

NATIONAL

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi honours Green Life from Sagaing for its success in beating plastic pollution, saving environment

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UEC Chairman U Hla Thein delivers the opening speech at the UEC Strategic Plan Consultation with CSOs and Political Parties. PHOTO: MNA

UEC seeks suggestions from CSOs for Strategic Plan 2019-2022 for 2020 general elections

The Union Election Commission (UEC) held a consultation with civil service organisations (CSOs) and political parties to review its strategic plan and seek cooperation from CSOs in the electoral process for the 2020 General Elections.

“With transparency, freedom and fairness, the UEC drafted the Strategic Plan 2019-2022 for the 2020 General Elections, with 11 chapters, taking into consideration the strong and weak points, advantages and challenges of the previous

elections,” said U Hla Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission.

“The CSOs were urged to play an active role in the electoral process and to cooperate in compiling the voting list, voting education, communicate with those who take on different roles in the process, promote inclusiveness and monitor the elections,” said the UEC’s chairman.

He also appreciated the contribution of the CSOs to the success of the previous elec-

tions.

Also present at the consultation were commission member U Myint Naing, officials from the commission office, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and 57 CSOs.

The strategic plan includes sector-wise works of the commission, sub-commissions and related persons in holding the election successfully. Furthermore, CSOs are urged to play their part and to cooperate in works such as preparing a voter’s list, informing the public

and voters, consulting all stakeholders, raising the participation level and observing the election.

Next, IFES Country Director Mr. Paul Guerin OBE described the agenda for the consultation.

The CSOs were divided into six groups to discuss the strategic plan. The consultation with political parties over the UEC strategy plan was held today. To hold the 2015 General Elections, the UEC drew up the Strategic Plan 2013-2018.

— Myanmar News Agency ■

Corruption Prevention Units to be formed in government departments



U Aung Kyi, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

By May Thet Hnin

THE Anti-Corruption Commission is planning to form Corruption Prevention Units (CPU) in government departments to prevent corruption, said U Aung Kyi, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission at the Anti-Corruption Declaration Ceremony, held at the UMFCCI office yesterday. The commission will conduct three activities to prevent corruption: the forming of CPUs, drawing up codes of conduct and implementing corruption risk assessments.

“Recently, the commission adopted rules and regulations to form CPUs in government departments. By forming CPUs, government departments have to take responsibility in abolishing corruption,” said U Aung Kyi. To prevent corruption, organisations and entrepreneurs have to independently draw their own codes of conduct that suit their companies and organisations, he added.

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NLD concludes first Nationwide Women's Work Committees Congress in Nay Pyi Taw

THE National League for Democracy (NLD) concluded its first Nationwide Women's Work Committees Congress at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC-2) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The first Nationwide Women's Work Committees Congress of NLD was scheduled for three days, from 30 June to 2 July.

Present at the event were officials from NLD, Chairperson of the Central Women's Committee, members of the committee, members of working committees from states, regions, districts and townships, experts in various fields, and invited guests. The ceremony began with the attendees saluting the flag of the Republic of the Union of

Myanmar and observing an eight-second silence to honour Bogyoke Aung San, martyrs and those who sacrificed their lives in fighting for democracy.

Also, Secretary of NLD Central Economic Committee U Win Tin read a report, entitled "Financial Procedure", and lawyer Daw Hla Myo Su read a report, entitled, "Women and Laws". Secretary of the Central Women's Committee Daw Zin Mar Aung explained efforts in conducting the successful meeting, as well as the strengths and weaknesses experienced.

Later, Chairperson of the Central Women's Committee Dr. May Win Myint discussed the ongoing work of the committee. Following this, they delivered computers to the offices of the women's work committees. — Myanmar News Agency



Chairperson of the Central Women's Committee Dr. May Win Myint delivers the speech at the Nationwide Women's Work Committees Congress in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Invitation for proposals on providing technical service

THE Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB) is providing people-centered financial services and is working with Myanmar Mobile Money to accept and disburse money with Point of Sales machines, pay telephone bills, bank to business (B2B) money transfers and issuing of pensions in 281 district and township bank branches. It is providing mobile services to customers using MPT, MecTel and Mytel as Cash Points.

Similarly, it is also arranging to work with Wave Money and OK\$ to provide mobile services to people using other SIM cards.

Technology is becoming better each day and MEB wishes to cooperate with any secure, safe and systematic technologies, and technology companies are invited to contact MEB over the same, according to a notification by MEB. — MEB ■

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe meets Central Midwifery Training School (Yangon) trainees



Head of the school Daw Dashi Khawn Nu explains about the Central Delivery Training School to Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe. **PHOTO: MNA**

Rakhine State Chief Minister receives UNHCR director and party

News and photo by Aung Thuya, Han Lin Naing

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu received United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Director of the Bureau for Asia and the Pacific Mr. Indrika Ratwatte, Deputy Director Mr. Bernard Doyle and party at the office of the chief minister yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, Rakhine State chief minister described the status of the construction of reception centres, the transit centre and IDP camps and works conducted by the government, while Mr. Indrika Ratwatte spoke about humanitarian assistance to be



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu meets with a delegation led by UNHCR Director Mr. Indrika Ratwatte in Rakhine.

provided under the arrangement made by France.

Earlier in the afternoon, Mr. Indrika Ratwatte and party

went to Khaung Dukka IDP camp and met with officials. The party will visit Maungdaw region on 3 July, it is learnt. ■

Reminder for Myanmar-Japan Association Scholarship and 2018 Japan Study Tour

THE Myanmar-Japan Association office (Yangon) has announced that the following eligible persons who passed with outstanding results in this year's matriculation examination can apply for the Myanmar-Japan Association (MJA) Scholarship and 2018 Japan Study Tour. They are:

(a) students who secured 545 points or more in the science

combination

(b) ten students who got 500 points or more in the art and science/arts combinations

(c) five students who obtained the highest points from each state and region, including Nay Pyi Taw Territory.

Eligible persons will not be contacted individually and they are reminded to obtain the proposal forms in time and submit

them back not later than 27 July 2018.

Those selected for a personal interview will be contacted. Personal interviews will be held in the first week of August in Mandalay and Yangon. The MJA secretary (09-262772705) and office head (09-421162331) can be contacted for details, it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe visited the Department of Human Resources for Health Central Midwifery Training School (Yangon) in Dagon Township yesterday afternoon, and met with the head of the school, trainers, trainees and officials.

At the meeting, head of the school Daw Dashi Khawn Nu explained about the Central Midwifery Training School.

The Union Minister said that midwives are serving on the front line of public health works, and arrangements are being made to train and certify more midwives, while priority will be given to upgrading the quality of midwives. Mobile tablets with medical information

and data will be supplied to midwives, to assist their works and allow them to educate the public. By using this, the ministry will also be able to track the work performed, while midwives obtain the latest medical information, as well as receive professional assistance and support from hospitals and specialists. The ministry will also provide more professional opportunities for midwives, including career promotions, added the Union Minister.

Afterwards, the Union Minister inspected the practical training conducted for midwives, as well as the renovated trainees' hall, and reviewed support for the training. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Special care cannot be given to every single crop



We work everyday to govern an entire nation. So, we don't have leisure time.
In governing an entire nation, it is impossible to focus at the same time on every issue affecting the people. But, in reality, our government is working with many difficulties, we saw success in some issues and not in others.

