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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President gives policy guidance to United Nations Permanent Representative

President U Win Myint gives policy guidance to U Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of Permanent Mission of Myanmar to the United Nations. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Win Myint gave policy guidance to U Kyaw Moe Tun, Permanent Representative of Permanent Mission of Myanmar to the United Nations office in Geneva, who will serve at the UN offices in Geneva.

President U Win Myint met U Kyaw Moe Tun at the Presidential Palace at 10 a.m. in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.—MNA ■

Depression makes landfall

The low pressure area over inland Myanmar has weakened, said the weather bureau yesterday, but the monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department has warned of strong winds, flash flooding and landslides due to the depression in the country.

In its warning, the weather bureau alerted the people especially in hilly areas to landslides and the residents living near rivers to possible flash flooding.

The warning also cautioned fishermen against venturing into sea as the condition would be rough with squalls and strong wind up to 40 miles per hour along the Rakhine coast. Wave height could reach nine to twelve feet in and along Myanmar coasts, said the weather bureau. Likelihood of increase of rain in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Intermittent rain or thundershowers with temporary heavy falls. Degree of certainty is (100%).—GNLM ■

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to Myanmar, Mr. Emilio De Miguel Calabia, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Spanish Ambassador

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs received Mr. Emilio De Miguel Calabia, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 30 May 2018 at 14:00 hrs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters related to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Spain especially in the areas of agriculture and tourism promotion.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses counter-terrorism

By Aye Aye Thant
(Myanmar News Agency)

THE 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 8th regular session held its ninth-day meeting yesterday morning, where the Condominium Rule was approved.

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

Regarding the asterisk-marked question, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw made an explanation.

A Pyithu Hluttaw representative from Pyawbwe constituency, U Thaung Aye, said, "A motion has been made to give enough protection measures for the stability, rule of law, sovereignty and perpetuation of the State, and for violent attacks not to occur, especially in Rakhine State, and cooperation with international organisations to combat terrorism and to prevent further attacks of the ARSA terrorist groups in Myanmar.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: MNA**

A counter-terrorism law was enacted in Pyithu Hluttaw Law No. 23/2014, in which there are 19 chapters. Looking back at the previous incidents of 2016 and 2017, it was evident that the terrorists had made an attempt to destroy many security checkpoints including those of the Tatmadaw and many outposts of border guard police force. The terrorists used force, human shields, land mines, arson, killing of administrative officials, security informants and minor ethnic races, and threats to the people to stay away from their homes. It was an undeniable fact that the actions of the terrorists needed to be addressed in the prescribed counter-terrorism laws. Thus this law is needed to be able to tackle terrorist events effectively.

> ... it is important to let the world know the true information regarding the Rakhine issues

In the present situation, the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and other international organisations have made an attempt to intervene in our country, neglecting the acts of the terrorists and groundless news from them that can lead to the UN Security Council and International Criminal Court. It can be assumed that they can hamper the stability and sovereignty of the State. Moreover it can weaken the legal measures and humanitarian aid conducted by the government as well.

As for the government, efforts should be made to take action against the culprits, agitators, terrorists and their related organisations according to the rules and regulations prescribed by the law. Moreover, clear clarification should be made to disseminate the news of Rakhine State to the international community.

SEE PAGE-7

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses improper land use, approves GAP motion

THE ninth-day of the eighth regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw was held yesterday. The Hluttaw approved the motion urging the union government to implement proper agricultural practices (GAP). Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw answered questions raised by the MPs, a report was read, and a motion was discussed and voted on by the assembly.

Actions taken against improper land use

U Aung Myo of Sagaing Region constituency (2) asked whether there were plans to investigate the certificates to use the farmland (form-7) that were issued, as well as the illegally acquired certificates to use the farmland (form-7) used for embezzling agricultural loans.

The deputy minister replied that certificates to use the farmland were issued for all levels of Administrative Body of the Farmland, in accordance with section 3 to 14 of Chapter (II) under the 2012 Farmland Rule. He said it would take considerable time, staff and finance to investigate every form-7 issued across the country. Therefore, the forms are usually only scrutinised when their illegal use is evident, or a complaint or suspicion is submitted.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. **PHOTO: MNA**

Similarly, agricultural loans are scrutinised when the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank requests a review due to a suspicion of embezzlement. Offenders are charged with breaking the Civil Servant Law and Rule.

The deputy minister explained that inexperienced part-time workers were hired when issuing a large number of certificates to use the farmland in a relatively short time. He said farmland area calculations were based on old colonial maps, which led to multiple corrections when issuing permits to farmers.

No amendment made to bill amending TV, broadcasting law sent by Pyithu Hluttaw

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye read the committee's report on the bill amending the Television and Broadcasting Law, sent with amendments by the Pyithu Hluttaw. The committee considers the amendments made by the Pyithu Hluttaw to be sufficient and, therefore, have not added any additional amendments and suggested to the Amyotha Hluttaw that they accept the bill without making any changes.

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than then announced that MPs interested in discussing the bill could enrol their names.

Lawmakers urge govt to promote GAP nationwide

The MPs then discussed a motion, tabled by U Hla San of Magway Region constituency, urging the union government to implement the GAP system for the country's agricultural sector.

Dr. Win Myint Chit of Bago Region constituency (8) said that for the GAP system to be successful, there must be proper adherence to the administration, from the most basic aspect of choosing a proper farmland to storing crops, as well as documenting all steps of the process for reviewing and training purposes. He said this would ensure that agricultural products are safe for consumers and trading. He suggested establishing stores that sell GAP agricultural produce in every city and providing GAP training at agricultural education centres.

Tatmadaw MP Major Ye Aung Saw said the GAP guidelines must not be mandatory, and it should be up to farmers to decide the guidelines and practices best suited to them. He suggested that the relevant ministries and government organisations should restore farmland, acquire modern agricultural technology, ensure appropriate crops are grown on the most suitable soil, provide land-use permits to the local people for virgin lands, penetrate the international market and conduct continuous research for improvement.

The motion was further discussed by three MPs, followed by Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw explaining that the GAP protocol was implemented to ensure high-quality crops are produced for the market. He said the staff of the agricultural department would need additional training to carry out the GAP regulations on a nationwide scale. The deputy minister also agreed that it was important for farmers to accept and use the GAP system as they thought best. He explained that due to a limited budget, the authorities were unable to provide every department with proper equipment and are, therefore, carrying out procedures one step at a time.

He added that the authorities were disseminating information about GAP practices to build a strong foundation among the country's citizens. The deputy minister then said that his ministry supported the motion, as it had an encouraging effect upon their work. The motion was put to a vote and approved by the Amyotha Hluttaw by 186 votes for, one against, and two abstentions.

The Amyotha Hluttaw session will continue on 1 June.

—Aung Ye Thwin ■

I will carry out the implementation of the priority goals of the Union Government which are as follows:

1. Rule of law and improvement of the socio-economic life of the people,
2. National Reconciliation and internal peace,
3. Amending the Constitution which is the foundation for building a Democratic Federal Republic.

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

We face various kinds of internal and external challenges while we endeavor for political, economic and social development of our country. As we are aware of the importance of our international responsibility, we have adopted a path consistent with the needs and situation of our country respecting at the same time the views and opinions of the international community.

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

Systematic arrangements made for resettlement of recent returnees

THE government is making systematic arrangements for the resettlement of the 62 displaced people who returned from Bangladesh voluntarily earlier this week, with their security considered important.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye made the remarks yesterday in his capacity as the chairman of the committee on the acceptance and resettlement of returnees at a work coordination meeting of the committee in Sittway, Rakhine State.

Regarding the repatriation, the Union Minister stressed the need to sit down with returnees individually for discussion about their resettlement in their original places of residence and their livelihoods.

He also pledged to make arrangements to bring back their relatives who are in Bangladesh back to Myanmar through diplomatic channels.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu attend the meeting for the resettlement of displaced people who returned from Bangladesh. **PHOTO: MNA**

After scrutinising the returnees, those who have a home in Myanmar will be handed over to their families, he added.

"Regarding the security, we are making more efforts for border security currently," said Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye.

The Immigration Department has granted National Verification cards to them and are assisting them in applying for citizenship.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has planned to provide them with aid both physical and mental to carry out reunions with their families, to provide cash assistance to pregnant women and to provide social pensions to those who are aged.

Those who lost their homes in the fire during the conflicts will be provided with money under the Cash for Work programme for their resettlement near their original residences.

At yesterday's meeting, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu called for making the best for resettlement of the returnees to benefit them in the long run.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, members of the Rakhine State Cabinet and state-level officials.

Dr. Aung Thu Rein, Director of the Ministry of the Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Ministry, and local authorities visited Thayargon and Thinganet villages in Sittway Township and met with Rakhine and Kaman ethnic people.

At the meeting, the ethnic people reported on requirements for school enrolment, teachers at schools, school furniture and health care.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Tatmadaw, Myanmar Press Council hold sixth workshop

The Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Press Council (MPC), in an effort to promote mutual cooperation and solidify trust, held their 6th workshop in Myawady Sarpay Building on Mogaund Road in Yangon yesterday.

Present at the workshop were MPC vice-chairmen U Ohn Kyaing and Dr. Myo Thant Tin, MPC members, Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo, Maj-Gen Tun Tun Nyi from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), and other military officials.

Attendees seen at the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Press Council workshop in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

The MPC vice-chairmen delivered separate keynote speeches, followed by Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo, who introduced the attendees.

Maj-Gen Tun Tun Nyi, who is also the Director of Public Relations and Psychological Welfare, then explained the cooperation of the Tatmadaw in access to information, freedom of press and newsgathering. This was followed by transparent discussions of media ethics and media laws.

