

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 36, 13th Waning of Kason 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tuesday, 23 May 2017

NATIONAL

State Counsellor meets chairman of the EU Military Committee and PRC's Special Envoy for Asia Affairs

PAGE-3



LOCAL NEWS

Tatmadaw refutes accusations in report submitted to OHCHR

PAGE-6

LOCAL NEWS

Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong to be broadcast live

PAGE-9

LOCAL BUSINESS

DICA permitted 25 investments in Myanmar

PAGE-5



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the 1st Central Committee Meeting for hosting the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting and related meetings. PHOTO: MNA

Preparing for Asia-Europe meet

State Counsellor attends 1st Central Committee Meeting for hosting 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting and related meetings

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended an organisational meeting yesterday in preparation for the 13th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Foreign Ministers Meeting to be held on 20-21 November.

The organisational meeting was held at 10am yesterday in

the meeting room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

“Today’s meeting is to prepare for hosting of the ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting and its related meetings.

The meetings are to be hosted this year. In holding

meetings, it is necessary to hold meetings effectively and successfully. We would like to have preparations made for the delegations to the meetings in Myanmar to be convenient in every way”, the State Counsellor said.

Matters to be carried out

in the respective sectors were clarified by responsible officials from various subcommittees responsible for convening the meeting, for organising the 8th Model ASEM, for the 11th Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) Journalists’ Seminar, for beautifying Nay Pyi Taw,

for performing diplomatic affairs, for welcoming delegations, for matters on erecting flag posts and signboards, for decorative lights for transport and telecommunications, for security, health, entertainment, catering and arranging tours. —Myanmar News Agency ■



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyithu Hluttaw

More than 80-yr old farmland, irrigation taxes on spotlight

A MOTION by U Thein Tun of Thabaung constituency discussed by three hluttaw representatives to amend farmland and irrigation taxes that are inconsistent with the market economy was approved by the Pyithu Hluttaw on the third day of the fifth session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw.

U Thein Tun said the farmland and irrigation taxes had not been changed for more than 80 years and should be amended to a rate that is not a burden to the farmers. In the discussion to the motion, U Win Win of Minbu constituency said if rates are increased, government from its side needs to provide proper services such as providing irrigation water in time of need and cutting it when it is not required.

U Thein Htun of Kyaunggon constituency said farmers are agreeable if the tax is increased appropriately. Businesses with huge land holdings may not like the tax hike, but farmers with small land holdings are able to pay the tax if it is reasonable and thus he supports the motion.

Tatmadaw representative Maj. Nay Win said that 70 per cent of rural farmers are facing difficulties from rising commodity prices, falling crop prices and a shortage of farm labour at this time and consideration should be made to these when amending the tax rate that would not be a burden to them.

In his discussion, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said the water and embankment

bill is submitted to the union government office and once Pyidaungsu Hluttaw enacts it into law it will be in accordance with this law. The motion is supported as it contains a clause to amend a tax rate that will not be a burden to the farmers. He added that there is also a need to participate in promulgating a law on land tax.

The motion was approved by the Pyithu Hluttaw as there was no objection to it.

On the question by U Thaung Aye of Pyawbwe constituency on the existence of any plan to allocate funds from the additional fund or state and region fund to finance the road and bridge construction works planned for rural development of Pyawbwe township in fiscal year 2017-2018 that was not included in the 2017-2018 national budget, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw confirmed that it was not included in the budget and could not be done but will be done depending upon the submitted yearly priority works. After coordinating with the state government, if there is an additional fund, this will also be given priority for implementation.

U Toe Thaung of Mongmit constituency raised questions on plans to maintain bridge No. 5/24 at Kinchaung village, Mongmit Township, restoration of farmlands in Thit Saint Kon, Pe Kon and Nabu villages and removing of sand and mud in Kin Chaung to improve water flow. The deputy minister said the sand and mud removal in Kin Chaung is a huge undertaking requiring a large



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint arrives at the meeting of 3rd day Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

amount of funds and even if the work is conducted, the waste from gem and gold mining would quickly silt up the river again and thus the gem and gold mining need to be effectively managed. For long-term benefit, the matter will be coordinated with Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Transport and Communications and related state government to get the required funds. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will also provide necessary technical support. Possibility to clear a four-mile length to Nabu village will be assessed and related state government will be

coordinated for implementation.

Furthermore, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw answered questions by U Thein Tan of Hlegu constituency, Daw Thandar of Einme constituency and U Htay Min Thein of Gyobingauk constituency on continued implementation of Letpan water pumping program for irrigation, solar lighting and maintenance of Yan Aung Myin pagoda road.

During the meeting, Supreme Court judge U Soe Nyunt said he explained and discussed on the 7th day meeting of the fourth session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw the motion to straighten the judicial sector

submitted by U Tin Htwe of Waw constituency. During the discussion, he said the accusation of the judicial sector being weakened because of bribery and corruption amounted to degrading the dignity of court as well as contempt of court. Pyithu Hluttaw Act Section 17, Sub section 158(b) prohibits statements of irrelevant facts, assumptions based on flimsy evidence, inappropriate usage of words, and words degrading the dignity. Therefore, he said the motion is against Pyithu Hluttaw rules article 158, sub article (b) and advised all to follow the enacted laws and rules.

He had no intention of hurting or harming anyone in his explanation and discussion but after learning of it being otherwise, he would like to withdraw and remove his explanation and discussion from the record. He request for understanding and forgiveness on his action.

He added that he took full responsibility for the discussion and explanation he made to U Tin Htwe's motion and he had full respect to the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

Afterward the Canal Bill was submitted and Government's guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee and Bill Committee read their annual reports. The third day of the fifth session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw was suspended at afternoon and the fourth day meeting will be continued 25 May 2017. —Kyaw Thu Htat (MNA) ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw debates improvement of basic education

EDUCATION and bill amendments were discussed during the third day of the fifth session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

After the consensus of the Amyotha Hluttaw, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the confirmation of replacing the members of the hluttaw committees that was submitted earlier for approval.

In response to a question by Rakhine State constituency No. 5 U Myint Naing about the existence of a programme to upgrade the Myauk Taung village basic

education middle school (branch) to basic education middle school raised, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said the current priority of the ministry is to have all school-age children attend school and to re-register all students who are already attending school and there are criteria in upgrading a basic education middle school (sub) to basic education middle school. Despite regional development, representatives requested reduction in these criteria and the ministry is planning to upgrade the two Ywarma Pyin village and Myauk Taung village

basic education middle schools (sub) to basic education middle schools during the academic year 2017-2018.

In a similar question by Chin State constituency No. 12 U Myo Htat @ Salai Myo Htike to upgrade Mate Sa Wa Village Basic Education High School (sub) in Paletwa Township, Chin State to Basic Education High School and to build a new school building, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun said out of a total of 3,312 schools, 937 met the set criteria while 2,375 met the reduced criteria were upgraded and Mate Sa

Wa Village Basic Education High School (sub) in Paletwa Township is also included in the plan for an upgrade.

Afterward, the Deputy Minister responded to the education sector questions raised by U Pe Tin of Mon State constituency No 6 and U Kyaw Kyaw Win of Rakhine State constituency No 8.

Amendments to the Oil and Petroleum Products Bill

At the meeting, U Than Soe, also known as Than Soe (Economic) of Yangon Region constituency No 4 debated the Oil and

Petroleum Products Bill, urging the lawmakers to include several clauses which can solve obstacles faced by the businessmen.

He said the bill which consists of nine chapters and 54 sections should guarantee to remove the burden on the shoulders of the businessmen by amending several clauses and its chapter 3 and 4. U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency No 2 then discussed the Extradition bill. The fourth day of the fifth session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be continued on 25 May. —Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Than (MNA) ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Chinese Special Envoy for Asia Affairs. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor meets Chairman of the EU Military Committee and PRC's Special Envoy for Asia Affairs

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, met with General Mikhail Kostarakos, Chairman of the EU Military Committee and Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asia Affairs of the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China separately at her ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting with General Mikhail Kostarakos, they exchanged views on the promotion of relations and co-

operation between Myanmar and the EU.

During the meeting with Mr. Sun Guoxiang, they discussed matters on bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and China. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Appointment of Indian Consul-General agreed

Shri Nandan Singh Bhaisora, who has been agreed upon by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as Consul-General of the Republic of India to Myanmar with residence in Mandalay, presented his Letter of Commission to U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Yangon General Hospital releases information on U Tin Oo, Patron of NLD

Yangon General Hospital released a notification on the health of U Tin Oo, patron of the National League for Democracy, dated on 22 May, 2017. The full text of the notification is as follows:

Health Condition of U Tin Oo, Patron of NLD

1. U Tin Oo, 91, patron of the National League for Democracy, is receiving medical treatment at Yangon General Hospital due to blood clots in the blood vessels to the brain and a paralytic stroke suffered at 3:05am on 18th May 2017.
2. Blood clots in the blood vessels to the brain and paralytic stroke are caused by the lack of blood reaching the brain via the heart, and blood clotting caused by an irregular heart beat that is common in the elderly.
3. The medical team comprised of 15 medical specialists is administering necessary treatments.
4. Today, 22nd May 2017 reached the 5th day of blood clots in the blood vessels to the brain and paralytic stroke. The patient's condition is remarkably improved compared to the time when he was first admitted to the hospital. According to further medical investigation, the patient's condition was not found worse than previous condition.
5. The patient was not yet able to articulate well and the left side of the body cannot be moved, but the patient is conscious and well. At the present time, his heart beat is normal. His pulse, heart beat and respiratory rate is normal.