(Excerpt from the address made by Bogoyoke Aung San at the meeting with journalists on 30 May 1947)

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi selected the Green Life voluntary group for environmental conservation in Sagaing for her monthly gratitude honour to the public for June.
Following is the unofficial translation of the letter of gratitude to the public from the State Counsellor.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the State Counsellor
“Gratitude letter to the people”

5th Waning of 1st Waso 1380 ME
(2 July 2018)

1. Global warming and climate change are an imminent threat to not only the human race but all sentient beings on the planet and the Earth itself. All living things coexist in ecosystems that would otherwise fail, if not for their symbiotic relationships. National leaders, governments, NGOs and civil societies are working everyday to protect these ecosystems. Every human being should take action consciously, and equally important is working together with like-minded individuals to achieve this goal. Avoiding littering and disposing of waste systematically can go a long way in preserving our ecosystems and the Earth.

2. Green Life, a community-based organisation in Depeyin Kwe Village in Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region, was formed in 2011 to preserve the natural environment and promote social development. Since then, they have been conducting proper waste disposal and transportation of waste products. Green Life has adopted as its motto ‘Beat Plastic Pollution’ since its inception, and each of its members are knowledgeable about the consequences of plastic pollution, actively raise awareness, educate the public on plastic pollution and have included everyone in society in their environment cleaning campaigns.

3. Green Life is comprises of 280 youths from the local community and conducts campaigns in the middle and at the end of every month by
- splitting into two teams and covering the northern and southern parts of the village separately. Members make sure gunny sacks are available in every house and large plastic trash bins are situated at every street corner. Because of their endeavor in educating the community on waste management, the entire village is now actively involved in their own waste disposal system and are supporting it with donations. The village now has a small vehicle to transport its waste and Green Life members are spreading their services and awareness raising campaigns to seven neighboring villages.

4. Green Life’s efforts that have led to the entire Depeyin Kwe Village becoming involved in their own waste management is an outstanding model that every community across the country should follow as an example. Despite being based in a small village, their tenacity, knowledge, enthusiasm and kindness, slowly but surely, allowed them to reach new heights.

5. Thus, it is for these reasons that Green Life has received the gratitude letter for June 2018.

6. Citizens, philanthropists and humanitarian organisations from across the country can utilise their collective strength to support and serve their community and the country as Green Life has done so.
- (Unofficial translation)

Green Life Environmental Conservation and Social Development Group

1. Dr. Khin Zaw Win from the Thumpa Dipa Humanitarian Organisation in Yangon was invited by Nun Daw Eaindra Theingi from Depeyin Kwe Village in Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region, in 2011 to give a workshop on environmental conservation and cleaning to the youths in the village. After the five-day workshop, Green Life Environmental Conservation and Social Development Organization was formed by the villagers



U Myo Myint Myat.

with 48 members. Executive members included U Kyaw Min Oo (Chairman), Daw Aye Mya Thandar Hlaing



U Kyaw Min Oo.

(Secretary), Daw Moh Moh Win (Financial Manager), U Kyawt Kyawt Maung (Accountant), Daw Chan Mya



U Kyawt Kyawt Maung.

Nyein (Auditor), and U Myo Myint Myat and Daw Moe Yu Khine (members).

2. Green Life is comprises 280

youths from the local community and conducts campaigns in the middle and at the end of every month by splitting into two teams and covering the northern and southern parts of the village separately. Members make sure gunny sacks are available in every house and large plastic trash bins are situated in every street corner. Because of their endeavor in educating the community on waste management,

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Eight state-owned fuel stations offer all week-long supply to control price hike

IN a move to control the high price of fuel oil in the domestic market, eight retail outlets of the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, has offered seven days a week supply at a reasonable price starting from 1 July, according to a notification released by the ministry on 29 June.

The global crude oil price and the kyat depreciation against the US dollar are contributing factors to the high price of domestic oil.

The fuel oil produced by the Petrochemical Factory (Thanpayarkan) under the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be distributed seven days a week at a reasonable

price at the following state-owned outlets: Nay Pyi Taw (0354), Yangon (0275), Yangon (0254), Yangon (0247), Mandalay (0611), Mandalay (0614), Bago (0192) and Hinnguppin (Toungoo) (0160).

In a bid to bring down the price of fuel oil, MPE sold 3 million gallons of refined petrol produced by the Petrochemi-

cal Factory (Thanpayarkan) to the Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association (MPTA) in April. Later, the MPE distributed another 3 million gallons. The petroleum prices per litre set by MPTA are Ks859-905 for diesel, Ks910-920 for premium diesel, Ks855-875 for 92 RON gasoline and Ks910-925 for 95 RON gasoline.— Ko Khant ■

Basket weavers in Thayet earn healthy profits

BASKET weavers in Thayet Township in Magway Region earned handsome profits from the sale of bamboo baskets, said U Tin Hlaing Win, a basket weaver from Meepoke Village.

U Tin Hlaing Win said that weavers now pay Ks250-300 per bamboo pole, used as raw material to make a finished bamboo basket. A bamboo pole produces three baskets used to carry soil at construction sites. Professional basket makers can make 15 baskets per day. They generally spend Ks100 as production cost and earn Ks500 per basket, earning a profit of Ks400 each.

He added that basket makers can produce two baskets used to store betel leaves from bamboo poles. A basket weaver can make 10 baskets of this kind per day. This type of basket is sold for Ks1,000,



Weavers make baskets from bamboo at a village in Yangon Region. **PHOTO: THWE THWE TUN**

with production costs of Ks150 per basket.

Basket weaving operates

as a family business in the rural areas. In some villages, a majority of villagers are skilled in

basket weaving, a trade they have learned from their forefathers.—Zaw Htet (Thayet) ■

Thirteen people injured after head-on collision in Lashio

THIRTEEN people were injured after a head-on collision between a passenger bus and a truck near Naunglan Village in Lashio, Northern Shan State.

The accident occurred between mileposts 158/1 and 158/2 on the Lashio-Mandalay

Union Road yesterday afternoon, when a passenger bus driven by Nine Nine, 40, collided with a 22-wheeled truck driven by Zaw Lin Aung, 35, while the former was attempting to overtake another car. Thirteen people were injured in the incident. Of them, the

bus driver and another man, identified as Nay Htet Naing, were seriously injured.

The passenger bus driver has been charged with reckless driving by the local police station, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.—Kyaw Htike Soe/MDN ■

On-job training course for village administrators conducted in Zeyathiri Township

ON-JOB training course for village administrators was opened in conjunction with capacity building course for Village General Administration Department clerks at the meeting hall of Zeyathiri Township GAD, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory yesterday morning.

Administrator of Zeyathiri Township GAD U Thet Lwin explained the purpose of the courses and called on course instructors to lecture on laws and bylaws in a wide and extensive manner. Altogether 32 trainees are attending the courses that runs from 2 to 13 July.—Township IPRD

Middle-school student found hanged in Hpa-an

A 16-year-old school girl was found hanged early Monday morning at her residence in Shweayeaye Ward, Thamanya Village-tract, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, according to a police report.