Finally, U Ohn Kyaing and Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo delivered closing speeches.

U Ohn Kyaing said the workshop achieved mutual consideration and understanding and that they will better regulate media agencies.

Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo, who is also Chairman of the Tatmadaw True News Information Team, thanked all in attendance for their active participation and expressed his joy in the gradual building of trust from the first workshop to the current one.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Sagaing Region's tourism increases by 13.45% from last FY

THE number of local visitors and tourists entering Monywa, Kalay, Sagaing, Katha and Shwebo sites in the Sagaing Region during the 2017-2018 fiscal year has increased 13.45 per cent compared to the 2016-2017 FY, according to a report prepared by the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Sagaing Region).

The Sagaing Region government is developing tourism in the Sagaing Region by distributing guide maps and brochures of tourism destination sites and historical sites, and documenting the magical places. Therefore, the number of visitors to the Sagaing Region has increased this year.

Of the 30 tourist destinations in the Sagaing Region, only eight sites were popular among visitors, according to the Sagaing Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Of the six tourist zones in the Sagaing Region, Monywa recorded the highest number of visitors. Kalay is the second most popular destination for travellers. The other places cannot compete with these two towns.

The Khamti site is a little known tourist site because of the transport difficulties. The Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary is a tourist attraction in the Khamti zone. There is a direct flight from Mandalay to Khamti. Also, it can be visited via the sea route.

A monk takes a photo at Mya Thein Tan Pagoda located on the northern side of Mingun and on the western bank of the Ayeyawady River in Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE**

A community-based tourism site has been created in the Sagaing Region this year. There are plans to create more tourist destinations.

Monywa, Kalay, Sagaing, Shwebo and Katha recorded 123,370 local visitors and 27,330 international tourists, totalling more than 150,700 visitors, during the 2016-2017 FY.

Last FY saw an increase by some 20,260 visitors compared to the previous year, with 143,350 local visitors and 27,600 international tourists.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

Midwifery schools to provide training for nurses as demand increases

By Nyein Nyein

A course of study leading to a nursing diploma will be offered at midwifery schools to fulfil the high demand for nurses urgently needed in government hospitals, said Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin.

This was said in reply to a question raised by Daw Mya Hla San Kyauktada constituency (2), asking if there was any plan to open licensed training schools for nursing assistants so that they may receive better job opportunities. This was said during the second Yangon Region Hluttaw's sixth regular session's 36th-day meeting held yesterday

Given the low number of nurses working in government hospitals, there is a plan to open nursing diploma training programmes in midwifery schools, said U Naing Ngan Lin. "We will train 4,000 nurses starting from November 2018."

"Although more than 30,000 graduated nurses, only 20,000 nurses are serving in hospitals. Therefore, we need over15,000 nurses. An average 50 per cent of the nurses are working in government hospitals across the country," said the social affairs minister.

Moreover, nurses are receiving low pay and facing unequal opportunities, discriminatory treatment and delays in job promotions. Therefore, most of them have left their jobs, he added. The Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council (MNMC) only issues licence to those nurses who will enter the workforce.

A nurse gives the polio vaccine to a child. **PHOTO: MNA**

The council does not have any plans to issue licences to nurse assistants who are not professionally qualified.

There is a plan to open a private nurse assistants' training school by the committee of Skills Standards Development and Training on healthcare under the National Skills Standard Authority, with the assistance of the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, said U Naing Ngan Lin.

The Ministry of Health and Sports trains 2,000 nurses from 25 nursing schools and two University of Nursing annually.

In 2017, over 4,000 nurses graduated from the Bachelor of Nursing Science course.

From 1962 until September 2018, over 30,000 nurses obtained the nursing diploma, he added. ■

"Tha Bar Wa" cleaner production project introduced in food and beverage industry

By May Thet Hnin

Vice Chairperson of MFPEA U Sein Thaung Oo addresses the introduction ceremony for the "Tha Bar Wa" project in Yangon on 29 May. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

THE introduction ceremony for the "Tha Bar Wa" project, a clean production initiative in the food and beverage (F&B) industry, was launched at Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon, on 29 May.

The project is funded by the European Union (EU) under the SWITCH-Asia programme. The project started in February 2018 and will continue up to January 2022, led by World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature, in partnership with the Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association (MFPEA) and the Savings Banks Foundation for International Cooperation (SBFIC).

The clean production initiative began by providing training to the Myanmar F&B companies on technical knowledge and the skills required to run a sustainable and environment-friendly business. Tha Bar Wa will facilitate access to finance and promote policies that encourage the adoption of sustainable water and energy management practices.

The project will be jointly implemented by F&B companies, local consultants, experts and local banks, in cooperation with the ministries concerned.

Some 200 SMEs in the F&B industry and associated business intermediaries gained knowledge and the capacity to implement cleaner production technology, while 30 SMEs implemented cleaner production measures and processes and showed 20 per cent improvement in water and energy consumption and discharge performance. A pool of 10 local consultants were trained and provided high quality services to SMEs for the implementation of cleaner technologies, three financial institutions have enhanced their capacity leading to green technology investments, and 60 bank officers were trained and equipped with theoretical and practical skills on SME lending.

The cleaner production model will be replicated in other regions and the lessons shared across Southeast Asia.

The F&B industry is the largest in Myanmar, accounting for almost 60 per cent of the companies. There are over 27,000 registered F&B factories across the country. Among them, only five per cent have a functioning wastewater treatment system.

According to the 2018 WWF report, industrial wastewater pollution was found to pose the greatest risk to the fresh water ecosystem in Myanmar. ■

Myanmar's exports to Hong Kong outperform imports

MYANMAR'S exports to Hong Kong surpassed its imports during the last 2017-2018 fiscal year, according to statistics provided by the commerce ministry online.

The trade value between Myanmar and Hong Kong from 1 April 2017 until 31 March 2018 totalled US$385.6 million. Myanmar's exports to Hong Kong fetched $363 million, whereas the imports were worth $22.5 million.

The bilateral trade value with Hong Kong was worth $239.4 million in the 2016-2017 FY, $316.3 million in the 2015-16 FY, $343.8 million in the 2014-2015 FY, $502.7 million in the 2013-2014 FY, $27.28 million in the 2012-2013 FY and $51 million in the 2011-2012 FY. Myanmar exports coffee, rice, fruits and vegetables, including watermelons and avocados, minerals, fishery products such as crabs, hilsa and mollusks, and garments on cut-make-pack basis, while seeds, plastics, foil and optical goods are imported into the country.

Hong Kong brought in investments worth $251.9 million in the last FY. An enterprise from Hong Kong made investments worth $8.34 million during the six-month transition period for the next FY.—Ko Htet ■

Over 30 companies to offer job opportunities at Sales, Marketing Career Conference 2018

MORE than 30 companies will offer sales and marketing jobs during the Sales and Marketing Career Conference 2018.

The largest Sales and Marketing Career Conference will be hosted by JobNet.com.mm at Yangon's Rose Garden Hotel on 3 June 2018.

Educational talks and discussions are part of the conference. Experts from companies will provide educational talks on topics such as sales development, commercial roles, B2B marketing, business development, sales management, sales training, directors of sales, marketing media, advertising, digital marketing management, marketing analytics, creative marketing, public relations and communications specialists. They will offer jobs related to sales and marketing.

Moreover, experts from the sales and marketing industry will moderate a panel discussion titled "Why marketing and sales must work together, creating and affecting the digital marketing strategy in Myanmar" and "How to build a successful career in sales and brand loyalty." They will also discuss other topics such as objection handling techniques for sales success in Myanmar.

Those interested in attending the conference must carry their CVs.

According to the survey conducted by JobNet.com.mm, job opportunities are mostly available in the sales and marketing sectors compared to other sectors. Most of the sales and marketing jobs are offered by international companies.

More than 300,000 job seekers applied for more than 6,000 sales and marketing positions through the JobNet.com.mm website this year. The companies are offering 1,000 sales and marketing jobs.

Among them, 30 per cent of the jobs are being offered in the manager and director positions, over 55 per cent for experienced workers and over 15 per cent for freshers.—May Thet Hnin ■

Myanmar-US trade hits US$718 million during last FY

MYANMAR'S bilateral trade with the United States from 1 April to 31 March of the 2017-2018 fiscal year hit US$718 million, with $287 million in exports, while imports were valued at $432 million, according to statistics of the commerce ministry.

Myanmar's rice, various pulses, forest products, fish, prawns, apparel and garments produced on the basis of the cut-make-pack system and other finished industrial goods were shipped to the US. Meanwhile, Myanmar mainly imported personal goods, capital goods and industrial raw materials from the US.

Under the Barack Obama government, the US reinstated Myanmar's eligibility for the Generalised System of Preferences benefits after imposition of economic sanctions against Myanmar for more than two decades. The US made investments of $129 million in Myanmar during the last fiscal year.—Mon Mon ■

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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than shakes hands with Spanish Ambassador Mr. Emilio De Miguel Calabia in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Spanish Ambassador

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received Spanish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Emilio De Miguel Calabia at the Amyotha Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed the promotion of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, and the processes and composition of the parliaments in the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw.—Myanmar News Agency ■

U T Khun Myat receives Spanish Ambassador

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat shakes hands with Spanish Ambassador Mr. Emilio De Miguel Calabia in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received Spanish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Emilio De Miguel Calabia at the Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed promotion of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the friendship between the parliaments and peoples of the two countries and focused on holding of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong (Third Session).