Dr Aye Ko Ko
M,B, B.S M Med Sc (HA& HM)
Superintendent
Yangon General Hospital
(Unofficial Translation)

Water bus to be scrutinised before operation

Vehicles imported for Yangon Water Bus service will be allowed to run only if they pass strict examination standards, said Daw Nilar Kyaw, Yangon Region Minister for Electrical Power, Industry and Transportation.

This statement was in response to questions by Daw Sandar Min of Seikkyi Khanaungto Constituency (1) at the Yangon Region Hluttaw meeting on 22 May asking, "When was the tender for the water bus service called and how many companies bid for it? What are the characteristics for the selected companies, and what steps will be taken to ensure the safety of the passen-

gers? What will the profit for the region government be in one year from these water vehicles?" "The safety of the passengers is our topmost priority, and regarding that fact we will only allow vehicles that pass our examinations to be used whether they are manufactured by the selected companies or imported. The selected companies are currently presenting their preferences for the vehicles but after their arrival we will commence inspection of the vehicles and deny their use if they do not pass our examinations," said Minister Daw Nilar Kyaw. For the safety and convenience of passengers, a ground inspection of Hlaing River and Nga Moe

Yeik Creek was conducted by officials from YRTA, Myanma Port Authority, the Directorate of Water Resource and Improvement of River System, Inland Water Transport, and the Department for Water Channel Administration. Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies won the tender for the Yangon Water Bus system and the company has announced it will begin its services on the third week of June. In a press conference on the water bus service on 5 May at the San Chaung office of Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies, CEO Daw Tint Tint Lwin explained that eight jetties

have been designated as terminals for the water bus starting from Aungzaya Rope Birdge in Insein to Botahtaung Township. She added that the vehicles that will be used in the water bus service are constructed in Australia, Thailand and Myanmar with an investment ranging from Ks20 to Ks37 billion. Due to varying types of channels in the waterway, vehicles of four different sizes will be used ranging from 60 to 80 to 180 to 200 passenger capacity. The fees for the service have been designated as Ks300 for short trips and Ks500 for round trips. The schedule for the water buses will be displayed in LED signs and

the time between each bus will be 20 minutes. The entire trip will take one and a half hour and the terminals will be open from 6am to 6pm. Insurance for passengers are linked with IKBZ.

Additionally, jetties are under construction on the route from Yangon River to Ngamoeyeik Creek for another water bus route. The Ngamoeyeik Creek has a lot of bridges and low water levels, and these are taken into consideration when building new water buses.

Formerly, FMI Co. had tried running the water bus service but stopped operations after shortage of passengers.—Ko Moe ■

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSKhin Maung Oo
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Khin Maung Win (Chief Proof Reader)
Zaw Min
Min Zaw Oo**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor)
intnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Sandar Soe
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team),
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the Global New
Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at
No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan
Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light
of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No.
00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/
globalnewlightofmyanmar**Write for us**We appreciate your feedback and
contributions. If you have any comments
or would like to submit editorials,
analyses or reports please email
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
with your name and title.Due to limitation of space we are only
able to publish "Letter to the Editor"
that do not exceed 500 words. Should
you submit a text longer than 500 words
please be aware that your letter will be
edited.

Meeting for Children's Literature Festival in Taunggyi

THE Ministry of Information and Ministry of Education held a meeting yesterday morning with the Shan State Government to hold a Children's Literature Festival at Taunggyi University.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint said the aim of the literature festival is to introduce literature to children so as to nurture a hunger for learning, for their future as well for the future of the nation.

In order to accomplish this, it is important to provide a cheerful environment to foster education, he added.

The Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi suggested that components from previous literature festivals which proved to be popular should be included in the next literary festival. Equally important was providing security and travel expenses in an open,



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint confers financial assistance to staff at Taunggyi Information and Public Relations Department. **PHOTO: MNA**

transparent manner for children coming to the festival and this requires the cooperation of the students from the university.

This was followed by Regional Chief Minister Dr Lin Htut saying there will be support from all sides to ensure the

successful launch of the literature festival in Taunggyi.

Next, Director-General U Maung Pe from the Information and Public Relations Department explained the workings of the Children's Literature Festival and Book Fair.

Afterwards, the participants of the meeting discussed their various committees' works for invitation, transport, entertainment, award ceremonies, budget planning, catering, security, health, news reporting, environment conservation and education.

Finally, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint delivered the closing speech.

Later in the afternoon, Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint and Dr. Myo Thein Gyi visited the Taunggyi Information and Public Relations Department and provided financial assistance for the staff member's children in the form of Ks1,050,000 and exercise books, which was received by Deputy-Director U Soe Nyunt Shwe of Shan State Information and Public Relations. — Myanmar News Agency ■

CCTV cameras to be installed in Dala

CCTV cameras will be installed in the areas around Dala port in Yangon Region to prevent crimes, according to the Inland Water Transport.

"Discussions were made with the respective departmental officials to install CCTV cameras in the whole areas of the Dala port as soon as possible," said an official from Inland Water Transport.

Township police force will take the responsibility to install the CCTV. At least four CCTV cameras will be installed to cover the whole areas of the port



Passengers get off a ferry at the Dala Jetty, Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

including the rest areas of the passengers. Police from the respective townships will monitor these cameras.

The passengers from Twante, Kawhmu and Kungyan-gon townships in Southern District in Yangon and passengers

from Dedaye, Maubin, Nyaung-don, Kyaiklat and Pyapon townships in Ayeyawady Region mostly use this port.—200

Japan's industrial products introduction ceremony held

Japan's industrial products introduction ceremony was held for the first time at the meeting hall of the Myanmar Engineering Society (MES) in the compound of University of Hline in Yangon yesterday. The introduction ceremony was held by the Association of Japan-Myanmar Mutual Cooperation (AJMMC).

Mr. Takashi Domoto, general manager from the Japanese firm UEX, explained his company's all-stainless steel and titanium products being introduced for the first time in Myanmar. Mr. Toru Eguchi explained that the stainless steel and titanium products can be used in industries, factories, homes, kitchens,

storage tanks and as spare and replacement in other industries.

Responsible persons from UEX answered questions asked by businessmen who attended the industrial products introduction ceremony.

UEX will appoint Myanmar representative businessmen to widely distribute the

stainless steel and titanium products across the country. UEX was founded in Tokyo in 1896. The products from UEX have already penetrated the markets of Japan, South Korea, China and Taiwan. For the first time, UEX is investing in Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency ■

DICA permitted 25 investments in Myanmar

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) has permitted 25 local and foreign investments in Myanmar during this month it is learnt.

The permitted investments include some in the agricultural and garment sector under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system. The garment industry was the most represented sector, with seven enterprises under the CMP system.

There were three enterpris-

es in the agricultural sector, including producing and selling coffee seeds and other crops in joint ventures with foreign investment.

"We will give priority to local and foreign investments which can create job opportunities for the local people", said an official from the DICA.

To stimulate investments in other industrial sectors other than the garment industry, DICA is discussing future processes together with state and



Employees work at a garment factory in Hlaingthaya, Yangon. **FILE PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

regional governments.

Currently, DICA has permitted 25 local and foreign in-

vestments including garment, agricultural, motorbike manufacturing, construction and

telecommunications, according to an official from DICA.— Min Min ■



PHOTO: MIZZIMA

Mandalay bean price up

THE price of beans in the Mandalay market increased this week compared to last week, according to Mandalay bean merchants.

The price of mung bean and pigeon peas has increased because of high demand from foreign countries. Now, the price of beans will probably drop because foreign countries have already received the required amounts of beans, said U Maung Htay, a Mandalay bean merchant.

The price of mung bean reached Ks990,000 in the second week of May, up from Ks930,000 in the first week of May. During these weeks, merchants were selling mung bean for about

Ks970,000.

Similarly, the price of pigeon peas has reached Ks66,000, up from 60,000 in the last week of May. The current price of pigeon peas is about Ks6,500. The Gram beans (V2/Taiwan) are selling well in the market with a stable price.

The price of Gram bean (V2) has increased Ks127,000, up from Ks125,000 last week. The price of Gram bean (Taiwan) is selling for Ks111,000, up from Ks 108,000. The price of Green Gram (Anyar Shwe War) is selling for Ks108,000, up from around Ks105,000 while Green Gram (old ShweWah) is selling for Ks115,000, up from Ks105,000.— Mon Ma Lay ■

Black sesame declined by Ks75,000 per pack this year

BLACK sesame in 45-viss packs declined by Ks75,000 in May compared to the same period last year because China controlled the demand, according to the sesame market.

In past years, China was the biggest buyer of black sesame. But starting last year, China's purchases of black sesame declined when the price of black sesame rose in Myanmar. Therefore, the price of sesame has slightly declined, according to the sesame traders.

In the sesame market, black sesame dropped the most this year compared to last year.

The price of white sesame dropped by Ks5,000 per pack, while brown sesame has increased by Ks5,000 per pack this year compared to last year.

The price of the sesame increased last year because of high demand from China. Although China has the usual demand for sesame this year,

the price of sesame decreased because new sesame is yet to be harvested. It will be harvested soon in Myanmar.

Last year, the price of black sesame in 45-viss packs sold for Ks200,000, white sesame sold for Ks100,000 and brown sesame sold for Ks80,000.

This year, the price of black sesame in 45-viss packs sold for Ks125,000, white sesame for Ks105,000 and brown sesame for Ks85,000, according to the sesame market.— Thu Zin ■

Elephant foot yam production makes a healthy profit

Elephant foot yam production can make a handsome profit, plus earning foreign income.

Over US\$2.5million were attained from export of elephant foot yam during last Fiscal Year 2016-2017. China, Thailand and Japan purchased dried elephant foot yam which is used in food stuff and medicines.