Police found the girl hanging from a nylon rope tied to a long cross beam on the top

floor of the house at 8.45 a.m. on 2 July. Police identified the girl as Ma Nan Htay Aung, a middle-school student from Japan High School (branch). She was living with her grandmother because her parents had gone to work in neighbouring Thailand four years ago. The grandmother said she found

her granddaughter wearing her school uniform and hanging from a nylon rope in her room yesterday morning. The girl's body was taken to Hpa-an Hospital for a postmortem. Police said investigations are going on to determine the cause of her death.—Min Thu/ Tun Tun Htwe (Hpa-an) ■



Labourers carrying sacks of onions to a vessel in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Onion prices continue to fall in late June

ONION prices continued to fall during the week between 22 and 28 June in Yangon and in other states and regions, according to a report of the Agriculture and Market Information Agency.

The prices of onion started to decline after the country's traditional Thingyan wa-

ter festival in mid-April. The trend has continued for several weeks now. Flooding is one of the reasons of the price decline.

In Yangon market, the prices decreased by about Ks100 per viss (3.6 pounds). During the last week, a viss of onion was sold for Ks500-550,

based on quality and freshness.

During the same period, a viss of onion was sold for Ks425-Ks525 in Myingyan wholesale center, Ks425-Ks490 in Pakokku market and Ks500-Ks625 in Pyay market, which saw a slight decrease in prices by about Ks50 per viss.—Wit Yee Mon (AMIA) ■

FMI revenue increases by 27 per cent this year

FIRST Myanmar Investment Co. Ltd. (FMI) announced on 2 July that the company received over Ks200 billion in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, an increase of over 27 per cent over the 2016-2017 FY. The FMI's revenues rose 27.5 per cent from Yoma Bank Ltd. and 28.2 per cent from Pun Hlaing Siloam hospitals.

Keeping its tradition of dividend payments to shareholders for over two decades, the company has proposed a cash dividend of Ks100 per ordinary share and the issuance of one fully paid bonus share for every 20 existing ordinary shares.

The shareholders must purchase or hold shares not

later than 20 August 2018 in order to secure and enjoy the proposed dividends and to be credited to the shareholders' securities account by 11:59 pm on 23 August 2018.

Yoma's increased revenue in the Group's Financial Services business section was from an interest income from loans, overdrafts and the hire-purchase sector. Moreover, the bank will continue to focus on the growth of small loans to SMEs and the bank service industry capacity.

The group's healthcare business section's revenue increased because of more patients at the Pun Hlaing Siloam hospitals, reflecting the hospi-

tals' increasing capability to attract local patients and meet the demand for healthcare services.

In 2018, the FMI group established the Memories Group Ltd. as its tourism investment, which is the first Myanmar tourism company listed on the Catalist Board of the Singapore Stock Exchange.

FMI is one of Myanmar's largest public companies with thousands of shareholders. It is currently focusing on financial services, and the real estate and healthcare sectors. FMI became the first company to be listed on the Yangon Stock Exchange in 2016.—GNLM ■

Forest products worth over \$40m exported by sea since April

MYANMAR exported forest products amounting to over US\$40 million through maritime routes in nearly three months of this fiscal period, whereas exports of the same through border crossings were only \$0.56 million, according to the trade department.

Between 1 April and 22 June of this year, forest-based products exported by the public sector were only \$4.5 million, while the private sector's exports of the same were worth \$36.7 million.

Despite an increase in the value of exports of forest products by \$2.8 million from the public sector, private sector

exports of the same decreased by \$14.5 million as against the same period last year, according to the statistical report of the commerce ministry.

Myanmar commercially exports rice and other staple food, fruits and vegetables, kitchen crops, herbal plants, traditional food, bamboos and other forest-based products, aquaculture and manufactured products and other miscellaneous items to overseas countries. During the period, the country earned \$2.25 billion from its maritime exports of major product groups, mostly from the manufacturing sector.—Swe Nyein ■

Myanmar-Viet Nam trade exceeds \$65 million in one month

MYANMAR'S overseas trade with Viet Nam, a South-east Asian country, reached US\$65.006 million in total in the first month of this fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce's monthly trade report.

The total bilateral trade covered \$9.123 million in exports and \$55.9 million in imports. Myanmar's imports from Viet Nam are always greater than its exports.

Myanmar-Viet Nam trade reached a record high of \$714.8 million in the last 2017-2018 FY, with exports worth \$127.5 million and imports worth \$587.3 million.

The ministry's yearly report indicates that bilateral trade with the Southeast Asian country was \$494 million in the 2016-2017 FY, \$346 million in the 2015-2016 FY, \$321 million in the 2014-2015 FY, \$281 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$155 million in the 2012-2013 FY and \$143 million in

the 2011-2012 FY.

Myanmar imports spare auto parts, computer parts, construction materials, food, steel, plastics, pharmaceuticals and other chemical products from Viet Nam, and exports minerals, agricultural, forest and marine products to the ASEAN member state. Viet Nam's trade and investment with Myanmar has substantially increased each year since the 2011-12 FY. According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Viet Nam's investments in Myanmar, at the end of the 2017-2018 FY, reached \$20.806 million. In the second month of this FY, Myanmar received new investment from Viet Nam worth \$1.554 million from one project.

The Myanmar government is putting forth concerted efforts to boost exports in the long, medium and short terms, seeking new global markets for domestic products.—Shwe Khine ■

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Corruption Prevention Units to be formed in government departments

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Moreover, the commission will conduct corruption risk assessments to scrutinise both government departments and private organisations. By conducting these activities, they can prevent a monopoly in organisations, reduce individual power play and encourage accountability, said U Aung Kyi.

The commission will provide detailed technicalities for all three processes in preventing corruption. It will continue to conduct investigations and take legal actions, he added.

Also, the commission will conduct awareness activities relating to public morality and include it as a subject in primary education.

“We are planning to conduct edutainment programmes, so that there will be no breakdown in children’s moralities with regard to corruption. We are currently

conducting research to distribute edutainment programmes in primary schools across the country. It will be completed within a month. After one or two months, we will start to distribute our edutainment programmes in schools. Then, teachers’ hand-out books will be distributed and teaching methods in the form of stories, poetries, dramas and singing will be used,” he added.

The Anti-Corruption Commission will carry out its objective more effectively in accordance with the President’s guidance.

“Corruption is connected with poverty. Corruption can affect the business and administration sectors. The economy will decline when corruption is high and poverty increases, as income disparity is high. Therefore, corruption also needs to be controlled from the economic sector. Regarding the administration sector, the capacity of adminis-



UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win delivers the speech at the Anti-Corruption Declaration Ceremony in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

trative power will decline when corruption is high and poverty increases with income inequality”, he concluded.

Myanmar signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption in December 2012.

Myanmar is ranked 130

among the 180 least corrupt nations, according to the 2017 Corruption Perceptions Index by Transparency International. ■

Myanmar-Bangladesh conduct coordinated border patrols

THE Myanmar Border Police and Border Guards from Bangladesh have conducted coordinated patrols along their sides of the border, and along the Naf River.

Security forces from the two countries conducted coordinated ground patrols from border posts 39 to 40 and 48 to 49 on 24 June, from border posts 49 to 50 on 25 June, from border posts 40 to 41 and 50 to 51 on 26 June, from border posts 51 to 51-5 on 27 June and from border posts 42-1-2 to 42

and from 53 to 54 on 30 June.

Also, security forces from the two countries conducted coordinated naval patrols along the Naf River one time each on 22 June, 27 June and 30 June.

