfishly squared the ball to Yarmolenko, who fired home from close range.

And the away fans had a second goal to celebrate when Yarmolenko doubled the Hammers’ lead in the 31st minute.

Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford’s poor pass gifted West Ham possession in a dangerous area and Yarmolenko, cutting in off the right flank, beat two defenders before curling a left-footed shot into the top corner from the edge of the box.

But just when it seemed West Ham would enjoy a 2-0 lead at the break, Everton gave themselves a lifeline when Sigurdsson headed powerfully home from an excellent cross by full-back Jonjoe Kenny.

Everton squandered several chances to equalise and were made to pay when Pedro Obiang drove into their box and slipped the ball sideways to Arnautovic, who toe-poked a shot past the diving Pickford. — AFP

Jimenez’s goal for Wolves leaves Burnley winless

WOLVERHAMPTON (United Kingdom) — Raul Jimenez scored the only goal of the game as newly-promoted Wolverhampton Wanderers continued their impressive start to the Premier League season with a 1-0 win at home to Burnley on Sunday.

Victory lifted Wolves into the top half of the table but this result left Burnley stillsearching for their first league win of the campaign as they equalled a club record run of four successive Premier League defeats.

The win was no more than they deserved. They dominated and could easily have been at least two goals ahead before Jimenez broke the deadlock in the 61st minute when he turned in Matt Doherty’s cross.

By contrast, Burnley rarely threatened and their only notable chances fell late in the match to Johann Berg Gudmundsson.

“I am very, very satisfied,” Wolves manager Nuno Espirito Santo told Sky Sports. “We played good football and stayed organised and created chances. Burnley are a good side and stayed in it until the end.

“If there is a ‘but’, we could be more clinical. But if we can continue to make these many chances, it makes me very proud.”

Meanwhile Burnley boss Sean Dyche urged supporters to keep faith with the side, telling the BBC their experience of losing streaks in the Premier League would stand the Clarets in good stead.

“We have been down this road before,” he said.

“That is important now so we can realise it (climbing the table) can be done.” — AFP