An acre of farming costs Ks300,000 to 500,000 and

3,000 to 5,000 viss of elephant foot yam are produced per acre.

A viss of elephant foot yam sells for up to Ks500 and an acre of elephant foot yam can earn above Ks1.5million during a year.

Those plants are commercially grown in Yangon Region, Taninthayi Region, Rakhine State and Chin State, which are also naturally found in Shan, Kachin, Chin and Kayin

states and Mandalay, Sagaing, Bago and Ayeyawady regions.

The elephant foot yam or whitespot giant arum (*Amorphophallus campanulatus*) is a tropical tuber crop grown primarily in Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the tropical Pacific islands. Because of its production potential and popularity as a vegetable in various cuisines, it can be raised as a cash crop, it is learnt. — Mon Mon ■



Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing (Left) and Chairman of Military Committee General Mikhail Kostarakos (Right) inspect the Honour Guard in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Chairman of the European Union Military Committee visits Nay Pyi Taw

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received the visiting Chairman of the European Union Military Committee General Mikhail Kostarakos with a ceremonial Guard of Honor in front of Zeyar Thiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee were saluted by the Guard of Honour and then inspected the Guard of Honor.

Afterward the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

and the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee met in the meeting hall of Zeyar Thiri Beikman and discussed matters relating to appointment of European Union (EU) military attaché, attending military training courses, relation and cooperation.

In the evening, the Commander-in-Chief hosted a dinner in honor of the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee at Shwe Nandaw hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.

Earlier, at noon, the Chairman of the European Union

Military Committee and party visited Mausoleum for Heroes (Nay Pyi Taw) and laid a wreath in front of the monument and saluted the heroes who fell for the country.

Afterward, they arrive to National Defence College (NDC) where the head of NDC give a welcome speech in the meeting room. The Chairman of the European Union Military Committee then gave a power point presentation on EU in the training hall and discussed with the attending trainees.—Myanmar News Agency ■

U Win Htein says no reason to criticize Tatmadaw

By Ko Nyi Nyi

U Win Htein, a member of the Central Executive Committee of the National League for Democracy, said yesterday that recent comments on social media critical of the Tatmadaw were falsely attributed to the NLD.

U Win Htein said the authors of the criticism that said the Tatmadaw was responsible for recent transgressions were improperly attributed to him and the NLD. He did admit to speaking his mind about the current state of affairs in the country, which drew criticism from the Tatmadaw.

"I spoke openly about the current situations and when they later reprimanded and criticised it, I spoke my mind again", U Win Htein said. "Maybe they didn't pay attention to what I was saying, but I will say it again, my remarks were not aiming to accuse the Tatmad-



U Win Htein, member of NLD.

aw, and there is neither reason nor motive to. Therefore I have no comment on notifications they issued in response to that".

U Win Htein made the remarks at a press conference at Nay Pyi Taw's City Development Committee Guesthouse on 4 May, telling the media there is no truth to the rumours and news spreading on social media characterising his remarks as critical of the Tatmadaw and the Union Solidarity and Development Party. ■

Tatmadaw refutes accusations in Report Submitted to OHCHR

As regard accusations included in the report submitted to the Office of High Commissioner of Human Right, Tatmadaw true news information team released the news.

It has been described in the news release as follows:

Investigation team led by Lt General Aye Win, Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) went to Maungtau Township from 10th February 2017 to 4th March 2017 to investigate on the ground, for finding out the actual situations of the events, as regards the accusations that security forces performing area clearance operations committed terrorist attacks.

Investigation team interviewed 2875 villagers from 29 villages and wrote down statements and testimonies of 408 villagers, 184 military officers and ranks and files in line of duty at the time of the events, 31 border control policemen, 8 departmental personnel and 26 inmates in the Buthidaung penitentiary, 657 altogether.

Out of 18 accusations included in OHCHR's report, 12 were found to be incorrect,

with remaining 6 accusations found to be false and fabricated accusations based on lies and invented statements.

Under the investigation of the investigation team, security forces were launching area clearance operations when one motor bike was carried and driven without the knowledge of its owner and left it somewhere. As the member of the security force was found guilty, he was put on trial under section 380 of the penal code and the culprit was sentenced to one-year imprisonment and ordered to pay the owner as compensation money, the value of the bike—530000 kyats.

And, upon the knowledge that the village administer & the villagers who lacked to cooperate in extinguishing the fire outbreak of the hostel for school teachers in Myinlut village were whipped several times, one responsible officials was reprimanded and the other two ranks and files were sentenced to one year imprisonment each under section 323 of the penal code.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Special region 4 group to attend UPC—21st Century Panglong 2nd Meeting

By Myo Thu Hein (MNA)

Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong 2nd meeting will be held in Nay Pyi Taw for 5 days from May 24 to May 28.

Khun Myint Tun, secretary of Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee and chairman of Pa-oh National Liberation Organization said, "In the morning session of the first day of UPC, 21st Century Panglong 2nd meeting, the opening ceremony will be held and leaders of the groups will deliver opening speeches respectively, as in the 1st meeting of 21st century Panglong held previously. In the evening session, noteworthy facts for representatives present at the meeting to discuss and disciplines to abide by in the meeting are to

be clarified."

He added, "On the 2nd and 3rd day of the meeting, discussions in respective sectors will be performed by dividing 5 sectors to be discussed by 700 representatives of the conference. If necessary, there will be discussions by groups. And, discussions in groups among armed national ethnic groups, and discussions in groups among political parties will be discussed. On the fourth day of the meeting, UPDJ meeting and Secretariat meeting will be held, with on the fifth day signing all approved facts as a part of Union Agreement and approving will be done. As far as we know for now, 8 groups which had signed National Ceasefire Agreement will attend the meeting. Out of



Khun Myint Tun. **PHOTO: HTEIN NAN NAW (MNA)**

the groups which did not sign yet, special region 4 has been learnt to attend the meeting as the specially invited guest. As regards the other groups, we did not yet know the situation." ■

North Korea says missile meets all specifications, ready for mass-production

SEOUL — North Korea said on Monday it had successfully tested an intermediate-range ballistic missile which met all technical requirements and could now be mass-produced, indicating advances in its ambitions to be able to hit the United States.

The North fired the missile into waters off its east coast on Sunday, its second missile test in a week, which South Korea said dashed the hopes of the South's new liberal government under President Moon Jae-in for peace between the neighbours.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised the test of the Pukguksong-2, which confirmed reliable late-stage guidance of the warhead and the functioning of a solid-fuel engine, the KCNA state news agency said.

It quoted Kim as saying the Pukguksong-2 met all the required technical specifications so should now be mass-produced and deployed to the Korean People's Army strategic battle unit.

Pyeongyang has defied all calls to rein in its nuclear and missile programmes, even from China, its lone major ally, saying the weapons are needed for defence against US aggression.

The UN Security Council is due to meet on Tuesday behind



The scene of the intermediate-range ballistic missile Pukguksong-2's launch test in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 22 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

closed doors to discuss the latest test, which defies Security Council resolutions and sanctions, at the request of the United States, Japan and South Korea, diplomats said on Sunday.

The test could also alter the dynamics of Moon's plan to review a controversial deployment of the THAAD US anti-missile system in the South that is angrily opposed by China, which sees its powerful radar as a threat to

its security.

"Saying with pride that the missile's rate of hits is very accurate and Pukguksong-2 is a successful strategic weapon, he approved the deployment of this weapon system for action," KCNA said, quoting Kim.

The launch verified the reliability and accuracy of the solid-fuel engine's operation and stage separation and the late-stage guidance of the nuclear

warhead which was recorded by a device mounted on the warhead, KCNA said.

"Viewing the images of the Earth being sent real-time from the camera mounted on the ballistic missile, Supreme leader Kim Jong Un said it feels grand to look at the Earth from the rocket we launched and the entire world looks so beautiful," KCNA said.

The use of solid fuel pre-

sents advantages for weapons because the fuel is more stable and can be transported easily in the missile's tank allowing for a launch at very short notice. The Pukguksong-2 flew about 500 km (310 miles), reaching an altitude of 560 km, South Korea's military said.

The South's military said the test provided more "meaningful data" for the North's missile programme but whether the North mastered the re-entry technology for the warhead needs additional analysis.

The reclusive state has been working to develop a nuclear-tipped missile capable of striking the US mainland and on Saturday said it had developed the capability, although Western missile experts say the claim is exaggerated.

Some experts believe it will be 2030 or later for the North to develop the technology. But KCNA said last week's missile test put Hawaii and Alaska within range.

North Korea regularly threatens to destroy the United States which it accuses of preparing for invasion.

South Korea hosts 28,500 US troops to counter the threat from the North, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War. —Reuters ■

China says six Japanese men detained for "illegal activities"

BEIJING — China said on Monday six Japanese nationals have been detained for their suspected involvement in "illegal activities," without elaborating on the exact allegations or other details.

The confirmation of their status came after a Japanese government source first revealed that the six, all men, were detained in March, fueling speculation that they could have been held on suspicion of endangering national security, the allegation China increasingly applies to foreigners.

Japan's top government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told a press conference in Tokyo that officials are providing "necessary assistance" to the detainees from a standpoint of protecting Japa-

nese nationals.

Suga, however, said the government cannot provide other information considering the "nature" of the matter. Four of the men, who are in their 20s to 70s, are employees of NC Geophysical Survey Co, a Japanese company based in Funabashi, a city located about 20 kilometres east of Tokyo.

The company said it believes the four did not do any wrongdoing and it was told by the Japanese Foreign Ministry that they are in good shape.