A total of 55 coordinated ground patrols were conducted. The coordinated ground patrols were deployed 14 times in February, 7 times in March, 16 times in May and 18 times in June. Coordinated naval patrols along the Naf River were also held eight times.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Myanmar Border Police patrolling along the border. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi signed an agreement with UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win to fight against corruption and to work on development of business ethics in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHO HTAUNG**

Anti-Corruption Commission, UMFCCI to fight together against corruption

A SIGNING ceremony of joint declaration against corruption and discussion on development of business ethics was held at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) in Yangon yesterday morning.

First, Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi and UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win addressed the ceremony. Next, attendees to the ceremony raised questions that were answered by UMFCCI advisor Dr. Aung Tun Thet,

U Zaw Min Win, U Aung Kyi, commission secretary U San Win and commission member Daw Myat Myat Soe.

Next, the joint declaration against corruption was signed by U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Kyi who proclaimed on working jointly toward the development of ethical practices in business and against corruption.

The joint declaration includes assisting and cooperating in drawing up and making member companies of UMFCCI follow a code of conduct, conduct capacity building works

against corruption, arrange corruption awareness activities, and share good practices and anti-corruption information among companies and entities.

The day’s event was attended by Anti-Corruption Commission members, UMFCCI vice presidents, executives, representatives from sister organisations, Yangon Region Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials, representatives from companies and businesses, invited guests and interested persons.—Ye Gaung Nyunt ■

Inter-Agency Coordination Committee holds third meeting

THE Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee (ICC) held their third meeting at the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe expressed his gratitude to Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, for their technical and financial support in Myanmar's vaccination programmes. With their help, common diseases and mortality rates of children have been significantly reduced, said the union minister. ICC has assisted in vaccination programmes, collaboration with other organizations and finances.

Between the years 2012 and 2017, Gavi has provided US\$ 77.3 million worth of vaccines and

US\$ 39 million for regular vaccination and supplementary vaccination programmes; being responsible for paying for 76 per cent of the annual vaccine purchases.

Gavi has announced monetary support of US\$ 110 million for 2018 to 2021. The union minister said 2018 is the year for reviewing and scrutinizing the ministry's allotted funds to ensure it is used properly and to prevent misspending.

The union minister said the joint approval survey was conducted systematically by experts with international experience and will provide immense support for future vaccination programmes.



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe addresses attendants at the third meeting of the Inter-Agency Coordination Committee held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Also, Gavi's Senior Country Manager, Mr. Dirk Gehl, and Deputy Director Dr. Daw Htar Htar Lin delivered presentations on the vaccination process supported by Gavi, special strategies drawn to tackle areas with zero vaccination programmes, prioritized tasks for the Health System

Strengthening-II Project (2018-2020), and the joint appraisal conducted in Rakhine and Shan states. This was followed by a question and answer session.

Attending the meeting were ICC Chairperson Permanent Secretary of Health and Sports Prof. Dr. Thet Khaing Win, offi-

cials from ICC member-organizations, including Gavi, UNICEF, WHO, PATH, 3MDG, World Bank, chairpersons from the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Myanmar Red Cross, invited guests and other officials. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Green Life Environmental Conservation and Social Development Group



Daw Aye Mya Thandar Hlaing.



Daw Chan Mya Mya Win.



Daw Moh Moh Win.



Daw Moe Yu Khaing.

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the entire village is now actively involved in their own

waste disposal system and are supporting it with donations. The village now has a

small vehicle to transport its waste and Green Life members are spreading their ser-

vices and awareness raising campaigns to seven neighboring villages.

3. Depeyin Kwe Village is an outstanding example of unity with the villagers collaborating on social, religious, educational, economic sectors and environmental conservation led by Green Life. Green Life's mission to reduce and cleanse plastic pollution is in line with the 5 June World Environment Day's motto 'Beat Plastic Pollution' and its youth leading environmental conservation efforts is a shining example for youths across Myanmar.

(Unofficial translation)

Debris removed to prevent bridge from being swept away in Phakant

Due to continuous heavy rains on 1 July, water level in Uyu River has risen, with water flowing over the Lonkhin Bridge in Phakant Township, Kachin State. As a result of the flooding, debris left on the bridge had to be quickly removed to prevent the bridge from being swept away.

Heavy rains on 1 July inundated Phakant Township and water flowed over the Lonkhin Bridge. Led by Lonkhin village administrator, volunteer fire-

fighters, civil society organizations and local residents, removed the debris to prevent the bridge from being swept away.

A volunteer firefighter noted, "The bridge was kept under watch since 9 am, and debris was removed throughout the day to prevent it from being swept away."

Because of the heavy rains, wards in Phakant Town were flooded up to a depth of six to ten feet, said officials. — Ni Toe (Mohnyin) ■



Local residents and firefighters in Phakant Township clear debris from Lonkhin Bridge to prevent it from being swept away by the rising Uyu River. **PHOTO: NI TOE (MOHNYIN)**

Work to the best of your capabilities to ensure security, peace for women

ON the never-ending road towards gender equality and empowering women and girls alike, it is important that everyone contributes to ensuring security and peace for women and actively takes part in supporting women's roles and activities.

To step up efforts for the development of women, the All Myanmar Women Affairs Committee was formed on 3 July 1996. The day it was formed was designated as Myanmar Women's Day, which was later renamed to All Myanmar Women Day, with new members.

To be adaptable to situations of the current time and era, the committee was reformed with 26 members. Civil society organizations, which are actively working for women's rights, are also included in the new committee.

All stakeholders are stepping up their efforts to turn special bills into laws as soon as possible, as part of efforts to deter child sex abuse and violence against women.

The new committee is tasked with 12 missions, including providing vocational skills for women, education and trading.

Besides, the committee will work towards the prevention of violations against women, help women in emergency situations, provide business opportunities for women, improve the role of women in decision making, provide machinery for the development of women, women and the role of media, human rights for women and women and environmental conservation.

The role of women in rural areas is very important for our country, because 30 per cent of the GDP of Myanmar comes from the agricultural sector, while 70 per cent of the total population is living in rural areas.

The Union Government is striving to support and encourage the female population in rural areas, improve their security and their skills, while emulating talented Myanmar women in successive past eras.

The rights of rural women can be considered a barometer for women's statuses. The faster the women get their rights, the higher the standard of human rights in a country.

We need rules and regulations to provide protection to women effectively. In response to the increasing louder calls from the community for women and child rights, a bill for a special law on children's rights is on track to becoming a law, currently being considered by the joint bill committee. At the same time, a bill for a law on preventing violence against women is being accelerated to be submitted to the parliament.

All stakeholders are stepping up their efforts to turn special bills into laws as soon as possible, as part of efforts to deter child sex abuse and violence against women.

We all need to work hand-in-hand. Men need to work to the best of their capabilities to elevate the status of women support them and women are also obliged to do the same. Do not underestimate yourself or others. ■

By Dr. Myat Moe

IN Myanmar history, Bogoyoke Aung San was the person who restored the unity of the entire Union after the nation-building kings, Anawrahta, Bayintnaung, Alaungphaya and Kyansittha. He was the national leader who led in signing the Panglong Agreement that guaranteed independence for all the plains and hill regions, and also the people's leader who made sacrifices for the independence, making it his sole purpose.

A constructive thinking is that if Bogoyoke Aung San was not assassinated by unscrupulous persons when the country was about to regain independence, the 71-year Myanmar would surely be a developed and modern country. He would be an idol and exemplary to the country that is struggling amidst the many requirements, weaknesses and challenges.