Also present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Chairman U Aung Kyi and ACRC Chairperson Ms. Pak Un Jong sign at the MoU signing ceremony between Myanmar and South Korea's anti-corruption commission. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Myanmar, South Korea's anti-corruption commissions sign MOU

AT the invitation of South Korea's Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC), a delegation led by Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission of Myanmar, U Aung Kyi, and commission members, Hluttaw Representatives and officials from the Union Attorney General's Office, as well as the Union Auditor General's Office, traveled to South Korea on 28 May.

During the official visit, an MOU was signed between U Aung Kyi and ACRC Chairperson Ms. Pak Un Jong, pledging bilateral cooperation in combating corruption, along with exchanging information and methods of operating.—MNA ■

Rice mills to be inspected for operational guidelines

Rice mills will be inspected to check if they are operating in compliance with rules, and action will be taken against those mills that fail to abide by them, said U Myint Thaung, Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Finance.

The Yangon City Development Committee and related officials will go on an inspection tour of the rice mills, said U Myint Thaung. During the sixth regular session of the second Yangon Region Hluttaw held on 29 May, Daw Thet Thet Mu of Kyauktan Township constituency 2 demanded that authorities inspect the environmental hazard management of rice mills in Kyauktan Township. She also asked to check if rice millers were operating the mills on authorised land with La Na 39 land type and to check for the social and environmental impact.

U Myint Thaung responded to her question explaining that licences for rice mills in the administration of lands of the Yangon City Development Committee were issued once a year, which are valid from 1 April to 31 March.

The licence is granted by the YCDC, after approving the surroundings of the mills, obtaining the respective ward administrator's verification, as well as the private industry registration of the commerce ministry. Rice mills are issued licences if they can provide full documents. However, their licences will be revoked, and they will face legal action if they violate the rules and regulations, he maintained.—GNLM ■

Three people injured in tree-fall in Myitkyina

Three people were injured when a banyan tree fell down on a house in Myitkyina, Kachin State yesterday.

The incident occurred in the aftermath of heavy rains and strong winds that forced a century old tree to fall down on a staff quarter of the Myanma Railways. Three people sustained injuries in the incident. Of them, an infant was seriously injured. Local firefighters led by Assistant Director U Aung Thu rushed to the scene to carry out rescue operation and clear off the debris.—Win Naing (Kachin Land) ■

MIC approves two investment proposals last Tuesday

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) issued two investment permits in accordance with the Myanmar Investment Law at a meeting held on 29 May.

One permit is for wholly foreign-owned enterprises to execute manufacturing, sales and service of motor vehicles and motorcycles. The MIC approved one joint venture for the production and sale of construction plastic products.

The submission of proposals and endorsement applications from investors and post-permit activities of MIC-permitted companies were discussed at the meeting. The two permits will create more than 1,000 jobs, according to the MIC meeting (7/2018). MIC intends to attract foreign direct investments (FDIs) worth US$3,000 million during the transitional period from April to September for the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY). The manufacturing and real estate development sectors will remain top in attracting FDIs during the six-month interim period.

In the 2017-2018 FY, Myanmar received FDIs worth $5.7 billion through some 222 projects. Singapore made the largest investments of $2.1 billion, while China brought in $1.39 billion. —Htet Myat ■

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses counter-terrorism

FROM PAGE-2

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, who had attended the Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly (IPU Assembly) held in October, 2017, immediately responded and clarified the ethnic cleansing accusation made by the OIC. Similarly, the Permanent Representative of Myanmar made a statement on 16 May, 2018 and explained Myanmar's views and position on the Rakhine issue at the UN Security Council, saying that it is important to let the world know the true information regarding the Rakhine issues.

"If we focus on the repatriation process, humanity, human rights issues and freedom of movement in the country for fear of international pressures, it can threaten the stability, sovereignty and perpetuity of the state", he said.

The Hluttaw representative supported the motion and Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced that the motion had been accepted for discussion.

Then Secretary of the Pyithu Hluttaw Committee on the Natural Resources and Environment U Aye Naing submitted the second amendment of the Myanma Black Pearl bill to the Hluttaw and a member of the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, U Aung Sein, read and clarified the bill. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat requested the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the bill to enrol their names.

The fourth law for Amending the Anti-Corruption Law was received and read out to submit by member of the Bill Committee U Sai Phone Myat. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat requested the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the bill to enrol their names.

The Hluttaw approved the condominium bylaws submitted by the Ministry of Construction and the Speaker U T Khun Myat announced that the condominium bylaws were approved.

The 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 8th regular session tenth-day will be held on 1 June. ■

Correction

Please read "U Sai Thaw Win" instead of "U Sai Thawdar Win," in the news story and caption of "CMB, Defence Ministry, Nay Pyi Taw Council hold press conference on second one-year performance" on page-10 of May 30 Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar. — Myanmar News Agency

Rakhine State celebrates 5th Rakhine National Day

Local people attend the ceremony to celebrate 5th Rakhine National Day in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: THET LWIN SOE (MAUNGTAW DISTRICT IPRD)**

Local residents across Sittway, Mrauk U, Pauktaw, and Maungtaw townships in Rakhine State celebrated the 5th Rakhine National Day yesterday.

In Sittway, the celebrations were held at the grounds near the Atulamahrazein Pyi Lone Chan Tar Pagoda in the early morning. U Maung Ba Thein, a respected Rakhine historical scholar, explained the Rakhine alphabet and U Hla Win read the biography of Dr. Sandar Htay, a noted lecturer.

In Mrauk U, the celebrations were held in Mingalar Aungmyay Nantarkone Monastery, where sermons were preached, Rakhine history explored and literature recited.

Celebrations in Pauktaw involved a talk on the history of Rakhine National Day, followed by dance troupe performances, literature compositions, and traditional songs.

Maungtaw also celebrated Rakhine National Day with a speech of the holiday's history and dance performances.

Rakhine National Day was designated during the Rakhine National Congress that took place in Kyaukpyu Township in 2014.— Maungtaw IPRD ■

Fire breaks out in Monywa prison staff housing quarters

An electrical fire triggered by a wire shock destroyed nine apartments in Monywa prison staff housing quarters at 11 p.m. on 29 May.

"The fire outbreak occurred following incessant rainfall. We have arranged to provide temporary shelters for the people who were affected. More than 30 members from nine households were rendered homeless. We will donate some Ks100,000 to each household," said U Khin Maung Tun, person in charge at Monywa prison.

According to the investigation, the fire originated from electric lights offered to Buddha at the home of a person identified as Lance Corporal Aye Aye Soe, who was away on a trip. The fire quickly went out of control and spread to the neighbouring houses.

Two 40x15 feet houses and a 10x15 feet house in the Monywa prison staff housing quarters were damaged in the blaze. The property losses were estimated to exceed Ks4.5 million. No one was injured in the accident. It took 16 fire engines and several firemen to put out the blaze in 30 minutes. The police have taken action against Lance Corporal Aye Aye Soe under Section 285 of the Penal Code.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

New tube-well, overhead tank opened in Kyakan Village, Magway Township

A ceremony to open the new tube-well and overhead water tank with a holding capacity of 1600 gallons donated by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Kyakan village, Magway township, Magway region was held at the village on 29 May.

It was attended by officials from the Magway Region Disaster Management Department under the Ministry and others.

The contributions will benefit about 700 teachers and students and 750 people from 150 households of the village, according to the Ministry.—MDN ■

31 MAY 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Move step by step to Good Agricultural Practices

Agriculture is an area where Myanmar has a significant comparative advantage, with abundant land and water resources. It is vital for these resources to be well-managed to ensure long-term sustainability of this sector, as well as to ensure the health and safety of the population.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has encouraged farmers to use its good agricultural practices (GAP) protocol in cultivating staple and export crops in an effort to boost the farmers' livelihood and develop Myanmar's agriculture sector, which will contribute to economic growth.

It applies to the 15 crops that are the most consumed and exported: mango, pomelo, honeydew, watermelon, avocado, chili, tomato, onion, cabbage, maize, various types of beans, sesame, peanut, rice and coffee.

Myanmar's agricultural sector is a key pillar of the economy and provides employment to about 53 per cent of the labour force. Additionally, it is a source of livelihood for about 70 per cent of the rural population. The guidelines will support the government's objective of increasing productivity, market access and competitiveness of the agricultural sector by improving the provision of quality inputs to farmers. Additionally, it will help lead to solutions for improved sustainable agricultural practices.

> Because of the many challenges, we should proceed to our goal step by step, rather than changing all at once at all levels.

To achieve the goal of GAP at the national level, there are requirements for fully practicing the guidelines nationwide. On the government side, trainings should be conducted for the employees of the agricultural department. The government agricultural department is facing financial constraints to upgrade technical equipment.

For the GAP guidelines, the measures to be taken by government agricultural experts include inspecting the soil and water samples of the arable lands of applicants.

The farmers and enterprises which will practice the GAP guidelines are to attend the GAP procedure course and pesticide usage course.

Officials will make field trips to the GAP holders' farms to check cultivation of crops in line with the prescribed rules and regulations and production process at the packaging houses.

The GAP guidelines launched in Myanmar last year and the GAP programme in Inle Lake, Shan State, which involves over 300 tomato farmers and may affect over 150,000 people who depend on the lake for their livelihood, met with success.

Floating tomato cultivators in Inle Lake, are happy with the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) system.

Providing GAP technology assistance and conducting demonstration sessions on the use of biopesticides for 50 acres of land from five villages was conducted.

Previously, local cultivators from the Inle Lake region used chemical fertilizers and pesticides for their farming. Now, the floating tomato cultivators are using the GAP system, which can reduce the cost of growing tomatoes. The Inle cultivators usually plant tomatoes annually during the monsoon and winter seasons. Growing tomatoes using the GAP system is useful for both local cultivators and consumers.