China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying, speaking at a regular press briefing, said they are under investigation in accordance with China's law.

Three of the men were de-

tained in the eastern province of Shandong and the other three in the southern island province of Hainan, according to the source.

It is unclear why they are being held, but authorities may suspect them of spying due to the presence of major Chinese naval ports and other facilities in those two provinces.

A different source familiar with the matter said China's state security officers detained the three men in Hainan for posing a threat to national security.

The three men, who are in their 20s to 50s, arrived there in late March for hot spring development-related work. Since 2015, Chinese authorities have detained at least five other Japanese citizens for suspected spying.



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying speaks at a press conference in Beijing on 22 May, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Chinese courts have begun hearings into separate cases involving four of those detained Japanese citizens.

Under Chinese law, the maximum penalty for spying is death. China has been stepping up its watch over foreign organizations and individuals in the name of protecting national security since

President Xi Jinping came to power more than four years ago. Not only Japanese, but a number of other foreign nationals have been held in China, particularly after a counterespionage law took effect in 2014, and a national security law in 2015.

In line with this trend, the Beijing municipal government last month began offering cash rewards of up to around \$70,000 for information used to identify foreign spies.

During Xi's presidency, China has also tightened control over lawyers, journalists and civil society groups, and passed laws designed to fend off what the Communist Party sees as internal and external threats. —Kyodo News ■

Union Peace Conference, a historic milestone towards a peaceful solution to armed conflicts

Tha Sein

THE Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong (Second Session), a historic milestone towards the search for a peaceful solution to prolonged internal armed conflicts, will be held in the administrative capital of Nay Pyi Taw on 24 May with the participation of representatives from the Government, the Tatmadaw, the Parliament, political parties, ethnic armed organizations and individuals.

Only when we start the talk, relevant parties can get to know each other, improve their mutual understanding and gradually they will build

mutual trust thereby making peace to go forward and giving a sense of safety and security to the people.

To ensure that the conference is a great achievement for the peace process, which is crucial to peace and stability as well as prosperity, we have done a lot of preparation works, keeping in mind the words of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi that when we are at the peace process, everyone needs to consider what we can give rather than what we can take.

To realize national reconciliation is the most important step to achieve peace in the country, and the process

can be realized through negotiations in a peaceful way, rather than by force or by any form of confrontation. Towards this end, requests from ethnic armed organizations should be sensible and their sensible requests should be given due consideration and respect.

In the course of the peace process, we are facing a great deal of challenges and difficulties due to a string of mistakes made over the years, which had resulted in fear and distrust among the people. Drawing lessons from the past, it is hoped that the Government and the Tatmadaw will take a more flexible

approach in addressing the concerns of relevant ethnic armed groups who had signed the nationwide ceasefire agreement-NCA and to persuade the non-signatories to give a positive consideration to sign the NCA at an early date.

As the success of the peace process is very important for the entire people, inclusiveness is very critical to make it a success.

And we do have the confidence in the success of the peace process, no matter what kind of challenges and difficulties we need to address, believing that there is a will there is a way. ■

Karl Marx and Sigmund Freud's Birth Anniversaries Thoughts

Dr. Myint Zan

5 May 2017 was the 199th birth anniversary of Dr. Karl Marx and 6th May 2017 is also 161st birth anniversary of Dr. Sigmund Freud. Karl Marx is on the 'eve' or 'cusp' of turning '200 years old' and perhaps on the occasion of this anniversary a brief attempt on the influence of these eminent men with some spill-over issues and related comments can be made.

Karl Marx obtained his doctoral (in German apparently Diplom, University) degree in April 1841 at the University of Jenna in Germany two weeks after submitting his thesis entitled in translation 'The Differences Between the Democritean and Epicurean Materialist Philosophy of Nature'. The extant part of the thesis was first translated from German into English in 1946 by an Australian and I have read parts of the translation.

Doctor Sigmund Freud was of course a medical doctor and the writer has read slightly more of Freud's works in translation from the German into English by James Strachey than those of Karl Marx's works in translation.

I have read only the English version of The Communist Manifesto. I have had the Myanmar translation of it for about eight years. It was sent to me by a Myanmar Marxist in 2008 but I have not read it as yet. I have read parts of the English translation of Marx's doctoral thesis.

I have NOT read say for example, any part of DAS KAPITAL or ANTI-DUHRING.

For Freud I have read in translation THE INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS (first published 1900) CIVI-

LIZATION AND ITS DISCONTENTS (first published 1933) and JOKES AND THEIR RELATIONS TO THE UNCONSCIOUS (first published 1905) and Freud's last work MOSES AND MONOTHEISM published a few months before his death in 1939.

In my view CIVILIZATION AND ITS DISCONTENTS is overrated but I enjoyed reading JOKES AND THE RELATION TO THE UNCONSCIOUS.

I took the late Professor Andrew S. Watson's (Professor of Law, Professor of Psychiatry) 'Law and Psychiatry' course at the University of Michigan Law School in Winter term 1982. I recall that Professor Watson told the students in his class that if we 'have nothing pressing to read' we should

read JOKES AND THEIR RELATIONS TO THE UNCONSCIOUS since 'it contains many jokes'.

Though I did read INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS around October 1982 it was only in September 2009 while I was a visiting Professor at the West Virginia University College of Law that I happened to read (may be I have had other 'pressing' things to read during all these years) JOKES AND THEIR RELATIONS TO THE UNCONSCIOUS. Among the dozens of jokes Freud 'psychoanalyzed' I can only remember one joke but it is too saucy or 'naughty' to reproduce.

In my view Marx was (and is) more influential than Freud globally. Even though Communism which claimed to

be (do not mean it necessarily always is) based on Marxist ideas, its 'appeal' indeed its impact –for good or for bad– had diminished in the last thirty years with the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Within 70 years of Marx's death perhaps one out of seven if not almost one out five persons in the world had lived under governments and regimes which claimed at least indirectly to have based their governing principles in part on the world view, political philosophies or economic theories of Marx.

Again, to my knowledge and in my view no other religion or ideology including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam has spread so fast and to so many areas of the world. Communism as practiced in many countries from 1917 to 1989 –it is not exactly same as Marxism– also fell or collapse in many –but not in all– areas of the world so fast. But by no means has Communism become 'extinct'.

When I mentioned this very fast spread of Communism/Marxism in a University in Malaysia in 2005 an Australian student responded that during the 'old' religions' times and eras there was no printing presses to spread their teachings as in mid-19th century when Marxism or Communism started

But is the fast and extensive spread of Communism due only to the availability of the printing press and other communication media? For example during the past thirty years, a doctrinaire ideology which began more than a century after Marxism namely 'radical feminism' (not liberal or cultural feminisms) did not spread as fast as Marxism or Communism.

Nowadays in contrast to the surge and practice of various strands of socialist ideas around the world in the 1950s and 1960s many governments –indeed regimes– claim that they adhere to practice some form of market economy. During the socialist years in the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma what is now mentioned in particularly rosy terms 'market economy' was not used at all. Instead the phrases 'capitalist economy' and 'capitalists' including 'capitalistic parliamentary democracy' were mentioned in derogatory tones and in condemnatory ways.

Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong (Second Session)



Public Announce for remonstration

RAKHINE League for Democracy headquartered at No. 304/332, Bayintnaung Road, Ward No.2 in Hlaing Township, Yangon Region, submitted an application for registration as a political party in accord with the Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 22-5-2017. In their application they mention that they will use the name, the flag and the emblem as described hereunder:



Emblem.

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's name, flag and

emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement.—Union Election Commission



Flag.

Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong to be broadcast live

THE second Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong which is slated to be held from 24th to 28th May in Nay Pyi Taw will be broadcast live.

The conference will be started at 10am and live broadcasting about the ceremony will be shown on MRTV at 9.45 am on that day. —Myanmar News Agency

Political parties apply for registration at UEC

THE Union Election Commission scrutinizes and allows applications of political parties to register. Rakhine League for Democracy applied for registration of political parties at the UEC on 22nd May.—Myanmar News Agency

Karl Marx and Sigmund Freud's Birth Anniversaries Thoughts

FROM PAGE 8

There are or there were still what can at least nominally be called Communist States, Welfare States, Capitalist States as well as Socialist States including in our own 'golden land'. But now we as well as quite a few others in the region and elsewhere are no longer 'socialist' even 'socialistic'.

Nowadays in contrast to the surge and practice of various strands of socialist ideas around the world in the 1950s and 1960s many governments—indeed regimes—claim that they adhere to practice some form of market economy. During the socialist years in the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma what is now mentioned in particularly rosy terms 'market economy' was not used at all. Instead the phrases 'capitalist economy' and 'capitalists' including 'capitalistic parliamentary democracy' were mentioned in derogatory tones and in condemnatory ways.

Coming back to the fem-

inists, a radical feminist from the United States Catherine Mackinnon has argued in her book TOWARD A FEMINIST THEORY OF THE STATE first published in 1990 that 'it would take 500 years to achieve gender parity in the United States Senate': according to Mackinnon it would take 500 years to have 50 female and 50 male Senators out of 100 Senators in the United States Senate. In just over 25 years after Mackinnon wrote by January 2017, 21 out of 100 Senators in the United States Senate are women.

In a sense though I 'got' Mackinnon's point. When would there be a female Pope, a female Ayatollah or for that matter a female Tharthanapaing (protector of the Buddhist religion)? One would not speak in terms of decades but should the human race survive, in terms of perhaps centuries before such eventualities materialize.

Back to Freud and Marx. One is of the view that in the United States Freud is more popular among psychologists

and psychiatrists (albeit Freud's influence has dwindled in recent years even among those specialists) than Marx was and is among, say, American economists, political theorists far less the ruling elites.