Idol

Bogoyoke Aung San who was recognized as the architecture of independence had been desirous of regaining independence since he was a student, and that was his only goal. He was a bookworm concentrating on compiling works that really benefited the country.

As a politician, he loved literature. He was a systematic reader and rarely seen enjoying or spending time with friends. He could read and write well both in English and Myanmar.

National leader

Born on 13 February 1915, Bogoyoke Aung San became a student leader when he was 20 and a political leader when he was 24. At the age of 28, he was a major general acting as the supreme commander of the Burma Defence Forces. He was a unique young leader holding such high positions. His leadership skill was based on his unyielding and unwavering resolution for independence.

Firm conviction

His endurance, conviction and sacrifices for independence are always obvious. The colonialists were facing hardships when World War II broke out. Taking it as an opportunity, he sneaked out of the country, formed the Thirty Comrades and underwent military training. It was an almost impossible job he did without taking anyone's help with the sole purpose of restoring independence. As a leader he had self-confidence and firm conviction and under-

stood his job well and dared to make sacrifices, when and where necessary. He was a man of vision, as he knew that Japan granted only sham independence.

Honesty

His childhood life was simple. Once, he criticized his mother for selling her commodities at an unfair price. He told his wife, Daw Khin Kyi, to teach their children to become honest and to have morals. He confessed his mistake in cooperation with Fascists with the hope of regaining independence, after making self-criticism and self-assessment. This showed his honesty and trustworthiness as a good leader. And when he became a public leader, he was loved and admired by the people for his sincerity and noble goals. He was inseparable with the public.

An excellent leader and co-ordinator

Bogoyoke Aung San was endowed with the abilities as a leader and a coordinator. The country was facing instability and rising commodity prices during the time the Soranto Villa Plan was under preparation. Bogoyoke Aung San was skilled in assigning his subordinates. He even invited and gave positions to the persons who



were opposing him. He always showed tolerance, fairness and magnanimity.

He could make compromises to narrow down the differences when discussing the important issues of the country. He was a good listener, always ready to take into account the majority views and to take professional advice. Although he had less administrative experience, he was renowned for his perfection, honesty, accountability and goodwill. He was always patient in hearing views from various angles and eloquent and persuasive enough to win the majority consent at every meeting.

Never for self-interest

During the time Myanmar was under Fascist occupation, Bogoyoke Aung San, under the name of Bo Teza, reentered Myanmar and formed the government. But his image was larger than the government. His words had much weight on the people. He was able to control his mind, although he could have gotten rich by using his influence for self-interest. He was much powerful, but he never misused his power or betrayed

the country.

Do or die

"Do or die" was his motto during the anti-Fascist struggle to regain independence. Under this motto, and with strong resolution and gallantry, he faced the much powerful enemy in the battles. He showed valour by giving close leadership in commanding his troops in the battles.

Good organizer

Bogoyoke Aung San was among the rarest leaders of Myanmar who won the hearts of the people of all ages and from all walks of life. He won the support, sympathy and love of the entire nationalities. Because of his strong patriotism, courage and fairness he was elected as the leader of all Myanmar students. For example, he could persuade Myanmarers who were assigned by the British monarchs and responsible to them to become loyal servants for the nation-building task. He was the Tatmadaw leader who founded the Tatmadaw as the sole armed forces which could fully protect the country. He valued both Rightist and Leftist

politicians of the independence struggle, so he gave them appropriate positions, regardless of their ideologies, in view of unity.

The spirit of martyrdom

Not every person who sacrifices life for what he believes is a martyr. Only heroes who are noble and who have consideration for others are martyrs. Moreover, a martyr is a person who is humble, who prioritizes majority interest, who makes self-criticism, who knows his weaknesses, and who has the noble spirit.

More martyrs

Visions, views, leadership and the sacrificing spirit of Bogoyoke Aung San, who fell at the age of 32, were significant. He could restore independence after building the unity of the entire nation through the Panglong Agreement. So, all the people who love Bogoyoke Aung San must follow his ways and make him their role model, with admiration, in strengthening unity and safeguarding sovereignty and the Union. Our country needs more martyrs like him. ■

Translation: TMT

An admirable martyr and leader like him

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 31/2018

5th Waning of First Waso, 1380 ME
2 July 2018

Appointment of Deputy Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 234 (a) (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 16 (b) sub-section 9 of Union Government Law, Dr Mya Lay Sein has been appointed as the Deputy Minister for Health and Sports.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 2nd July, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 3rd JULY, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay regions, Kayah State, scattered in Magway Region, fairly widespread in Shan and Chin states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4- 7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3rd JULY, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3rd JULY, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3rd JULY, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

British PM meets German, Dutch leaders in crucial Brexit week

LONDON—Prime Minister Theresa May will visit the German and Dutch leaders this week before a crucial ministerial meeting intended to finally agree what Britain wants from post-Brexit trade ties with the EU, her spokesman said on Monday.

May will visit German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte before she takes her divided cabinet away for the day on Friday to thrash out their differences on how close economically Britain should stay to the EU.

Less than nine months before Britain leaves the European Union in March 2019, the government has yet to set out in detail what it wants from the future relationship.

EU leaders at a summit in Brussels last week warned May she was running out of time to get a deal, and stepped up their preparations for the possibility the talks collapse.

She is also under intense pressure at home, with a leading eurosceptic in her Conservative party warning on Monday she must stick to her promises or risk the government collapsing.

The intervention of Jacob Rees-Mogg, who represents Tories who want a clean break with the EU, sparked a backlash from members of the party



British Prime Minister Theresa May. PHOTO: AFP

who back closer ties.

Foreign Office minister Alan Duncan accused him of “threatening” May, saying: “The ideological right are a minority despite their noise and should pipe down.”

May’s spokesman said the government was focused on delivering the 2016 referendum vote to leave the EU.

“The prime minister has set out what she wants to achieve, that is to leave the single market, leave the customs union, leave the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice and be free to sign and

implement trade deals around the world,” he said.

May’s talks with Merkel and Rutte followed meetings with the Irish and Spanish leaders in Brussels on Thursday, and earlier in the week with EU president Donald Tusk and the Greek premier in London.

Her spokesman said this was part of the “regular process of engagement”.

One of the crucial issues to be discussed at Friday’s meeting at May’s country residence of Chequers is how to create a new customs relationship

with the EU that avoids border checks between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Ministers have been mulling two possible options for months, both of which have faced opposition in Brussels and within the cabinet, and media reports suggested Monday that a third option was now being considered.

Once ministers agree a way forward on Friday, the government will next week publish a policy document setting out in detail what it wants from the future trading relationship.—AFP ■

WORLD BRIEFS

All oil exports suspended from Libya's east: national firm

TRIPOLI, (Libya) — All oil exports from Libya's east have been suspended after operations were halted at two key export terminals, the Tripoli-based National Oil Corporation said on Monday.

The “National Oil Corporation has declared force majeure on crude oil loadings at Al-Hariga and Zweitina oil terminals”, the NOC said in a statement. Force majeure frees parties to a contract from their obligations due to circumstances beyond their control. The ports were among four terminals in Libya's oil crescent seized last month by military strongman Khalifa Haftar. Exports from the other two were already suspended on 14 June.—AFP ■

EU starts legal action against Poland over Supreme Court reform

BRUSSELS, (Belgium) — The EU on Monday launched legal action against Poland over its controversial Supreme Court reforms, in the latest round of a bitter spat between Brussels and the right-wing government in Warsaw.