The objective of the guidelines is to boost the productivity and profitability of farmers through sustainable farming by producing safe and quality products for the local and international markets.

Because of the many challenges, we should proceed to our goal step by step, rather than changing all at once at all levels.

Reviews after the promulgation of laws

By Lwin Thwin Oo

IN democratically elected sovereign states, legislative, administrative and judicial powers are the central pillars of sovereignty, letting them perform their duties independently. In this article, discussions will be mainly focused on legislation. In every country, different kinds of laws are promulgated for the security, law and order, economics, and social developments of their country. If you study laws of a country, different new laws are promulgated by successive governments.

We should assess whether previously promulgated laws are consistent with the changing times; whether suitable laws could be promulgated as required; whether outdated laws could be amended, substituted or abrogated. Then promulgation of new laws should be consistent with modern times so that these laws would be beneficial to the country and its people.

Implementations

Whether the existing laws are effective or not; whether implementation of these laws is successful or not; whether there are any defects in legal systems or due to poor qualification and dishonesty. If it is concerned with human errors: upgrading of qualifications and removal of dishonest persons are encouraged ; actions must be taken against those who have failed to implement new legal systems.

Legal assessments

An assessment of law is defined in different ways: reviewing an assessment of law is a matter of widel-ranging subject; do these laws fulfill indented policies and objectives?; if they are fully implemented , to what extent do they achieve? For instance, concerning implementation of laws, two processes can be designated: the first one is to put up the application of these laws with the help of regulations. The second one is to assess widely how policies and effective results of the laws. Legal assessment is a separate form of work in the Hluttaw and its work helps the Hluttaw to carry out effective supervision and promulgation of the laws of the administrative sector to a certain level. The Hluttaw is accountable not only for legislation but for implementation of the laws by observation. Some Hluttaws and Hluttaw Working Committee are vested with responsibilities to observe the implementation of the laws.

> Implementations of existing laws will be scrutinized and reviewed for purpose of reaching our goals.

Observations

After laws are promulgated by some Hluttaws, Special Hluttaw Committee is formed to assess their applications. Amendments of laws, questions and proposals are submitted to the Hluttaw, replies to questions during a certain period of time and promulgation of new laws with evidences, causes and effects are submitted.

Responsible for monitoring

Many Hluttaws in the world assume their responsibilities of legislation, monitoring of implementations of the laws by means of assessments and observations. Hluttaw Committees are responsible for scrutinizing the implementations of the promulgated laws.

After promulgation of the laws in the Hluttaws in the United Kingdom, Belgium,Canada, Indonesia, Pakistan, South Africa and Switzerland the promulgated laws are usually rescrutinized. The Scrutinization boards or committees are named differently, but the essence is the same: observation of the implementations of the laws.

Though most countries focus on the rule of law, little attention is paid to the implementation of the laws. Even after promulgation of the laws in many countries, no legal practice is found. No regulations and practical uses and facts about effectiveness of the laws created some hindrances to success..

Differentiation

In Myanmar, many kinds of laws are found: those under the British Colonial Rule, those under the 1947 Constitution, those under the Revolutionary Council, those under the Socialist Republic of Myanmar, those under the State Law and Order, those under the State Peace and Development and existing laws under the 2008 Constitution. If existing laws are studied, the Penal Code of 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1898, the Evidence Act of 1872 and Code of Civil Procedure were promulgated a long time ago; they have been still in use up until now. Laws were amended in keeping up with the changing times.

In order to catch up with modern times, outdated laws were abolished to be substituted by the new ones. The laws concerning science, information technology, computer, politics, economics and education are also promulgated. In addition, arrangements are being taken to promulgate Intellectual Property Law in keeping with the changing times.

Efforts yield results; good efforts will bring successful results with a certain qualification. Implementations of existing laws will be scrutinized and reviewed for purpose of reaching our goals.

Even though the organizations of the Hluttaws are different from one country to another in the world, the essence is the same; main responsibility of carrying out promulgation of laws for their countries and the welfare of the people.

Translated by Arakan Sein

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr. NandimithraEkanayake as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. NandimithraEkanayake was born on 26 December 1943. He started his service as the Rural Development Officer of Sri Lanka in 1966. His political career started in 1983 as he became the Leader of Opposition and he was a Mayor Candidate for Matale Municipal Council. He became the Member of Parliament in 1989. He was appointed as Deputy Minister of Transportation, Roads, Environment & Woman Affairs in 1994 as well as Cabinet Minister of Forestry & Environment in 1997. He also served as Chief Minister of Central Provincial Council in 1999; Cabinet Minister of the Ministry of Provincial Council and Local Government in 2001 and Deputy Minister of Higher Education and State Minister of Cultural Affairs in 2009 and 2015 respectively.—Myanmar News Agency

Eliminate trans fats to advance health and wellbeing

On 14 May, the World Health Organization (WHO) called on all countries to make the world free of trans fats by 2023. A number of countries have already accomplished this, including a range of middle-and lower-income countries worldwide that have heavily restricted or eliminated trans fats altogether.

They do so with good reason.

Industrially produced trans fats are artificial compounds formed by 'partial hydrogenation of edible oils' that are harmful when consumed, even at low levels. In the South-East Asia Region, partially hydrogenated vegetable oils (PHVOs) are the primary source of trans fats in food items.

Commercial food production, particularly with regard to bakery products such as biscuits and pastries, use high amounts of PHVOs, thus increasing the risk of trans fat consumption. Changing food patterns and the popularity of processed foods is likely to increase trans fat intake. Likewise, high levels of trans fat have also been found elsewhere, especially in food produced by informal vendors. Trans fats dramatically increase the risk of heart attack.

Replacing oils containing high trans fats with healthier options will have no impact on the taste or availability of food, and will dramatically advance health and well-being.

Mustard, sunflower, rapeseed (canola), groundnut, and soya-based oils are all healthier alternatives. These crops are valuable, efficient and in high demand.

To that end, WHO's six-step REPLACE action package – launched last week in Geneva – provides all countries with proven tools to completely eliminate trans fats from their national food supply and counter increasingly changing food patterns. At present, 90 per cent of people around the world – about 6.5 billion – are exposed to these artery-clogging substances, with little to no government support or alternatives offered. WHO's REPLACE package aims to accelerate restrictions on trans fat products via an easy six-step process.

First is reviewing dietary sources of trans fats and the landscape required for policy change. Second is promoting the replacement of trans fats with healthier fats and oils. Third is legislating or enacting regulatory actions to eliminate trans fats. Fourth is assessing and monitoring trans fat content in the food supply and changes in trans fat consumption in the population. Fifth is creating awareness of the negative health impact of trans fats among policymakers, producers, suppliers and the public. And sixth is enforcing compliance with policies and regulations.

Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh is regional director of the World Health Organization's South-East Asia Region

Indonesia, India agree to develop Indo-Pacific concept

JAKARTA — Indonesia and India agreed on Wednesday to develop the geopolitical framework of Indo-Pacific, a term widely used recently in place of Asia-Pacific, in order to achieve a peaceful and prosperous region where international law is respected.

The agreement was reached during a summit between Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has been in Indonesia since Tuesday for a three-day official visit.

"Both leaders reiterated the importance of achieving a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region where sovereignty, international law, freedom of navigation and overflight, sustainable development and an open and fair trade and investment system are respected," a joint statement issued after the meeting says.

The two sides agreed to a "Shared Vision of India-Indonesia Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific," which India called the first of its kind to be concluded between itself and a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN.

The document outlines bilateral cooperation in six areas: trade and investment; sustainable development of marine resources; disaster risk management; tourism and cultural exchanges; academic, science and technology cooperation; and maritime safety and security.

It says Indonesia and India will strengthen naval cooperation through continuing coordinated patrols initiated in 2002, commencing regular bilateral naval exercises and enhancing information-sharing related to maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.

They will also cooperate in tackling such issues as the smuggling of people, arms, drugs and money; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and the movement of terrorists; search and rescue; and pollution control.

Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo **PHOTO: KYODONEWS**

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. **PHOTO: KYODO NWES**

The term "Indo-Pacific," having been promoted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe since 2007 when he initiated a quadrilateral security dialogue between Australia, India, Japan and the United States, has grown in usage over the past few years.

Amid China's rising presence in the South China Sea and East China Sea, and the Indian Ocean, some political analysts view the Indo-Pacific concept an attempt to move the focus away from China to emphasize India and Indian Ocean countries.

To materialize the concept, India will continue to improve cooperation with ASEAN, Modi said.

"India-ASEAN partnership is such an important power that can become a guarantee of peace not only in Indo-Pacific region but also beyond it," Modi told a joint press conference with Jokowi at the Merdeka (Freedom) presidential palace.

Jokowi held a similar view, saying intensive communications have taken place among countries involved for the development of the Indo-Pacific regional architecture.

Indonesia itself, which many political analysts said of having been a battleground of Sino-Indian rivalry, has launched its own Indo-Pacific concept called "Global Maritime Fulcrum" seeking to transform the archipelago beyond a mere gateway of the Indo-Pacific.

The Indonesian concept, Modi said, fits neatly with India's "Act East" eastward diplomatic policy. After their bilateral talks, both leaders witnessed the signing of some agreements, including in defense and outer space cooperation.