Perhaps in obverse In Burma/ Myanmar interest in and admiration of Marx and his views among the elites and the informed general public starting from the colonial era would be significantly greater than those who were and are interested in and influenced by Freud's theories. (I realize that Marx's and Freud's postulates and theories are in different domains but comparison can still be made and part of the comparison is the attitude towards the genres by the elites of each discipline founded respectively by Marx and Freud.)

When I 'phoned in' a radio talk show in California on Marx's birthday in 1984 I recall the talk show host quoting a student essay comparing the two philosophies: 'Marx is about production, Freud is

about Reproduction'!

Marx was 38 years old when Freud was born and Marx had been in exile in London for about seven years at the times of Freud's birth. Even though Marx occasionally visited Europe by the time he died in London in 1883 Freud was a 26 year old medical doctor dabbling with his nascent theories of the psyche and psychoanalysis and one does not know to what extent the young Freud was familiar with the old Marx's theories and vice versa. These influential German speaking persons of Jewish descent apparently never met.

Freud in the last years of his life had almost literally to flee to London from Vienna, Austria where he had spent almost 70 years of his life. Freud died in London about a year after his self-imposed exile just as Marx did after more than 30 years of self-imposed exile also in London.

As Karl Marx reaches his 199th year of birth some Marxists—perhaps even

non-Marxists—are probably already gearing up for the 200th anniversary celebrations of his birth.

Legions of admirers of Charles Darwin celebrated world-wide the 200th anniversary of his birth—as well as the 150th anniversary of the first publication of Darwin's Origin of Species in 2009. (In my Human Rights Law class at the Multimedia University in Malaysia on 24 November 2009—the 150th anniversary to the day of the publication of the Origin—I mentioned this historic event and asked the students to clap which they did enthusiastically.)

The 200th birth celebrations of Karl Marx scheduled for 2018 may not reach Darwinian proportions. And if Darwin's admirers apparently failed to persuade (from what I have learnt) the United Nations to officially declare 2009 as the 'Year of Darwin' even ardent Marxists may not seriously attempt to make or move the United Nations to declare 2018 as 'the year of Karl Marx'.

British PM May's election lead halves after 'dementia tax' — surveys

WORLD BRIEFS



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May speaks at an election campaign event in Wrexham, Wales on 22 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May is facing a much closer election after the lead held by her governing Conservative Party halved since she set out proposals to reduce financial support for some elderly voters, opinion polls showed.

When May called the snap election for 8 June, surveys indicated she would win a landslide comparable with Margaret Thatcher's 1983 majority of 144 seats in the 650-seat parliament.

That picture has changed following a week in which both the Conservatives and the main opposition Labour Party set out their election pitches to voters.

May sought to poach traditional Labour supporters with a mix of pledges more radical than those of her predecessor, David Cameron.

One was a proposal to transfer a greater share of the cost of caring for elderly people from taxpayers to those recipients who can afford to pay for their own care.

That raised concerns some might see their houses sold off

after their deaths to pay for the care they received rather than passed on to their descendants. May's opponents have dubbed it a "dementia tax", saying it will particularly hit those who need long-term care at home.

May said in a speech on Monday that no one would be forced to sell their home to pay for social care, and she would cap the amount the elderly would have to pay.

A Survation poll published on Monday before her speech showed May's lead over Labour had halved to 9 per cent, adding to a string of polls suggesting the gap was narrowing.

A YouGov poll on Saturday also showed at 9 points, and found 40 per cent of the public were opposed to the change to elderly care provision while 35 per cent were supportive.

The YouGov poll also found 49 per cent opposed May's plan to tighten the criteria for raising the state pension each year, compared to 30 per cent who supported it.

May called the snap election

to strengthen her hand in negotiations on Britain's departure from the European Union and win more time to deal with the impact of the divorce. But if she gains less than an impressive majority, her electoral gamble will have failed.

With polls showing the Conservatives' lead over Labour down from 20 points or more earlier in the campaign, May is projected to win a smaller majority of around 40 seats.

But many are sceptical of the headline poll numbers after surveys failed to correctly predict Britain's last national election in 2015, as well as the 2016 EU referendum and Donald Trump's US election victory.

Pollsters have said their 2015 polls significantly overestimated support for Labour.

While they have since adjusted their methodology to seek to address this, it will not be known until 9 June whether they have now gone too far the other way.

Survation said in a blog alongside its data that respond-

ents "were more likely to say that Labour, rather than the Conservatives, had the best policies for young people, families with young children, managing the National Health Service, improving the education system and older people and pensioners."

On Monday, May will seek to turn the focus back to one of her strongest cards in the election, urging voters to back her to deliver Brexit and saying Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn is not committed to or capable of securing a successful deal.

Polls show May is more trusted to secure a good deal in talks with Brussels and that some voters are confused about Labour's position on the issue.

"There will be no time to waste and no time for a new government to find its way," May will say, according to extracts of a speech that will highlight that divorce talks with the EU could begin 11 days after the election.

Britain's pound fell back below \$1.30 on Monday after the polls showed May's lead had fallen. —Reuters ■

Spain's PM sees no threat of early elections after Socialist vote

MADRID — Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said on Monday he did not expect early general elections in Spain as a result of the election of new Socialist leader Pedro Sanchez on Sunday.

Rajoy said he would continue to seek consensus over policy with other parties, but noted his minority-led administration had already passed legislation without the support of the Socialists since taking office late last year. —Reuters ■

Iran accuses US of "Iranophobia", arming "dangerous terrorists"

DUBAI — Iran accused the United States on Monday of selling arms to "dangerous terrorists" in the Middle East and of spreading "Iranophobia".

"America is reinventing terrorists in the region by its hostile policies," state television quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi as saying a day after US President Donald Trump signed an arms deal with Tehran's arch-foe Saudi Arabia and singled out Iran as a source of support for militants.

"America should stop selling arms to dangerous terrorists," Qassemi added. —Reuters ■

Russian econ min sees lower inflation if oil cut deal extended — agencies

MOSCOW — Russia will see lower inflation and a smaller budget deficit if OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers agree to extend a production cut deal, Economy Minister Maxim Oreshkin said on Monday, Russian news agency reported.

Inflation may slow below the year-end forecast of 3.8 per cent, while the deficit could shrink to below 2 per cent of gross domestic product from the initially targeted 3.2 per cent, Oreshkin said. —Reuters ■

Turkey puts 200 suspected military coup plotters on trial amid heavy security

ANKARA — Turkey put on trial 200 suspects on Monday including senior military officers accused of plotting and orchestrating last year's failed coup, in a court case where prosecutors are calling for life sentences.

The defendants, among them President Tayyip Erdogan's aide-de-camp, the former head of Turkey's air force, and dozens of generals, colonels and majors, were paraded on their way to court past dozens of protesters who demanded the death penalty and threw nooses towards them.

Around 1,500 security personnel were deployed for security at the trial, state-run Anadolu news agency reported, which was held in a purpose-built courthouse in Sincan on the outskirts of the Turkish capital.

More than 240 people, many of them civilians, were killed in the failed coup on 15 July, 2016, when a group of rogue soldiers commandeered tanks, warplanes and helicopters, bombing the parliament and attempting to overthrow the government.

Those on trial in Sincan included core suspects behind the coup who raided the state broadcaster and forced the presenter to read out an announcement saying the army had taken over and Turkey was being run by a committee they called "Peace at Home".

Erdogan blames Fetullah Gulen, a US-based cleric and a former ally, and his global network for orchestrating the coup, a charge Gulen denies. Turkish authorities have arrested nearly 50,000 people over alleged links



Akin Ozturk, a former Turkish Air Force commander who is accused of plotting and orchestrating last year's failed coup, is escorted by gendarmes as he arrives at the court in Ankara, Turkey on 22 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

with the preacher.

At the start of the hearing, families of the victims attending the trial screamed at the defendants, and one woman in the courtroom, whose son was killed during the coup, broke down.

"Kill these traitors, the murderers of my son," she screamed before fainting. The judge called for a medical team to be brought into the courtroom.

From a total of 221 defendants, more than 200 are from

the military and more than half of those were officers who held ranks from captains up to generals. All but 12 of the suspects, who are still at large, appeared in court. Gulen, who is among the defendants, is among those being tried in absentia.

Following confirmation of the suspects' identity and the reading of a summary of the roughly 2,000-page indictment, suspects will be able to put forward their defence.

Hearings at the trial, one of the largest of several coup-related trials taking place across Turkey, are expected to last until 16 June.

Citing the coup attempt as a grave threat to the state, Turkish authorities have also sacked or suspended around 150,000 civil servants, teachers, judges, prosecutors, police and soldiers and have shut down around 150 media outlets.

While the detentions may

have been supported by some Turks in the immediate aftermath of the abortive putsch, criticism mounted as arrests widened to include groups of which many deny any connection to Gulen.

Many relatives of those detained or sacked since July say they have nothing to do with the armed attempt to overthrow the government, and are victims of a purge designed to consolidate Erdogan's control.—Reuters ■

Iraqi forces kill four suicide bombers at army base in Iraq's

BAQUBA — Iraqi soldiers on Monday killed four suicide bombers who carried out an attack on an army base in Iraq's eastern province of Diyala, a security source said.

The suicide bombers, affiliated to the extremist Islamic State (IS) militant group, carried out an attack at about 4:00 am (0100 GMT) on army's Karkoush base in east of the provincial capi-

tal city of Baquba, about 65 km northeast of Baghdad, Lt Gen Mezhir al-Azzawi, commander of Dijlah Operations Command, told Xinhua.