“Given the lack of progress and the imminent implementation of the new retirement regime for SC judges, the commission decided to launch the infringement procedure today as a matter of urgency,” European Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas told reporters.—AFP ■

Crimea's status is not up for discussion, Kremlin avows

MOSCOW—The Kremlin stressed that the issue of Crimea's recognition as Russian land cannot be on the agenda for international negotiations, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday. The Kremlin spokesman thus commented on US President Donald Trump's statement that at the upcoming summit with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Helsinki on 16 July he intended to raise the issue of Crimea. The US leader did not rule out that Washington might recognize the peninsula as Russian soil.—Tass ■

Austria against asylum claims from non-EU migrant centres

VIENNA, Austria—Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz spoke out on Monday against giving migrants the chance to seek asylum in the EU from proposed “disembarkation platforms” outside the continent.

European leaders hammered out a deal in Brussels on Friday to consider setting up the centres outside the bloc, most likely in North Africa, in a bid to discourage migrants and refugees boarding EU-bound smuggler boats.

However, Kurz told O1 radio: “I’m among those who say that if we allow asylum applications (from the disembarkation platforms), this will create an incredible pull factor.”

The chancellor — whose country has just taken up the six-month rotating presidency of the EU — said the issue had caused a rift between EU leaders at the migration summit.

Bloc leaders agreed at the Brussels meeting to “quickly explore” the concept of “regional

disembarkation platforms” for migrants rescued in international waters.

The Austrian chancellor said it would be “smarter to go directly to people in war zones, rather than create an incentive to undertake the dangerous crossing of the Mediterranean”.

For Kurz the question also arises as to “whether, at the global level, the 60 million people fleeing their countries must be able to apply for asylum inside Europe or if they can do it from

elsewhere”.

No non-EU countries have so far offered to host the proposed platforms, whose implementation has split European countries, with questions over their compatibility with international law.

The Austrian chancellor on Saturday said it was “feasible” to reach agreements with African countries to host the platforms.

He also hoped that an EU-Africa summit would be held by the end of the year.—AFP ■

Afghan Sikhs, Hindus grieve after suicide attack kills 19

JALALABAD, Afghanistan—Grief mixed with anger among Afghanistan's minority Sikh and Hindu community on Monday as they prepared for funerals of loved ones, including an election candidate, killed in a suicide attack.

At least 19 people were killed and 21 wounded when a suicide bomber blew himself up in a crowd of Afghan Sikhs and Hindus waiting to meet President Ashraf Ghani in the eastern city of Jalalabad on Sunday.

Scores of mourners shouted "death to Ashraf Ghani" and "death to the government" as they placed coffins in ambulances that would take them to a temple for funeral ceremonies.

Among the dead were 17 Sikhs and Hindus, officials said, including Avtar Singh, the only Sikh candidate running in the October 20 legislative elections, and Rawail Singh, a prominent social activist.

"This attack has killed many of our elders, those who loved their country more than anything else," Narendar Singh told AFP as he took the body of his father,



Ambulances transport the coffins with bodies of Afghan Sikhs killed in a suicide attack in Jalalabad on 2 July, 2018, a day after the attack. **PHOTO: AFP**

Avtar Singh, from the hospital. "We were the direct target. The government really does not care about us. We used to be a huge community but most of us have left."

Around 1,000 Sikhs and Hindus are estimated to reside in

what is otherwise an overwhelmingly Muslim nation.

The vast majority live in Jalalabad as well as the southeastern city of Ghazni and the Afghan capital Kabul.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the at-

tack, the latest carried out by the militants in the restive province where they have a foothold.

Ghani was in Jalalabad on Sunday as part of a two-day visit to the province. He was not harmed. Singh said a group of 20 Sikhs and Hindus had planned

to meet with Ghani in the morning at the provincial governor's compound but the meeting was postponed until the afternoon.

As their convoy neared the compound, they were stopped by security forces and ordered to get out of their cars to be checked.

"That is when a suicide bomber on foot detonated among us," Singh said.

Jagandar Singh, who lost his brother in the attack, said the mourners would consider taking to "the streets in Kabul" to express their anger at the government's inability to protect civilians. "We have lost hope with this government," he said.

"Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs are all brothers but unfortunately under this government none of them is safe."

IS was not part of the government's recent 18-day ceasefire with the Taliban that expired on Friday.

The government's unilateral truce overlapped with the Taliban's three-day ceasefire for Eid. It was marred by two suicide attacks in Nangarhar that were claimed by IS.—AFP ■

AU summit overshadowed by 'security failings' in Sahel after attacks

NOUAKCHOTT (Mauritania) — African leaders gathered in the Mauritanian capital on Monday for the final day of a summit overshadowed by security issues after jihadist rebels hammered two fragile Sahel states in successive attacks.

French President Emmanuel Macron, making an exceptional appearance at an African Union (AU) summit, was expected to discuss hurdles facing a five-nation French-backed anti-terror unit, the "G5 Sahel" force.

As the summit focusing on free trade, funding and corruption opened on Sunday, a bomb aimed at French soldiers in Mali's troubled north killed four civilians and injured over 20 people, including four soldiers.

In Niger, Boko Haram insurgents targeted a military position in the southeast of the country, killing 10 soldiers — a reminder of the peril that Nigeria's notorious jihadists pose to neighbouring countries.

On Friday, a suicide bombing hit the Mali headquarters of

the G5 Sahel, fuelling concerns about its ability to tackle jihadist groups roaming the region.

It was the first attack on the headquarters of the five-nation force, which was set up with French backing in 2017 to fight jihadist insurgents and criminal groups in the vast and unstable Sahel region.

In total, four separate attacks killed 15 people in Mali in three days, as the vulnerable West African nation prepares to go to the polls on 29 July 29.

The G5 Sahel leaders — from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger — met Sunday to prepare for talks with Macron.

"These attacks should strengthen our determination to fight terrorism to ensure our populations' security," Niger's president, Mahamadou Issoufou, told AFP on the sidelines of the summit. Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, hosting the gathering of more than 40 heads of state and government, said Friday's bombing "hit (at) the heart" of security in

the Sahel and lashed out at a lack of international help.

The Al-Qaeda-linked Support Group for Islam and Muslims, the main jihadist alliance in the Sahel, claimed the attack in a telephone call to the Mauritanian news agency Al-Akhbar. **'UN doors closed'**

"It was a message sent by the terrorists at this precise moment when we are getting organised to stabilise and secure our region," Aziz told France 24 television.

"If the headquarters was attacked, it is because there are so many failings we need to fix if we want to bring stability to the Sahel."

The G5 aims to have a total of 5,000 troops from the five nations but has faced funding problems and lack of equipment.

It is intended to operate alongside France's 4,000 troops in the troubled "tri-border" area where Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso meet, and alongside the UN's 12,000-strong MINUSMA peacekeeping operation in Mali.—AFP ■

Australia ends direct aid to Palestinian Authority

SYDNEY, Australia—Australia ended direct aid to the Palestinian Authority on Monday over fears it could be used to support people convicted of political violence.

Canberra will halt the Aus\$10 million (\$7.5 million) per year it gave to the World Bank's trust fund for Palestinian recovery and development, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said.

"I wrote to the Palestinian Authority on 29 May, to seek clear assurance that Australian funding is not being used to assist Palestinians convicted of politically-motivated violence," she said in a statement.