Modi will fly to Malaysia on Thursday to meet recently elected Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad before continuing his Southeast Asia trip to Singapore to address regional security forum the Shangri-La Dialogue. —Kyodo News ■

Sacked Philippine chief justice appeals ousting

MANILA (Philippines) — The ousted top judge in the Philippines asked the Supreme Court on Wednesday to restore her to the post, which she lost in a fight with President Rodrigo Duterte over his deadly drug war.

Colleagues of Maria Lourdes Sereno voted nearly three weeks ago to remove her as Supreme Court chief justice, shortly after Duterte openly called her his "enemy" and demanded her swift ousting through impeachment.

Sereno was one of the few remaining prominent critics of Duterte's narcotics crackdown that has claimed thousands of lives and sparked international concern. "This is essentially a plea to the Honourable Court to do what is right and just," Sereno, 57, said in a statement after her lawyers filed her appeal.

She argued that the court does not have the power to remove her from office since the constitution states the chief justice may only be removed through impeachment.

She also asked six of the 14 sitting Supreme Court justices to exclude themselves from her appeal. They were among the eight who had voted to expel her.

Sereno argued that they had shown "actual bias" by testifying against her at previous hearings on her impeachment by the House of Representatives.

The House set aside the impeachment complaint after the Supreme Court voted to expel her.

Sereno was sacked after the government's chief lawyer, who was appointed by Duterte, asked the Supreme Court to dismiss her because she was not qualified for the post and had failed to properly disclose her assets.

Sereno, who denies the charges, was the latest high-profile critic of Duterte to be targeted after speaking out against the president.

She had publicly criticised Duterte in 2016 after he accused some lower court judges of having links to the narcotics trade.

Other Duterte critics have also been ousted, punished or threatened, including Senator Leila de Lima who has been jailed, the Commission on Human Rights and an anti-corruption prosecutor who investigated allegations that Duterte has hidden wealth. Duterte has faced global criticism for human rights abuses particularly related to his bloody campaign against illegal drugs which police say has claimed the lives of 4,279 suspects in nearly two years. Rights groups allege the actual number is three times higher.—AFP ■

Sereno waves to supporters outside the supreme court building after judges voted on 11 May to oust her. **PHOTO: AFP**

Water wars in India's hillside getaway Shimla as taps run dry

SHIMLA (India) — Indian police on Wednesday were forced to escort water tankers through the streets of Shimla as an unprecedented shortage sparked brawls and desperation in the Himalayan hotspot popular with the rich and famous.

The mountain getaway is generally crowded with vacationers but hotels are closing and tourists being told to stay away as a crippling water shortage pinches the picturesque retreat.

Anxious residents have been waiting for hours in queues hundreds deep to collect water, filling buckets at tankers guarded by police.

"We all know for the past fortnight the situation is so bad that people are getting water barely once in a week," Sanjay Chauhan, a former mayor of Shimla, told AFP.

Shimla, the erstwhile summer capital of British India, requires around 42 million litres per day but often suffers water shortages in the summer.

But supply has dipped by nearly half this year, sparking what residents say is the worst shortage in living memory.

The mountainous northern state of Himachal Pradesh endured record-low snowfall during the winter which experts say is responsible for taps running dry earlier than usual.—AFP ■

Militants kill one, wound five in attack on interior ministry in Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan — Militants launched a gun and bomb attack on the interior ministry in Kabul on Wednesday, killing one policeman and wounding at least five people, days after the Taliban vowed to target the Afghan capital.

Special forces rushed to the scene after the attackers detonated what police said was a car bomb at the first checkpoint leading to the ministry, then tried to fight their way inside.

"The fighting is over, the attackers have all been killed by security forces between the first and second security perimeter," Kabul police chief Daud Amin said.

A security source told AFP that a clearing operation was ongoing.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, and officials gave differing figures for the number of militants involved, with police saying three to five while interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish said there were at least 10.

Danish also said one police officer had been killed and five people wounded.

"The situation is under control now," he said, adding that there could be more explosions as police detonate suicide vests carried by the attackers.

A checkpoint in Kabul: the Taliban have vowed to target the city despite tight security. **PHOTO: AFP**

"I was in my office when I heard a blast followed by gunfire. We were told to stay inside our offices as the compound was attacked," one ministry employee told AFP earlier.

A security source told AFP there had been multiple blasts, though he could not confirm how many.

Police also said they had found a car stuffed with explosives and guns at Kabul's international airport, which is near to the interior ministry, on Wednesday.

Both the Taliban and the Islamic State group have stepped up their attacks on Kabul, making it the deadliest place in the country for civilians in recent months.

Last week the Taliban called on Kabul residents to stay away from military and intelligence centres in the capital, saying they planned more assaults as part of their annual spring offensive.

"To avoid civilian casualties and only cause damage to enemy military, we are asking Kabul residents to keep away... we don't want even a single innocent civilian to be killed," said a statement published online.

In response, the defence ministry said police and troops are "ready to protect the people with all means possible", and would not allow the militants to reach their "un-Islamic and inhuman goals".

The Taliban did not define what was meant by "military and intelligence centres".

Such targets are difficult to avoid given that the heavily fortified city is the heart of the country's intelligence, government and military operations and plagued by traffic jams due to ubiquitous checkpoints and barriers.

Kabul accounted for 16 per cent of all civilian casualties last year, when 1,831 civilians were killed or wounded nationwide, according to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

The UN has warned that 2018 could be even deadlier.—AFP ■

Turkey seeks to reassure rattled investors

ISTANBUL — The government's pointman on the economy on Wednesday said he had assured foreign investors Turkey was committed to fighting inflation and implementing reform after the lira plunged to historic lows.

Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek on Tuesday met dozens of asset managers and bankers in London, to bolster their faith in Turkey's economy after what many analysts saw as a currency crisis last week.

The lira has lost over 10 per cent in value against the dollar in the last month alone and appeared in freefall just ahead of 24 June elections until an emergency rate hike by the central bank on 23 May.

His visit came two weeks after a trip to London by Erdogan, who triggered anxiety among investors by declaring he wanted a greater say in monetary policy if he won the elections. "Our contacts in London were very productive," Simsek, who was accompanied by central bank chief Murat Cetinkaya, wrote on Twitter. He said Turkey had strengthened its set of economic policy instruments and had started a new process of "rebalancing" the economy. "The most important priority is fighting inflation and the current account deficit," he said. "After the elections we will further accelerate structural reforms."

Turkey's current account deficit had ballooned to $4.8 billion in March while inflation was 10.85 per cent in April.

The initial reaction seemed positive with the lira climbing 1.3 per cent in value against the dollar to trade at 4.5 to the greenback. Last week, it had tested 5 to the dollar.

Investors have been concerned that the economy is overheating and the government is not doing enough to fight inflation.

Erdogan has also not helped matters but frequently expressing the unorthodox belief that lower interest rates will lead to lower inflation and even describing rates as the "mother and father of all evil".

Economists at Commerzbank described Simsek's trip as "damage limitation" after the visit by Erdogan earlier this month. They said Simsek had informed investors that the central bank was ready to raise rates again next month if May inflation figures show a noticeable acceleration. After Turkey's stellar growth of 7.4 per cent in 2017, economists are now awaiting a slowdown. Ratings agency Moody's said on Wednesday it had slashed its growth forecasts for Turkey to 2.5 per cent in 2018 and 2.0 in 2019 from 4 per cent and 3.5 previously.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (004N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (004N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTER ASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO. (032 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO. (032 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Russia's top diplomat to visit North Korea on 31 May

MOSCOW — Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will discuss the situation around the Korean Peninsula with North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement released on Wednesday. "On 31 May , Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will officially visit the Democratic People's Republic of Korea," the ministry reported.

"Negotiations between the foreign ministers are planned, which will focus on the current issues of the bilateral agenda and the exchange of opinions on the situation around the Korean Peninsula and other major international and regional problems," the ministry added. Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova earlier reported that the Russian side scheduled a number of contacts on the settlement on the Korean Peninsula. During his visit to Moscow in April North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho invited Lavrov to visit Pyongyang, and the Russian minister accepted the invitation then.—Tass ■

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. **PHOTO: TASS**

Belgium killings are 'terrorist murder': prosecutors

BRUSSELS, Belgium — An attack on Tuesday that killed two policewomen and a male bystander in the Belgian city of Liege is being treated as "terrorist murder", prosecutors said on Wednesday.

The gunman, identified as 31-year-old Benjamin Herman, is also suspected in the killing of a fourth person on the eve of his rampage, federal prosecutors' spokesman Eric Van Der Sypt told a press conference.

"The facts are qualified as terrorist murder and attempted terrorist murder," Van Der Sypt said, referring also to the shootings that wounded four other police officers.

Prosecutors said this assessment was based on a number of "first elements" from the investigation, including the "modus operandi" of attacking police with a knife and stealing their firearms, which the Islamic State group has encouraged in online videos.

Forensic police worked at the scene of the in shooting in Liege, Belgium, where a gunman shot dead two policewomen with their own weapons before killing a bystander. **PHOTO: AFP**

In Tuesday's attack Herman stabbed the two policewomen repeatedly before taking their handguns. Van Der Sypt said they also based their argument on the fact he shouted "Allahu Akbar", or "God is greatest" in Arabic.

Finally, Van Der Sypt said, there were reports from state security and regional authorities that the perpetrator had "been in touch with radicalized persons".

The killer "is also suspected of a manslaughter in On, Marche-en-Famenne", in southern Belgium, he added.