The four militants, wearing explosive vests and carrying assault rifles, attacked northern gate of the base, but the troops fired back and killed one of them, while the other three surrounded after they holed up behind con-

crete barriers at the scene, said al-Azzawi, whose command is responsible for the security in Diyala province.

"Our forces killed all the four suicide bombers who tried to enter the Karkoush military base. The situation is under control," Azzawi said. He said that two Iraqi soldiers were killed and three others wounded by the clashes with the IS militants.—Xinhua ■

ပြည်ထောင်စုရေးရာတိုင်းရင်းသား၊ ပညာရေးတိုင်းရင်းသားနှင့် စွမ်းချည်နှံအစိုးရအဖွဲ့တို့ ပူးပေါင်းကျင့်ပသော

ကလေးစာပေပွဲတော်

ကလေးစာပေပွဲနှင့် စာအုပ်ပေးအပ်ပွဲ
(တောင်ကြီးမြို့)

၂၀၁၇ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇွန်လ (၂၊ ၃၊ ၄)ရက်၊ (သောကြာ၊ စနေ၊ တနင်္ဂနွေ) နံနက် ၉ နာရီမှ ညနေ ၅ နာရီအထိ
မည်သူမဆို ပါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲနိုင်ပါသည်။

တောင်ကြီးတက္ကသိုလ်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့။

Gold Sponsors

PREMIER Cereals Drink

Brighter Future Myanmar

Organized by

VIMEX

Bangkok hospital bomb wounds 24, junta blames its opponents

BANGKOK — A bomb at a hospital in the Thai capital wounded 24 people on Monday, the third anniversary of a 2014 military coup, the government said, with the army chief blaming groups opposed to the junta.

There was no claim of responsibility for the blast at the Phramongkutklo Hospital in Bangkok, which is popular with soldiers and their families and retired military officers.

“We found the pieces that were used to make the bomb,” Kamthorn Aucharoen, commander of the police’s explosive ordnance team, told Reuters, adding it was not clear who was responsible.

“Right now, authorities are checking out closed circuit cameras.” Government spokesman Sansern Kaewkamnerd said 24 people were wounded. Most were hit by flying glass, the

military’s national security unit said.

Suspicion is likely to focus either on political dissidents opposed to military rule or Muslim separatists based in the south of the predominately Buddhist country.

Army chief Chalerchai Sittisart blamed groups opposed to the junta. “It doesn’t have to be the junta anniversary. People who don’t like the junta, given the chance, will do this,” Chalermchai said in a televised interview, adding that troops in uniform and plainclothes security officers would be deployed to increase security.

Deputy national police chief General Srivara Rangsiabrahmanakul said the bomb had been hidden in a container near the entrance of a pharmacy.

The 22 May, 2014, military coup toppled a demo-



Thai forensic experts carry evidence as they leave from a site of bomb blast at the Phramongkutklo Hospital, in Bangkok, Thailand on 22 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

cratically elected government and ended months of unrest, including sometimes deadly street demonstrations. The junta said it needed to take power to restore order and usher in political reforms.

Former prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra, whose government was ejected in the 2014 coup, called for a swift return to democracy in a Facebook post on Monday, adding that the economy had

been hit hard. Thailand’s export-dependent economy is showing signs of recovery following a shaky three years that saw weak consumer spending and a slump in trade.

Since the coup, the jun-

ta, known as the National Council for Peace and Order, has clamped down on dissent and ramped up prosecutions under sedition and royal defamation laws. The military has always played a prominent role in Thai life but since the coup it has become embedded in society.

The military government has acknowledged it wants to weaken political parties and maintain permanent influence over elected governments, partly through a new constitution approved by the king last month. An election is due by the end of next year.

The blast comes weeks after a car bomb at a shopping centre in the province of Pattani, near Thailand’s border with Malaysia, which wounded 61 people and which authorities blamed on the Muslim insurgents.—Reuters ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP 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’PORT)
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV MAERSK ATLANTIC VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK ATLANTIC VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/ M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORT)
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

Chinese paper applauds anti-spy efforts after report CIA sources killed

BEIJING — An influential state-run newspaper applauded China’s anti-espionage efforts on Monday after the New York Times said China had killed or imprisoned up to 20 CIA sources, hobbling US spying operations in a massive intelligence breach.

The Chinese killed at least a dozen people providing information to the US Central Intelligence Agency between 2010 and 2012, dismantling a network that was years in the making, the New York Times reported on Saturday. China’s Global Times, published by the official

People’s Daily, said in an editorial in its Chinese and English-language editions that, if true, it was a victory for China. “If this article is telling the truth, we would like to applaud China’s anti-espionage activities. Not only was the CIA’s spy network dismantled, but Washington had no idea what happened and which part of the spy network had gone wrong,” the paper said. “It can be taken as a sweeping victory. Perhaps it means even if the CIA makes efforts to rebuild its spy network in China, it could face the same result,” it said. However the

widely read paper, which is known for its strongly nationalist stance, said one part of the report was false.

“As for one source being shot in a government courtyard, that is a purely fabricated story, most likely a piece of American-style imagination based on ideology,” it said. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying declined to comment on the specifics of the report, telling a daily news briefing she did not know anything about it. “China’s state security department investigates and handles, in accordance with the law, groups, peo-

ple and activities that harm China’s national security interests and effectively performs its duties,” she said, without elaborating. The Ministry of State Security, which oversees anti-spying operations, has no publicly available telephone number and no website, unlike other Chinese ministries. While the New York Times’ website is blocked in China, like those of many mainstream Western news organizations, the story has been widely discussed and its contents picked up in other Chinese media, especially by online news portals.—Reuters ■

Malaysian navy boat, nine crew, missing after chasing fishermen

KUALA LUMPUR — Nine crew members of a Malaysian navy boat are missing after they lost contact with their parent ship while chasing away intruding fishermen, the navy said on Monday. The nine were part of a

boarding team from the warship KD Perdana, on patrol off the south coast, the Royal Malaysian Navy said in a statement. The team was chasing several foreign fishing boats out of Malaysian waters when contact was lost on Satur-

day evening. A search-and-rescue operation was launched about an hour later, after the KD Perdana failed to find the boat, the navy said. Eleven ships and two aircraft had been deployed for the search, it said. Southern Malaysian

waterways, which border Indonesia and Singapore, include busy international shipping lanes and rich fishing grounds.

Overloaded migrant boats also ply the waters and occasionally run into trouble.—Reuters ■

Trump, in Israel, says he has new reasons to hope for peace

TEL AVIV — US President Donald Trump arrived in Israel on Monday on the second leg of his first overseas trip since entering office and said he had new reasons to hope for peace and stability to the Middle East after his visit to Saudi Arabia. In a stopover lasting 28 hours, Trump is to meet separately with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Later on Monday, he will pray at Judaism's Western Wall and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, and on Tuesday he will travel to Bethlehem.

Netanyahu and his wife Sara, as well as President Reuven Rivlin and members of the Israeli cabinet, were at Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion airport to greet Trump and first lady Melania in a red carpet ceremony after what is believed to have been the first direct flight from Riyadh to Israel.

"During my travels in recent days, I have found new reasons for hope," Trump said in a brief speech on arrival.

"We have before us a rare opportunity to bring security and stability and peace to this region and its people, defeating terrorism and creating a future of harmony, prosperity and peace, but we can only get



US President Donald Trump (C) sits next to Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R) and Israel's President Reuven Rivlin during a welcoming ceremony upon his arrival at Ben Gurion International Airport in Lod near Tel Aviv, Israel on 22 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

there working together. There is no other way," he said. Trump's tour comes in the shadow of difficulties at home, where he is struggling to contain a scandal after firing James Comey as FBI director nearly two weeks ago.

The trip ends on Saturday after visits to the Vatican, Brussels and Sicily.

Netanyahu said Israel shared Trump's commitment to peace -- but he also repeated his right-wing government's political and security demands of the Palestinians, including recognition of Israel as a Jewish state.

"May your first trip to our region prove to be a historic milestone on the path towards reconciliation and peace," Netanyahu said.

US Secretary of State

Rex Tillerson told reporters en route to Tel Aviv that any three-way meeting between Trump, Netanyahu and Abbas was for "a later date".

Trump has vowed to do whatever is necessary to broker peace between Israel and the Palestinians -- something he has called "the ultimate deal" -- but has given little indication of how he could revive negotiations that collapsed in 2014.

When he met Abbas this month in Washington, he stopped shortly of explicitly recommitting his administration to a two-state solution to the decades-old conflict, a long-standing foundation of US policy. He has since spoken in support of Palestinian "self-determination". Trump has also opted against an immediate

move of the US Embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, a longtime demand of Israel.

A senior administration official told Reuters last week that Trump remained committed to his campaign pledge to ultimately relocate the embassy, but would not announce such a move during this trip:

"We're having very good discussions with all parties and, as long as we see that happening, then we don't intend to do anything that we think could upset those discussions."

Netanyahu has come under pressure from right-wing members of his own coalition who say he is not pushing hard enough to get Trump to carry out his promise.

Over the weekend, Trump received a warm welcome from Arab leaders, who focused on his desire to restrain Iran's influence in the region, a commitment they found wanting in the Republican president's Democratic predecessor, Barack Obama. On Sunday, Israel authorised some economic concessions to the Palestinians that it said would improve civilian life in areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority and were intended to respond to Trump's request for "confidence-building steps".—Reuters ■

Russian-made drones used to monitor possible fires and floods in Far East

KHABAROVSK — A unit of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) from the Eastern Military District's Amur River valley has been engaged in tracking potential fires and floods, the press service for the Eastern Military District reported today.