"I am confident that previous Australian funding to the PA through the World Bank has been used as intended.

"However, I am concerned that in providing funds for this aspect of the PA's operations there is an opportunity for it to use its own budget to activities that Australia would never

support."

Australia will instead send the money to the United Nations' Humanitarian Fund for the Palestinian Territories, which provides vulnerable Palestinians with access to health care, food, water, improved sanitation and shelter.

The fund helps 1.9 million people and around three-quarters of its money is spent in Gaza, where living conditions are deteriorating as tensions increase with Israel.

Canberra's decision comes amid worsening relations between the Palestinian Authority and Australia's key ally the United States.

President Donald Trump's administration sparked anger across the Arab world in December by recognizing Jerusalem as capital of the Jewish state.

The Palestinian leadership responded by freezing all contacts with US officials.—AFP ■

Mexico chooses leftist Lopez Obrador as president

MEXICO CITY — Leftist candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, known for his hardline stance against the United States, declared victory in Sunday's Mexican presidential election as exit polls pointed to a landslide win.

Mexico had conventionally picked its presidents from the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, and the center-right opposition National Action Party, or PAN, since 1929 after the end of the Mexican Revolution. Lopez Obrador will be a president from the National Regeneration Movement, a newly established leftist party known as Morena.

The election of the 64-year-old former Mexico City mayor is certain to affect bilateral negotiations with Washington over issues such as illegal immigrants and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

His party also appeared to

have secured a majority in the 128-seat upper house and the 500-seat lower house in elections held the same day.

The local economic daily *El Financiero* reported that its exit poll showed Lopez Obrador, in his third attempt at the presidency, garnered 49 per cent support.

Ricardo Anaya, a 39-year-old right-of-center candidate who formerly led PAN, was at 27 per cent, while former finance minister Jose Antonio Meade, 49, of the governing PRI had a support rate of 18 percent, the report said. Other exit polls showed similar figures.

Following the exit poll results, all opponents have conceded defeat to Lopez Obrador.

The new president is scheduled to assume office on 1 December and start his six-year term without reappointment.

—Kyodo News ■



Presidential candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador casts his vote during the presidential election on 1 July, 2018, in Mexico City. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Explosion at chemical plant in west Japan kills one, injures ten

TOKYO — An explosion at a chemical plant in Fukui Prefecture, western Japan, on Monday killed one person and injured 10 others, local rescue officials said.

According to rescue officials, an explosion at the Fukui "Protein Chemical" plant in Wakasa Town, Fukui Prefecture, which occurred at 1:45 pm local time, resulted in 11 people being rushed to hospital.

Of them, a man in his 40s was pronounced dead and a man in his 20s remains unconscious.

The nine other victims of the explosion at the factory in the prefecture sustained light injuries, the local fire department said.

The factory, part of the Wakasa Techno Valley in the town, had part of its roof blown off and windows destroyed in the explosion, according to local accounts and media footage. The factory's parent company in Tokyo confirmed that an explosion had occurred at its plant in Fukui Prefecture.

The plant is responsible for manufacturing pharmaceuticals and chemicals, it said. An eyewitness working in the factory at the time of the explosion, told local media he heard a loud bang and saw plumes of orange smoke rising. The local police and the fire department are investigating the cause of the explosion, the parent company said.—Xinhua ■

France aiding Egypt repression through arms sales: NGOs

PARIS — France has "participated in the bloody Egyptian repression" for the past five years by delivering weapons and surveillance systems to President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's government, rights groups charged in a report released on Monday.

Commissioned by four French and Egyptian human rights groups, the study found French arms sales to Egypt had leapt from 39.6 million to 1.3 billion euros (\$1.5 billion) between 2010 and 2016.

In addition, "by supplying Egyptian security services and law enforcement agencies with powerful digital tools, they have helped establish an Orwellian surveillance and control architecture that is being used to eradicate all forms of dissent and citizen action," the groups said. They charged that French companies were also complicit in what they called a "relentless crackdown" since Sisi overthrew Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013.

The report notably cited companies selling technology used for mass data interception and crowd control, used for a surveillance system under which tens of thousands of opponents and activists had been arrested.



A new report claims at least 8 French companies have "profited from (Egyptian) repression" despite a European Union declaration in 2013 that member states had suspended export licences to Egypt for equipment that could be used for domestic repression. **PHOTO: AFP**

"The Egyptian revolution of 2011 was driven by an ultra-connected 'Facebook generation' that knew how to mobilise crowds," said Bahey Eldin Hassan, director of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS), one of the group's behind the report.

"Today France is helping to crush this generation through the establishment of an Orwellian surveillance and control system aimed at nipping in the bud any expression of protest," he said.

The report charges that at least eight French companies have "profited from this repression" despite a European Union

declaration in 2013 that member states had suspended export licences to Egypt for equipment that could be used for domestic repression. The companies include Arquus — formerly Renault Trucks Defense — as well as major defence supplier DCNS.

"Our organisations seek from French companies and authorities an immediate end to these deadly exports," the groups said. The report was commissioned by the CIHRS alongside the French-based International Federation for Human Rights, Human Rights League and Armaments Observatory.—AFP ■

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Thai boys trapped in cave 'found safe': governor

MAE SAI (Thailand) — Twelve boys and their football coach trapped in a flooded Thai cave for nine days were "found safe" late Monday, in a miracle rescue after days of painstaking searching by specialist divers through muddy waters and winding tunnels.

There had been no contact with the boys, aged between 11 and 16, since they went missing with their 25-year-old coach last Saturday.

The massive rescue effort had for days been hampered by heavy rains that flooded the Tham Luang cave in northern Thailand, blocking access to chambers where it was hoped the group would be found alive.

But late Monday Chiang Rai provincial governor broke the news of their rescue, delighting a nation which has anxiously followed every twist and turn of the dramatic effort to save them.

"We found all 13 safe... we will take care of them until they can move," Narongsak Osottanakorn told reporters, who broke into spontaneous applause and cheering.

"We will bring food to them and a doctor who can dive. I am not sure they can eat as they have not eaten for a while."

Divers took advan-



Family members of one of the missing boy celebrate while camping out near Tham Luang cave following news all members of children's football team and their coach were alive in the cave at Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park in the Mae Sai district of Chiang Rai province late July 2, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

tage of a brief window of good weather on Monday to edge further into the cave, with the water levels dropping slowly but steadily every hour thanks to round-the-clock pumping.

They had hoped to find the "Wild Boar" team on an elevated ledge dubbed "Pattaya beach".

But the boys had retreated 300-400 metres further as the ledge was submerged, Narongsak added.

Never gave up hope

The team's travails appear far from over with a complex operation predicted to try to bring

the group several kilometres through the cave — which is still partially submerged.

Loved ones, friends and teachers of the "Wild Boar" football team refused to give up hope of seeing the young players again, holding an increasingly desperate vigil at the cave entrance.

Tinnakorn Boonpiem, whose 12-year-old son Mongkol is among the 13, reacted with joy.

"I'm so glad... I want him to be physically and mentally fit. I am afraid he will be mentally affected by this incident."

Scores of divers -- in-

cluding foreign experts -- have been sent into the cave with hundreds of oxygen tanks, establishing a base camp inside the chambers over the weekend.