"The exact circumstances of this offence are the subject of a separate investigation," Van Der Sypt said.—AFP ■

Even as first driving bans hit, Germany still clinging to diesel

FRANKFURT — Hamburg will on Thursday become the first German city to ban older diesel vehicles from some highly polluted roads as public confidence in the once-loved technology goes up in smoke. A 1,600-metre (one mile) stretch of highway and a 580-metre section of another major road will be closed to older diesels. The port city is the first to act on a court ruling that such bans were a legitimate way for local authorities to reduce air pollution below European Union health thresholds. Judges at the Federal Administrative Court found in February that cities could "gradually" eliminate diesel vehicles, starting with the oldest, while allowing exceptions including for emergency services, local residents and businesses. "Germany has to do something" to improve air quality, said 37-year-old Sabine, who works on the Max-Brauer Allee, one of the roads hit by the ban. "We should abolish diesels," she added. The cities of Stuttgart in the south and Kiel in the north are mulling their own diesel restrictions in the battle against air pollution, while Munich, Cologne and Duesseldorf are closely monitoring the Hamburg experiment.

Diesel was long seen by Germans as a proudly homegrown technology that could help battle climate change, with lower emissions of greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO_2) than petrol motors. Patented by Bavarian engineer Rudolf Diesel in 1892, the fuel is subsidised to this day in a number of European countries. But its reputation has lain in tatters since Volkswagen's "dieselgate" scandal broke in 2015.—AFP ■

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

We, **SHENZHEN NOPOSION AGROCHEMICALS CO., LTD.** would like to change the Distributor of the following products, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **7-STAR AGRO POWER CO., LTD.** to **HTET THIHA NAING CO., LTD.** If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Divisionÿ Department of Agriculture, Yangonÿ from here to next (2) weeks.

No	The Old Distribtor	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration Number	Registration Type	Change To New Distributor
1	7-STAR AGRO POWER CO.,LTD.	Noposion Atra 38 SC	Atrazine 38% SC	P2017-3925	Provisional	HTET THIHA NAING CO., LTD.
2		Noposion Max Atra 90 WG	Atrazine 90% WG	P2017-3926	Provisional	
3		Noposion Safon 250 SL	Fomesafen 250g/l SL	P2017-3927	Provisional	
4		Noposion Phosate 480 SL	Glyphosate 480g/l SL	P2017-3928	Provisional	

Address: 7-STAR AGRO POWER CO., LTD.
Building (1007), Room (204), Second Floor, Kantharyar Junction, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.
Phone number- 0943135884

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Kim Yong Chol: N Korean leader's hawkish right-hand man

SEOUL (South Korea) — The hawkish North Korean general on his way to New York for pre-summit talks is a skillful politician who has thrived through three generations of the ruling Kim family.

Kim Yong Chol, described as Kim Jong Un's right-hand man, left Beijing on Wednesday bound for the North's "imperialist enemy" where he will meet US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and possibly Donald Trump. The man blamed by South Korea for the 2010 sinking of a warship that killed 46 sailors will become the most senior North Korean to step on US soil in nearly two decades. The meeting is the latest in a flurry of diplomacy as the two sides lay the groundwork for a historic first summit, planned for 12 June. The four-star general, who is believed to be in his 70s, has been at the forefront of Pyongyang's emergence from global isolation this year.

Kim Yong Chol . **PHOTO: AFP**

He attended the closing ceremony of the South's Winter Olympics in February, sitting just feet (centimetres) from Ivanka Trump. He was by Kim's side when the young North Korean leader met South Korean President Moon Jae-in in April, and again for the leaders' surprise second summit on 26 May. But the march to become Kim Jong Un's most trusted general has been a long one requiring intellectual heft, nimble footwork and a willingness to take extreme measures.—AFP ■

One million bank workers strike across India

MUMBAI — Around one million bank employees went on strike across India on Wednesday, a union representative said, demanding better pay and a government crackdown on companies who wilfully default on loan payments.

Some 5,000 workers chanted slogans and waved banners at a protest in the financial capital Mumbai, union boss Devidas Tuljapurkar said, as they claimed they were paying the price for India's mountain of bad debts.—AFP ■

Malaysia to build island in waters near Singapore

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said on Wednesday he wants to develop an island on a cluster of rocks previously disputed with Singapore, a move that could anger its neighbour.

The strategically located area has long been a flashpoint between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, and they previously took a territorial dispute to the United Nations top court.

The International Court of Justice in 2008 awarded two rock clusters, called Middle Rocks, to Malaysia while a nearby island was deemed to be Singaporean territory.

Malaysia launched a challenge to that ruling last year but Singapore's foreign ministry said on Wednesday it had been withdrawn by Kuala Lumpur.

However, at the same time Mahathir announced Malaysia wanted to develop an island on Middle Rocks, at the eastern entrance of the strategic Singapore Strait. The 100-kilometre (60-mile) strait is one of the world's busiest commercial shipping routes, with vessels using it to access the city-state's port.

"It is our intention to enlarge Middle Rocks into a small island for us," the 92-year-old — who started his second stint as premier this month after a surprise election win — told a press conference.

He gave no more details about what the proposed island would look like or how long it would take to build. Mahathir added that Malaysia had already built a structure on Middle Rocks. Reports said Malaysia inaugurated a maritime base there last year. James Chin, a Malaysia expert from the University of Tasmania, told AFP that Singapore would see the move as "hostile". —AFP ■

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Dated 31st May 2018

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Yangon Regional Government
ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး အစိုးရအဖွဲ့
Tender Invitation for Ngwe Pin Le Integrated Logistics Zone & IWT Jetty Link Port Project
ငွေပင်လယ် Integrated Logistics Zone & IWT Jetty Link Port Project အတွက် တင်ဒါအဆိုပြုလွှာ ဖိတ်ခေါ်ခြင်း

1. Yangon Regional Government, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, intended to develop the Jetty, Inland Container Deport, Container Freight Station and CFS-Warehouse and Warehouse/Bonded Warehouse project near the Ngwe Pin Le Industrial Zone and Ale-Ywa to support the transportation and logistics sector within the Yangon Region.

၁။ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီးအစိုးရအဖွဲ့အနေဖြင့် ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီးအတွင်းရှိ ကုန်စည်သယ်ယူပို့ဆောင်ရေးကဏ္ဍကို ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်စေရန် ရည်ရွယ်၍ လှိုင်သာယာမြို့နယ်၊ ငွေပင်လယ်စက်မှုဇုန်နှင့် အလယ်ရွာအနီးတွင် ငွေပင်လယ်ကုန်းတွင်း ဆိပ်ကမ်းနှင့် Bonded Warehouse စီမံကိန်းများ ဆောင်ရွက်ရန်ရှိပါသည်။

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

၂။ သို့ပါ၍ ငွေပင်လယ်ကုန်းတွင်းဆိပ်ကမ်းနှင့် Bonded Warehouse လုပ်ငန်းများအား BOT စနစ်ဖြင့် ဆောင်ရွက်ရန် စိတ်ဝင်စားသူ Developer များအနေဖြင့် အောက်ပါအချက်အလက်များနှင့်အညီ အိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါတင်သွင်းနိုင်ပါကြောင်း ဖိတ်ခေါ်အပ်ပါသည်။

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

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

၃။ တင်ဒါလျှောက်လွှာများအား အခြားသူများထံ ထုတ်ဖော်ပြောဆိုမှု ပြုမည်မဟုတ်ကြောင်း သဘောတူညီချက် Non-disclosure Agreement (NDA) တွင် လက်မှတ်ရေးထိုး၍ သတ်မှတ်ဈေးနှုန်း များအတိုင်း ဝယ်ယူရမည်ဖြစ်ပြီး တင်ဒါလျှောက်လွှာဖိုးအား ပြန်လည်ထုတ်ပေးမည်မဟုတ်ပါ။

4. The bidding documents will be available from the office as noted in paragraph 8 on any working day with effect from 31.5.2018 (From 9.00 hour to 16.00 hour, local time).

၄။ တင်ဒါလျှောက်လွှာများအား အပိုဒ် (၈) ပါ လိပ်စာတွင် (၃၁.၅.၂၀၁၈) နေ့ ရုံးဖွင့်ရက်များအတွင်း (မြန်မာ စံတော်ချိန် နံနက် ၀၉၀၀ နာရီမှ ၁၆၀၀ နာရီ အတွင်း) ဝယ်ယူရရှိနိုင်ပါသည်။

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

၅။ တင်ဒါအကြိုရှင်းလင်းတင်ပြသည့် အစည်းအဝေးအား အောက်ပါလိပ်စာတွင် ပြုလုပ်မည်ဖြစ်ပြီးကျင်းပသည့် နေ့ရက်၊ အချိန်နှင့် နေရာအား ထပ်မံကြေငြာ မည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

6. The bid duly completed in all respects as described in the bidding document shall be submitted, in a sealed envelope, to the Yangon Regional Government on or before Friday 27.7.2018 at 12:00 noon (local time).

၆။ ချိတ်ပိတ်ထားသည့်တင်ဒါ အဆိုပြုလွှာများအား ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး အစိုးရအဖွဲ့ရုံးသို့ (၂၇.၇.၂၀၁၈) ရက်နေ့၊ နေ့လည် ၁၂ နာရီ မတိုင်ခင် ပေးပို့ရမည်။

7. The bid received after the expiry of the stipulated time of submission shall not be considered. Yangon Regional Government reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at on its discretion without assigning any reason whatsoever. The Yangon Regional Government is not bound to accept the lowest offer/bid and reserves the right to negotiate with bidders.