"The Eastern Military District's unmanned aerial vehicles located in the Amur Region, the Jewish Autonomous Region, and the Khabarovsk Region have started monitoring areas around military facilities and communities for possible wildfires and river flooding," the statement said. The military district's representative specified that the Orlan-10 UAVs daily check over 1,000 square kilometres, focusing on the most endangered areas where floods or forest fires are possible. The Orlan drones are equipped with infrared sensitive cameras to quickly detect even small fires.

The Amur River formation headquarters conduct round-the-clock monitoring of the fire and flood situation in the area of deployment for a rapid response.

"We cooperate with the municipal authorities and Emergency Ministry officials," the regional press service reported.

—Tass ■



The Amur River formation headquarters conduct round-the-clock monitoring of the fire and flood situation in the area of deployment for a rapid response. **PHOTO: TASS**

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ARCA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ARCA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (011)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (011) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.5.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP 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 GLODEN SEA

Phone No: 2301185

Meet the Meyerowitzs: Hoffman, Stiller and Sandler seek highbrow laughs

CANNES, France — Ben Stiller once again plays Dustin Hoffman's son, this time alongside Adam Sandler in an intellectual comedy that Hoffman hopes audiences will find funny rather than just "interesting".

"The Meyerowitz Stories", which screened at Cannes on Sunday, is written and directed by Noah Baumbach, whose dialogue-heavy New York movies are often compared to mid-career Woody Allen. This is no "Meet the Fockers".

About the fractured relations between Hoffman's four-times married almost-famous sculptor and his offspring, "Meyerowitz" is a long way from the knockabout comedies that Sandler and Stiller are best known for.

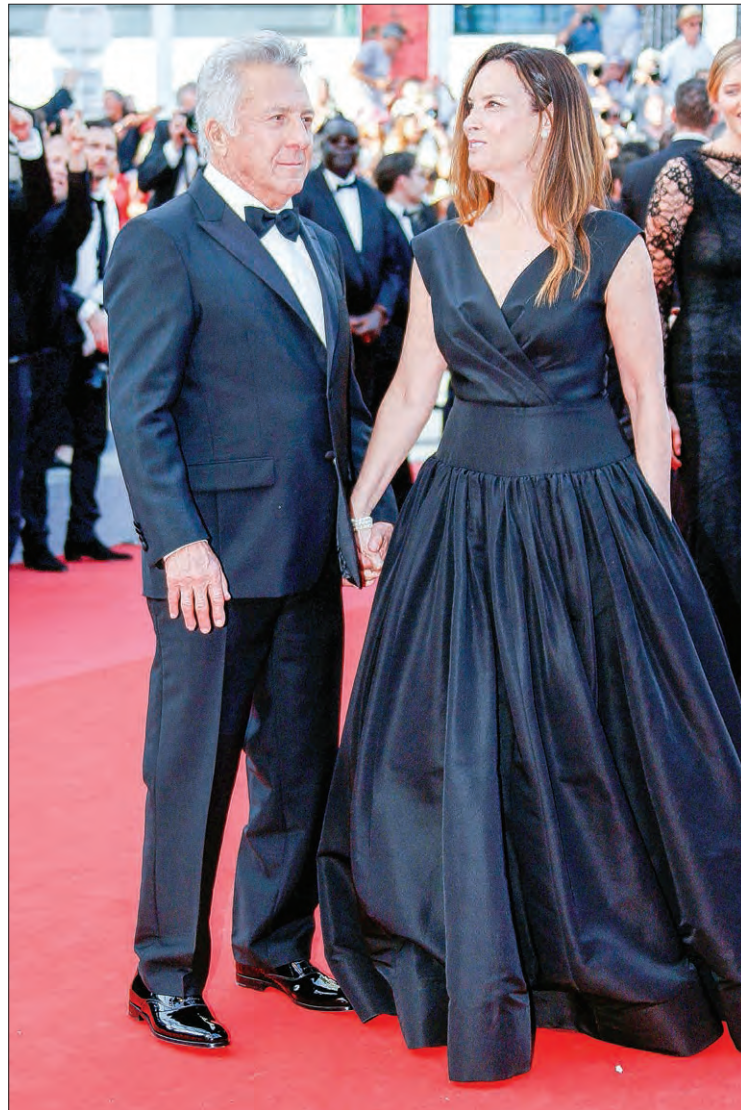
"I just think it's cool to hear 'Happy Gilmore' mentioned at Cannes," Stiller said after the lowbrow 1996 golfing comedy in which he co-starred with Sandler was mentioned at the festival news conference.

Hoffman, who soared to fame in "The Graduate" in 1967, said he resented people telling him they grew up with his movies, and although reluctant to play the ageing Meyerowitz, was delighted to be directed by Baumbach.

"We would work for him for nothing," he said, to which Emma Thompson, who plays his wife, retorted: "We did work for him for nothing!"

When a journalist prefaced her question by congratulating the filmmakers on an "interesting" film, Hoffman chipped in: "That's not a good word ... you really didn't like it!"

But the movie got plenty of laughs at the press screening and the first reviews were good.



Cast member Dustin Hoffman (L) and his wife Lisa arrive at 70th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France, on 21 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

"A Great Adam Sandler Performance Makes 'The Meyerowitz Stories' One of Noah Baumbach's Best," said IndieWire.

The Guardian's Peter Bradshaw called it "terrifically pleasurable and entertaining — film-making qualities that look easy but aren't — and there is real charm, delicacy and warmth."

A Netflix film, one of two in competition at Cannes, "Meyerowitz" will not get a full cinema release, a source of controversy

at the film festival where jury head Pedro Almodovar said he did not think a film not shown on the big screen should get a Palme d'Or.

Stiller was unfazed: "He said that about 'Happy Gilmore'!"

Baumbach, who said he made "Meyerowitz" to be shown in cinemas, joked that the movie would be screened in Hoffman's living room, which, the actor said, had "a very big screen". —Reuters ■

'Alien: Covenant' Slides Past 'Guardians 2' to Win Weekend With \$36 Million

LOS ANGELES — As this weekend approached, the question lingered if "Alien: Covenant" would be able to unseat "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" from the top spot at the domestic box office.

Now, we have an answer. As of Sunday morning, "Covenant," from 20th Century Fox and Scott Free Productions, looks to be the winner with a three-day estimate of \$36 million from 3,761 locations. That's just above Disney's "Guardians" sequel which is raking in an additional \$35.3 million from 4,347 spots. The super sequel is seeing only a 46% drop from last weekend, and its total domestic earnings now exceed \$300 million.

While "Alien" may have won, the film's price tag in the \$100 million range and marketing costs detract from the victory. The sixth installment in the Alien franchise (not counting the two Alien vs. Predator films) was directed by Ridley Scott and stars Michael Fassbender, Katherine Waterston, Billy Crudup, and Danny McBride. It holds a 73% on Rotten Tomatoes, which is in line with 2012's "Prometheus."

Although it came in already having made \$42 million overseas and \$36 million was enough to land in the top slot, "Alien" grossed less during its first weekend in the US than "Prometheus" did in 2012 (\$51 million). Its final domestic earnings also came in below earlier projections, which pegged the horror flick at at least \$40 million.

Fox's president of domestic distribution Chris Aronson chalked the lower totals compared with "Prometheus" to the "normal course of busi-

ness." He added that "Alien: Covenant" gives fans of the franchise since the 1979 original the chance to share with the younger generation (60% of the opening weekend audience was in the 18-34 demo). "Teenagers likely haven't seen 'Alien,'" he said, "This movie creates a generational bond."

While the "Alien" franchise is still able to generate decent interest, the same cannot be said for Fox's other release this weekend, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul." The fourth live-action movie based on Jeff Kinney's middle school-centric book series opened to \$7.2 million from 3,157 locations. David Bowers, who directed movies two and three, returned to the helm nearly five years after the last iteration, and anointed a new titular wimp in Jason Drucker.

The only other major release of the weekend was "Everything, Everything," from Warner Bros. and MGM. The sick-lit adaptation will earn \$12 million by the end of the weekend from 2,801 locations.

That's enough to land in the top three. "Hunger Games" standout Amandla Stenberg stars as a girl with an autoimmune disease that keeps her locked up indoors.

Nick Robinson plays her love interest named Olly. "Everything, Everything" earned the highest CinemaScore of the new released (an A- overall). 82% of its audience was female, and 74% were under 25 years old.

"Along with our partners, MGM, we're thrilled that we hit our key demo," commented Jeff Goldstein, domestic distribution chief at Warner Bros. —Reuters ■

Drake wins record 13 Billboard Music awards

LAS VEGAS — Rapper Drake grabbed a record 13 wins at the 2017 Billboard Music Awards on Sunday, eclipsing Adele's previous record of 12 awards in 2012.

"I want to say, hold tight Adele, because when a new thing drops you'll be back to get the record back," the Canadian recording artist said in accepting one of his awards at

the star-studded event held in Las Vegas.

Drake, who also won top artist, top male artist and top rap album for "Views", later posed for photographers surrounded by his microphone-shaped trophies.

The three-hour show — hosted by hip-hop artist Ludacris and former High School

Musical star Vanessa Hudgens — included performances by Miley Cyrus, the Chainsmokers, Nicki Minaj and Imagine Dragons. Beyonce and Twenty One Pilots each took five awards, although they were absent from the ceremony. The Chainsmokers earned four, including top collaboration and top hot 100 song for "Closer" with Halsey.

Blake Shelton took home the award for top country artist, and top country song went to Florida Georgia Line. Justin Timberlake's "Can't Stop the Feeling" won top selling song and top radio song.