၇။ နောက်ကျတင်သွင်းလာသည့် တင်ဒါအဆိုပြုလွှာများအား ထည့်သွင်းစဉ်းစားမည် မဟုတ်ပါ။ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး အစိုးရအဖွဲ့သည် တင်ဒါအဆိုပြုလွှာများအားမည်သည့် အကြောင်းပြချက်ပေးရန် မလိုဘဲ လက်ခံခြင်း၊ ငြင်းပယ်ခြင်းများ ပြုလုပ်နိုင်သည်။ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး အစိုးရအနေဖြင့် တင်ဒါတင်သွင်းသူများနှင့် ညှိနှိုင်းခွင့်ရှိသည့်အပြင် ဈေးနှုန်း အနည်းဆုံး တင်သွင်းလာသည့် တင်ဒါအဆိုပြုလွှာအား လက်ခံရန်တာဝန် မရှိပါ။

8. Contact Address is as mentioned the following, Yangon Regional Government
Room 222, Ahlone Road, Yangon Regional Government Office, Yangon, Myanmar.
Telephone No +959 448 144 744, +959 448 144 755, +959 95015150
Email: project.finn.sg@sg.pwc.com

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Yangon Metropolitan Development Public Co.Ltd
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‘Solo: A Star Wars Story’ struggles to take off in opening weekend

LOS ANGELES — Solo: A Star Wars Story,” the latest prequel in the hugely popular film franchise, struggled to achieve escape velocity this holiday weekend, with a $103 million four-day take falling far below expectations.

Analysts had predicted the Disney/Lucasfilm project — directed by Ron Howard and with Alden Ehrenreich as a young version of the swashbuckling Han Solo — would reach up to $150 million, possibly setting a Memorial Day weekend record.

But the film, with a cast including Donald Glover, Woody Harrelson and Emilia Clarke, fell short not only in North America but also abroad. “The news is grim overseas,” said Hollywood Reporter, saying the film was heading for barely half the $300 million global take many had predicted.

Last weekend’s top film, 20th Century Fox’s “Deadpool 2,” took second spot this weekend, with a four-day estimate of $53.8 million.

That movie stars Ryan Reynolds as the foul-mouthed, irreverent title character as he forms an X-Force team to protect a young mutant from the evil Cable (Josh Brolin). Third place went to Marvel’s “Avengers: Infinity War,” which took in $22.5 million in its fifth weekend out. It stars Robert Downey Jr, Benedict Cumberbatch, Scarlett Johansson and Chris Hemsworth.

In fourth, with $13.1 million in ticket sales, was a movie featuring no superheroes or interplanetary battles, and with a sedate sounding title — “Book Club” — that belies its racy story line.

Donald Glover, Emilia Clarke and Alden Ehrenreich (left to right) at the recent New York premiere of ‘Solo: A Star Wars Story,’ which has opened in North America with ticket sales far below expectations. **PHOTO: AFP**

The Paramount film tells the story of four aging friends — Jane Fonda, Diane Keaton, Candice Bergen and Mary Steenburgen — who decide to read the steamy book “Fifty Shades of Grey” and find it stimulating more than just their intellects. And in fifth was Warner Bros comedy “Life of the Party,” at $6.9 million. It stars Melissa McCarthy as a newly divorced mother who returns to college, only to find herself in class with her (deeply embarrassed) daughter.

Rounding out the top 10 were:

“Breaking In” ($4.3 million)
“Show Dogs” ($4.3 million)
“Overboard” ($4.1 million)
“A Quiet Place” ($2.4 million)
“RBG” ($1.3 million).— AFP

Fanning and Jolie reunite for Disney’s ‘Maleficent II’

LOS ANGELES — Production has begun on the sequel to smash hit “Maleficent,” Disney announced on Tuesday, with Elle Fanning and Angelina Jolie reprising their roles as Sleeping Beauty and her conflicted surrogate mother.

The movie is being filmed at Pinewood Studios, near London and in locations around Britain, the world’s largest movie studio said in statement.

“It’s bring your mom to work day on the Maleficent2 set,” 20-year-old Fanning (“Trumbo,” “The Beguiled”) joked in an Instagram post that had been shared a quarter of a million times within an hour. Alongside the message, she posted a picture of her in front of a laughing Jolie, who was in the famous “Maleficent” horns, as well as a pair of sunglasses and a toweling bathrobe.

“Maleficent,” a modern retelling of the life of Sleeping Beauty’s arch-nemesis, cast an instant spell on audiences in 2014, debuting at the top of the North American box office and going on to gross more than $750 million worldwide. Joining Fanning and Jolie for the latest adventure are Oscar nominees Michelle Pfeiffer (“Dangerous Liaisons,” “Ant-Man and the Wasp”) and Chiwetel Ejiofor (“12 Years a Slave,” “Doctor Strange”).

US actresses Angelina Jolie (R) and Elle Fanning (L). **PHOTO: AFP**

Disney also confirmed that acclaimed British stage and screen actor Robert Lindsay (“Wimbledon”) would be among the newcomers, while Sam Riley, Imelda Staunton, Juno Temple and Lesley Manville return from the original movie.

In the sequel, directed by Joachim Ronning (“Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales”), Disney’s most notorious villain continues to explore her complex relationship with Princess Aurora, the soon to be queen, as they form alliances against new adversaries.

Fan reaction on social media was mostly positive, with much of the excitement being generated over the addition of screen legend Pfeiffer, 60, to the cast.

Disney began scouring its back catalog in the 1990s for animated classics that it could turn into live-action remakes — a strategy that has so far netted several billion dollars.

Tim Burton’s “Dumbo,” Guy Ritchie’s “Aladdin” and Jon Favreau’s “The Lion King” are all due for release next year, while “The Little Mermaid” will see Lin-Manuel Miranda of “Hamilton” fame collaborating with legendary Disney composer Alan Menken. Two remakes of “Peter Pan” are in the works along with new versions of “Fantasia,” “Pinocchio,” “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” and “The Sword in the Stone.” — AFP ■

Morgan Freeman’s lawyer demands CNN retract sexual harassment claims

LOS ANGELES — Morgan Freeman’s lawyer demanded on Tuesday that CNN retract a story accusing the 80-year-old movie star of multiple cases of sexual harassment.

“We presented CNN with objective evidence, including videotapes and on-the-record denials by the claimed ‘victims,’ that the alleged incident that gave rise to the story never happened,” lawyer Robert Schwartz said in a statement.

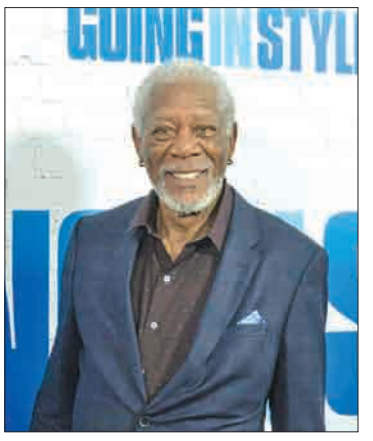
In a letter sent to the television news network, the lawyer accused CNN of “malicious intent, falsehoods, sleight-of-hand, an absence of editorial control and journalistic malpractice.”

Schwartz said in a later statement that “we proved to CNN, beyond any doubt, that the whole story was built on fakery. The credibility of the entire CNN attack on Mr Freeman has now been undermined.”

Sixteen people — eight of whom say they were victims — last week described to CNN a range of troubling behavior by Freeman on production sets or promotional tours.

The actor issued a quick apology after the report was published.

“Anyone who knows me or has worked with me knows I am not someone who would intentionally offend or knowingly make anyone feel uneasy,” Freeman said in a statement.



Morgan Freeman’s lawyer has demanded CNN retract a story accusing the 80-year-old movie star of multiple cases of sexual harassment. **PHOTO: AFP**

“I apologize to anyone who felt uncomfortable or disrespected — that was never my intent.”

One of the journalists behind the CNN report, Chloe Melas, said her own encounter with Freeman, when she was six-months pregnant, prompted her to produce the piece.

She said that during a press conference for the 2017 movie “Going in Style,” Freeman looked her up and down and said “Boy, I wish I was in there.”

The article also quoted an unnamed production assistant on the same film who accused Freeman of massaging the small of her back without her consent, and of trying tried to lift her skirt while asking if she was wearing underwear.— AFP ■

Philippines begins "jeepney" transformation

Photo taken on 3 April, 2018 in Manila shows a prototype of a new jeepney which has a door on the side of the vehicle in compliance with the government's Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Programme. Traditional jeepneys have the door for passengers at the rear.Photo: **KYODO NEWS**

MANILA — In yet another display of President Rodrigo Duterte's strong political will, his government is overhauling the Philippines' public transport system in a way that could transform the design of the country's most popular mode of transportation — the iconic "jeepney."

Because of new specifications set by the government, these colorfully decorated, jeep-like buses that have dominated local roads for decades, are due to undergo a major design makeover over the next few years.

Jeepneys, originally made by modifying US military jeeps left behind after World War II, have become practically synonymous with the Philippines, much like double-decker buses are with Britain, bullet trains are with Japan and three-wheeled "tuk-tuk" auto-rickshaws are with Thailand.

Their popularity is evident from the fact that close to 180,000 of them ply the country's roads (tens of thousands more if illegally operating ones are included), making them the most numerous four-wheeled public transport vehicles.

"It can't be that we love them just because these are iconic and symbols of being a Filipino. We're in modern times now, so there are necessary changes that are appropriate to the demands of the present time," Danilo Lim, chairman of the Metro Manila Development Authority, said at a public transport expo last month.

The authority deals with traffic congestion in the Philippine capital, where nearly 45,000 jeepneys operate.

Under the Transportation Department's Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Programme launched last year, all jeepneys must be brought into compliance with new design standards within three years.

Duterte, complaining that dilapidated, smoke-belching jeepneys are poisoning the air and threatening people's health, has vowed to implement the program despite the opposition of some small transport operators, who say it will drive them into debt due to the new jeepney models' higher costs.

He has even warned that the security forces would use rubber bullets and truncheons against them, and confiscate their vehicles, if they resist.

Traditional jeepneys mostly use second-hand diesel engines. They have low ceilings and their main doors are in the back. The new standards include a low carbon-emitting engine or an engine running on alternative fuel, such as electricity and solar power, increased room height and a door on the curbside.

Also required are a closed-circuit television camera, a dashboard camera, Wi-Fi, a GPS signal receiver, a speed limiter, as well as air-conditioning, ramp and space for persons with disabilities, and an automatic fare collection system. All these are lacking in a traditional jeepney. "The jeepney...will not be phased out under the modernization program. We are just fixing what type of jeepney will be introduced," Aileen Lizada of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, said in a TV interview, trying to allay fears that jeepneys will become a thing of the past once modernization is implemented. Aside from the design upgrade, the program mandates also that jeepney operators form a consortium or corporation to obtain a franchise. Each must set up a garage for its fleet, hire safety officers and strictly follow government-set routes.

Jeepney drivers will become salary-paid employees.

The modernization programme, which also covers buses and taxis, adopts systems for checking the roadworthiness of vehicles and a scrappage program for so-called end-of-life vehicles. The government is offering operators financial assistance through subsidies and loans.

"We're talking about the large-scale transformation of the public transport sector, we're not talking about repairs and Band-Aid solutions. We're overhauling the fleets, the system and the industry," Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade said in his message at last month's Public Transport Modernization Expo.

The regulatory changes seem to have left the owner of Sarao Motors Inc, the country's pioneer in jeepney manufacturing, with little choice.

Asked in an interview at his production facility in the Manila suburb of Las Pinas City if he welcomes the modernization program, Edgardo Sarao, 57, simply said, "We have to."

"Everybody in the jeepney industry is having a hard time following the government's programme because of a lot of restriction, and the scarcity of the materials needed, like the Euro 4-compliant engine, which is hard to find," Sarao said, referring to engines compliant with European exhaust emission standards.

But he was quick to hail the environmental aspects of the programme, saying, "It's about time to introduce newer models to cope with the global standards."

Down from the company's heydays from the 1960s through the 1990s when they were "selling jeepneys like pancakes," Sarao Motors has taken up the challenge of developing its own "modern jeepney" design, compliant with the new specifications. But critics fault it and most other prototypes that were on display at the expo, manufactured by various companies, for transforming the jeepney into a minibus. An exception is one made by Sta. Rosa Motor Works Inc that retains the traditional design, save for its height and main door location.

Despite being priced between 1.6 and 1.8 million pesos ($30,800 and $34,600), or much higher than existing models, the company already has potential clients, according to sales manager James Tiu.

Another one that retains a traditional look is an electric jeepney made by Francisco Motor Corp, one of the pioneers of the industry in the Philippines. It can run 100 kilometres in a single charge with fast-charging lithium ion batteries. In addition to a few modernized jeepneys already plying parts of Metro Manila, around 300 new ones will be rolled out in June, according to the Transportation Department.—Kyodo News ■

Hong Kong Palace Museum to be "jewel" beside Vitoria Harbour: chief executive

HONG KONG — The Hong Kong Palace Museum (HKPM), which will display collection of the Palace Museum in Beijing, will be a "jewel on the crown" beside the world-famous Victoria Harbour, Chief Executive of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Carrie Lam said on Monday. At a groundbreaking ceremony for the HKPM held Monday in Hong Kong's West Kowloon Cultural District, Lam said "as the much anticipated West Kowloon Cultural District is gradually becoming a prominent landmark on the waterfront of Victoria Harbour, the Hong Kong Palace Museum will be the jewel on the crown."

"With the new dedicated museum, local residents and visitors will enjoy long-term opportunities to appreciate the exquisite Palace Museum collection, to be curated in a comprehensive and in-depth manner with Hong Kong characteristics," she said. Hong Kong authorities and the Palace Museum signed a cooperation agreement in June last year on the development of the HKPM. Pointing out that the HKPM "builds on the very strong and solid cooperation" between the HKSAR and the Palace Museum over the years, Lam said the new museum will enrich the scope of the West Kowloon Cultural District. The museum, expected to be completed in 2022, will have 7,600 square metres of gallery space dedicated to gold, bronze and jade items, paintings, and ceramic objects, as well as displays on life in the Imperial Court. Other museum facilities include a 400-seat lecture theater, activity rooms, a restaurant and shop.

Praising it as a "world class museum" for long-term display of artifacts from the Palace Museum, Chairman of Hong Kong Palace Museum Limited Bernard Charnwut Chan said the HKPM will enrich Hong Kong people's cultural life and further enhance Hong Kong's position as an international cultural metropolis.

Director of the Palace Museum Shan Jixiang, who came from Beijing to attend the ceremony, said that after the construction of the HKPM starts, the Palace Museum will start discussing which artifacts will be sent to Hong Kong for display and the two sides will collaborate on many aspects including multi-media, cultural creativity, and public lectures. —Xinhua ■

Kids participate in AFC Grassroots Football Day in Yangon

THE 2018 AFC Grassroots Football Day was held on the training grounds of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) in Yangon yesterday morning.

The opening ceremony for the event was attended by MFF officials, football coaches and instructors and students from Basic Education High Schools in Yangon.

The opening speech was given by the General Secretary of the MFF, U Ko Ko Thein, followed by a few words from Mr. Yoshiaki Benino, managing director of Myanma Post and Telecommunications (MPT). The event was officially commemorated by kicking a ball into the goal.

The day continued with the training and teaching of enthusiastic elementary school students in basic football skills and techniques by professional football trainers.

The AFC Grassroots Football Day is held every year in May in Yangon, supported by about 40 of the AFC's Member Associations. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

A trainer shows football skills to children at the ceremony of 2018 AFC Grassroots Football Day in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO:MFF**

Thant Tay Zar (left) and Min Khant Thu (right) seen together with Mr Nikolay Listopadov, the Russian Ambassador to Myanmar. **PHOTO:MFF**

Russian Ambassador meets Myanmar participants for F4F in Russia

Mr Nikolay Listopadov, the Russian Ambassador to Myanmar, met Min Khant Thu and Thant Tay Zar, two 12-year-olds who will be participating in the Football For Friendship (F4F) programme in Moscow, yesterday at the Embassy of Russia in Yangon, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

During the meeting, he explained to Min Khant Thu and Thant Tay Zar that the F4F programme aims to better social relations among children from around the world. The Russian Ambassador then congratulated the two children for their participation in the global event.

He also pointed out that Myanmar is a country which is enthusiastic in the development of football. The ambassador also mentioned that Russia is preparing for the hosting of the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

The two children will be part of the 32 International Teams of Friendship that play against each other in the Gazprom Football for Friendship International Championship. Children from 211 countries and regions are participating not only as players, but in other roles as well.

Min Khant Thu will be a defender on the Gharial team, while Thant Tay Zar will act as a Young Journalist in the programme.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Myanmar U-16 women's football team in Group (E) for qualifiers

THE draw for the qualifiers of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship 2019 was made public today.

According to the draw, Myanmar U-16 women's football team is in the Group (E) together with Malaysia, the Philippines, Syria and Nepal. The Group (E) qualifiers will take place in Nepal from 15 to 23 September. Myanmar is scheduled to play against Malaysia on 15 September, host Nepal on 19 September, Syria on 21 September and the Philippines on 23 September.

For the first round, 30 teams were drawn into six groups of five teams. In the first round, the six group winners and the two best runners-up will sail through to the second round.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Salah could be out for 'three to four weeks', says Liverpool physio

LONDON—Mohamed Salah faces a fight to play in any of Egypt's World Cup group games, according to one of Liverpool's physiotherapists.

Club physio Ruben Pons has estimated Salah would normally need "three to four weeks" to recover from the left shoulder injury he sustained during Saturday's Champions League final against Real Madrid.

A three-week absence would keep Salah out of action until June 19 while four weeks would see the forward sidelined until June 26, the day after Egypt's last group game. Salah may also then need to regain a degree of match fitness.

Egypt's opening fixture in Group A is against Uruguay on 15 June. They then face Russia on 19 June and Saudi Arabia on 25 June. "He is sad about what happened but he is totally focused on recovery and seeing when he can be ready," Pons told Spanish daily, Marca.

"In principle it will be three to four weeks but we are going to try to reduce those deadlines, that's the big goal."

Salah has flown to Spain to undergo treatment, accompanied by doctors from both Liverpool and the Egyptian national team. The 25-year-old had to be substituted during the first half of Liverpool's defeat in Kiev after being pulled to the ground by Sergio Ramos. He left the field in tears but appeared more optimistic on Sunday, when he wrote on Twitter: "It was a very tough night, but I'm a fighter.

"Despite the odds, I'm confident that I'll be in Russia to make you all proud. Your love and support will give me the strength I need."—AFP ■

Myanmar to host AFC U-19 Women's Championship 2019 qualifiers

MYANMAR will host the qualifiers of the AFC U-19 Women's Championship 2019 in Yangon after the draw for the qualifiers was held today, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Myanmar U-19 women's football team is pooled in Group (F) together with Iran, Palestine and Laos. Myanmar U-19 women team will play against Laos on 24 October, Palestine on 26 October and Iran on 28 October.

For the first round, the 27 teams were drawn into six groups: three groups of five teams and three groups of four teams. In the first round, the six group winners and the two best runners-up will advance to the second round. — Myanmar Digital News ■