The Icon Award for achievement in music went to Cher, 71, who gave a heartfelt speech after performing two of her big-

gest hits — "Believe" and "If I Could Turn Back Time".

"I want to thank my mom because when I was really young, my mom said 'You're not going to be the smartest. You're not going to be the prettiest. You're not going to be the most talented, but you're going to be special,'" Cher said. —Reuters ■

Once-drab Indonesian slum rejuvenated into ‘Rainbow Village’

SEMARANG (Indonesia) — A slum area on Indonesia’s Java Island has become an unlikely tourist attraction, as well as a social media hit, after its homes were painted vivid colours to transform the district into what is now being called “Kampung Pelangi” (“Rainbow Village”).

The poor hill-side area received a month-long facelift costing 300 million rupiah (\$22,500) and paid for by the local government in a bid to rejuvenate this part of Semarang, a

town 450 km (280 miles) east of the capital Jakarta.

Visitors have been flocking to the village to take photographs and pose for “selfies” next to the brightly coloured homes.

“It’s because of the unique look of the village. We know this area used to be a slum district but now it looks so beautiful after the colorful makeover. I used to pass this area without any interest but now the colors change everything,” said one visitor, Nihayatun Naqiyah.

The multi-coloured paint job for the village is the brainchild of Slamet Widodo, a 54-year-old high-school teacher.

“In the future it will bring benefits to our community, especially economic empowerment. The project will be supported by the activity and creativity (of the people) in the village so the local community has a sense of belonging,” said Widodo, who was inspired by similar projects in other parts of Indonesia.

Residents already



A view of colourful houses at the Kampung Pelangi village in Semarang, Indonesia, on 20 May, 2017 in this photo taken by Antara Foto. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

say their livelihoods have improved since the makeover, as they can now give tours and sell souvenirs.

“Obviously this con-

dition is very influential, before we were only the residents of what I can say was a quiet village but now we can call it a dynamic vil-

lage, because women are empowered and are able to increase their family’s income,” resident Amanah Suyitno said.—Reuters ■

Fifty years after Six Day War, Jerusalem retains much of its old look



A general view shows the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Wadi al-Joz in the foreground and Mount of Olives in the background on 14 May, 2017. **PHOTO:REUTERS**

JERUSALEM — Israel will soon mark the 50th anniversary of the Six Day War, a conflict in which it captured the Old City of Jerusalem and more than two dozen Palestinian villages around it from Jordan, laying the foundations of a long-simmering dispute.

According to the Jewish calendar, the anniversary falls on 24 May this year, even though the anniversary for most of the world will be on 5 June, when the war began in 1967.

For Israelis, all of Jerusalem, including the Old City and its eastern suburbs, is their “eternal and indivisible” capital.

For Palestinians, East Jerusalem is a symbol of their national struggle and home to Islam’s third most sacred site, the al-Aqsa mosque, and the nearby glittering Dome of the Rock.

Both stand on an elevated plaza Jews refer to as Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism, and

the location of an ancient Jewish temple.

The Palestinians want the eastern part of the city to be the capital of their future state, alongside the West Bank and Gaza.

Over the decades since 1967, Jerusalem has seen controversy over settlements, violence, and demographic change. Despite all this, many of the key sites in the Old City, scenes of fighting half a century ago, have changed relatively little.—Reuters ■



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(23-5-2017 07:00am ~ 24-5-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Rakhine The Land of Sublime Pagodas
07:57	Am	Dances of Myanmar: Tai Khun or Gon Traditional Dance
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	19 Hours
08:50	Am	Kay Tu Mar Lar “The Family”
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	International Dances in Myanmar
09:50	Am	Today Myanmar: Water Hyacinths
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Lucrative Myanma Rattan Industry

10:45

Am

Ashin Thitzana or Martyr of Buddha’s Sasana

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

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-8) (Part-2)
07:56	Pm	[Doctor] [Painter]
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste of Myanmar (Shan - Flat -Rice- Noodle Soup)
08:43	Pm	Up Against The Tide

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

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

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

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



Programme Schedule

(23-5-2017, Tuesday)

6:00 Am

♦ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:00 Am

♦ Breakfast News

7:35 Am

♦ Documentary

8:35 Am

♦ Law Affairs

9:10 Am

♦ Documentary (Mandalay Palace)

9:35 Am

♦ MRTV Youth’s Programme

10:30 Am

♦ Documentary

11:35Am

♦ Monthly Weather Reoprt (May)

12:30 Am

♦ TV Drama Series

1:00 Pm

♦ Radio Drama

1:40 Pm

♦ Documentary

2:40 Pm

♦ Yes or No Talks Show (Hot Talk)

3:15 Pm

♦ TV Drama Series

4:35 Pm

♦ Documentary

5:05 Pm

♦ Mono Classical Songs

5:25 Pm

♦ Catch Asia NEWS

5:35 Pm

♦ Money Talk Myanmar

6:20 Pm

♦ Football Magazine

6:35 Pm

♦ Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

7:15 Pm

♦ TV Drama Series

8:00 Pm

♦ News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 Pm

♦ Documentary (Peace)

9:15 Pm

♦ TV Drama Series

10:00 Pm

♦ Pyi Thu Ni Ti

Zverev stuns Djokovic to win Italian Open

ROME — German youngster Alexander Zverev pulled off the biggest win of his career on Sunday when he beat world number two Novak Djokovic 6-4 6-3 to win the Italian Open on Sunday.

Zverev, 20, was on top from the moment that he broke Djokovic in the very first game as he became the youngest winner of a Masters 1000 tournament since the Serb himself in Miami in 2007.

He controlled play from the back of the court with his flu-

id two-handed backhand and heavy forehand.

Zverev broke again in the third game of the second set and clinched the match with another break in the ninth game.

Djokovic, who has wrestled with injuries and lack of confidence since winning the French Open last June, had looked his old dominant self when he beat Dominic Thiem in Saturday's semi-final but was unable to recapture that form on Sunday.

—Reuters ■



Zverev holds the trophy after his victory. PHOTO: REUTERS

Svitolina wins in Rome after Halep falters in final set

ROME — Elina Svitolina won the women's singles at the Italian Open final to claim her fourth title of the season on Sunday after her opponent Simona Halep sunk without trace in the final set.

Svitolina's 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 victory meant she added the Rome crown to the ones she took in Taipei, Dubai and Istanbul.

Halep, who won in Madrid last week, took the first set and, although she rolled her right ankle at one point, the Romanian appeared to be coasting towards a win when she broke in the opening game of the second.

But Svitolina forced her way back into the match, as she hit back to take a 3-1 lead and held off several fightbacks from Halep to level the match in the 12th game.

Svitolina raced to a 5-0 lead in the final set before completing a Tour-leading 31st match win this year. —Reuters ■

Guardiola promises improvement after first English season

LONDON — Manchester City are already working on how they can improve next season after sealing a spot in the Champions League, manager Pep Guardiola said as he mulled over potential targets in the summer transfer window.

City secured a top-four finish for the sixth consecutive season with a 5-0 win over Watford on Sunday but Guardiola failed to win a trophy for the first time since 2009, after enjoying widespread success at Barcelona and

Bayern Munich.

"We are satisfied because we are in the Champions League, and tomorrow we will think about what we need to do next season, when the pressure will be the same," Guardiola told reporters after City sealed third place with the victory.

"Next season we will be better, and as a coach I am better than the year before, but it is not simple."

Guardiola said that the top Spanish sides were better placed

to lure who they wanted in the transfer window as they had the money and stature to attract top talent from other clubs.

"Real Madrid have just bought one player, 16-years-old (Vinicius Junior) for 46 million euros (39.5 million pounds), so you can imagine the market," Guardiola said.

"To compete with Barca and Real we need time, we need decades to be there. Money is not enough — when Real and Barca want a player, other teams

cannot compete." The Spaniard noted City's progress in the past few years but said that there was still work to do before they were comparable with Europe's elite.

"Before, we were never in the Champions League, and now we have been there six or seven times in a row. But, to achieve the next step, although the gap is shorter, it is more difficult," Guardiola added. "To close the gap you need time, and in our world time doesn't exist, it's not allowed." —Reuters ■

Ronaldo hands Real first La Liga title since 2012

BARCELONA — Real Madrid ended their five-year wait for the La Liga title on Sunday as Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema scored in a 2-0 win at Malaga, clinching a 33rd league triumph.

Real needed just a point to wrap up the title and raced into the lead when Ronaldo scored in the second minute, ensuring the champions scored in every league game of the season. Benzema wrapped up the win early in the second half.

Real finished the campaign on 93 points after a sixth straight league win since going down 3-2 to Barca in April.

Last year's champions Barcelona finished second on 90 points after coming from two goals down to beat Eibar 4-2 at home. —Reuters ■



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates scoring their first goal during the Spanish Liga Santander between Real Madrid and Malaga at La Rosa Leda in Malaga, Spain on 21 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Honda confirms AC Milan exit after difficult campaign

TOKYO — Japan midfielder Keisuke Honda has confirmed his departure from fallen Serie A giants AC Milan at the end of the season, Kyodo news agency reported.

The 30-year-old playmaker has barely played this campaign but came on as a substitute against Bologna on Sunday and curled in a free kick in a 3-0 win that secured Vincenzo Montella's team sixth place and a berth in the Europa League qualifiers.

"My dearest Milan supporters, thank you. It has been a challenging three and a half years but because of that I have been able to grow as a person," Kyodo quoted Honda as saying on social media.

"I will be leaving Milan after this season, but I look forward to seeing you again soon. I may not be a player then, who knows in what way we'll meet." —Reuters ■