Thailand has been a nation transfixed by the plight of the "Wild Boar" team, with social media lighting up in support of the group and the country's deeply spiritual reflexes stirred into action.

Shamans and Buddhist monks have held prayers and given offerings at the cave imploring mountain "spirits" to return the boys safely.

The football team went into the cave on June 23 after a training session and became stranded when heavy rains cut them off from the entrance.

Rescuers found their bicycles, football boots and backpacks near the cave's entrance and discovered handprints and footprints further in.

At 10 kilometres long, Tham Luang cave is one of Thailand's longest and one of the toughest to navigate, with its snaking chambers and narrow passageways.

A sign outside the site warns visitors not to enter the cave during the rainy season between July and November. — **AFP** ■

Japan emperor being treated for brain condition: palace



Japan's Emperor Akihito, 84, cancelled his official duties on Monday after suffering vertigo and nausea. **PHOTO: AFP**

TOKYO — Japan's 84-year-old Emperor Akihito cancelled his official duties on Monday after being taken ill, the country's top government spokesman said.

Akihito "had a sudden feeling of sickness and heavy sweating" in the early morning and Empress Michiko "immediately brought in the palace doctor," Yoshihide Suga told reporters.

The doctor diagnosed the emperor with "symptoms of vertigo and nausea due to cerebral anemia, which require a complete rest and follow-up checks," said Suga, the chief cabinet secretary, speaking at a regular press conference.

Cerebral anemia is a condition resulting from insufficient blood flow to the brain.

Akihito had been due

to meet on Monday with Princess Ayako, a daughter of one of his cousins, to hear about her engagement, a spokesman for the Imperial Household Agency told AFP.

"We don't have further details" about the emperor's health condition, he added. It was not clear when Akihito would resume his public duties.

Akihito shocked the country in 2016 when he signalled his desire to step down after nearly three decades in the job, citing his age and health problems. He will be the first emperor to retire — on 30 April, 2019 — in more than two centuries in the world's oldest imperial family. Akihito's eldest son, 58-year-old Crown Prince Naruhito, is set to ascend the Chrysanthemum Throne a day later. — **AFP** ■



This photo taken and released by the Royal Thai Navy on July 2, 2018 shows a group of foreign divers preparing to search flooded section of Tham Luang cave at the Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park in the Mae Sai district of Chiang Rai province as the rescue operation continues for a missing children's football team and their coach. Classmates of 12 boys trapped in a flooded Thai cave spoke of their hopes for a miracle rescue on July 2, as divers inched through thick mud and water towards an air pocket where the group is believed to be. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1103 W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1103 W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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'Jurassic' dinos shake earth, boost North American box office

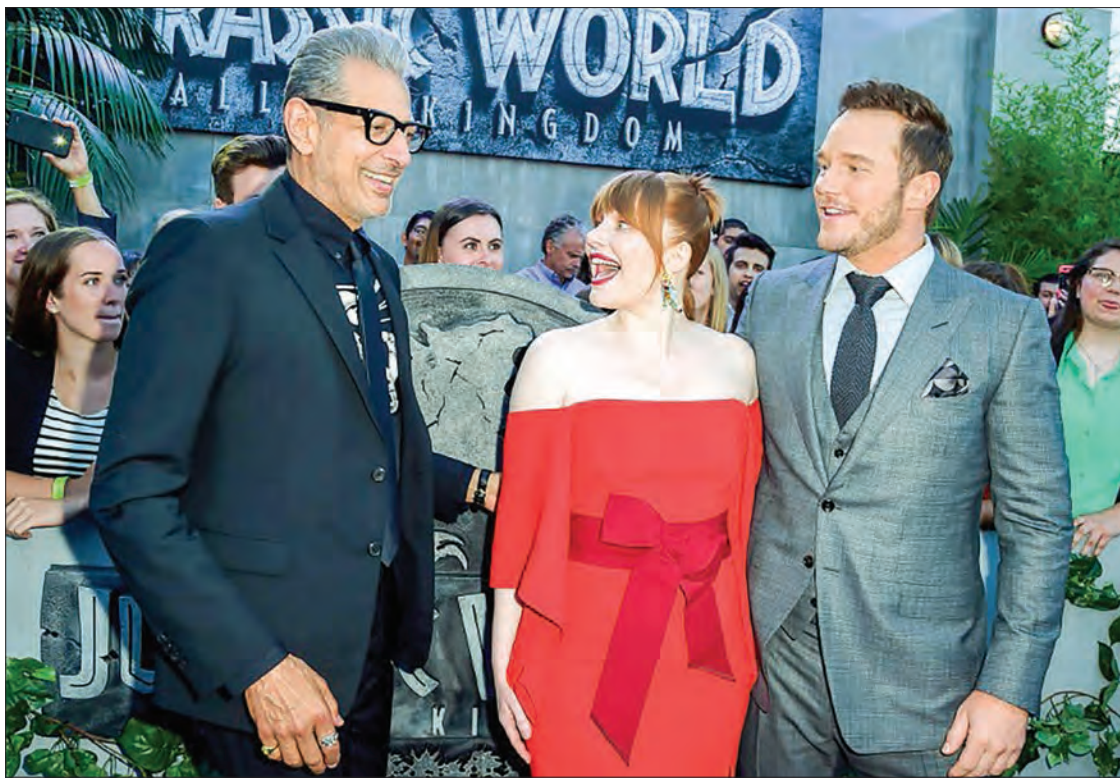
LOS ANGELES — Big-grossing films "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" and "Incredibles 2" again dominated the North American box office this weekend, but two new entrants beat expectations to place third and fourth, according to industry estimates on Sunday.

Universal's latest earth-stomping dinosaur movie took in \$60 million for the three-day weekend, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations reported.

The superhero-family-next-door of "Incredibles 2," a Pixar/Disney animation, earned \$45.5 million.

Together they helped estimated industry receipts to the end of June rise 15 per cent against the same month last year.

"Jurassic," featuring Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard, and "Incredibles," with voice actors Craig T Nelson and Holly Hunter, were expected to do well. The former is nearing the \$1 billion mark globally, while "Incredibles" is set to become the second-biggest animated



'Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom,' starring (left to right) Jeff Goldblum, Bryce Dallas Howard and Chris Pratt, seen here at the film's Los Angeles premiere, is still leading North American ticket sales in its second week out. **PHOTO: AFP**

film ever in North America, after "Finding Dory."

But Variety said that two new films, Sony's "Sicario: Day of the Saldado" and Lionsgate's

"Uncle Drew," had easily outperformed industry expectations to place third and fourth.

The "Sicario" sequel, an action thriller starring Benicio

Del Toro and Josh Brolin, took in \$19 million, outperforming the well-reviewed original film by \$7 million. Its highly-topical premise has CIA agent Brolin teaming

up with hitman Del Toro to fight drug cartels smuggling "terrorists" across the Mexican border.

On a lighter note, "Uncle Drew" draws on the talents of basketball stars present and past — Kyrie Irving, Shaquille O'Neal, Chris Webber, Lisa Leslie and Reggie Miller, with a court-full of others in cameo roles.

Hard-luck streetball team manager Uncle Drew (Irving, in a role that originated in a Pepsi ad) rounds up his old crew ahead of a big tournament in Brooklyn. The film took in \$15.5 million.

"Ocean's 8" from Warner Bros. slipped two spots to fifth place, taking in \$8 million in its fourth week out. The female-centric heist film stars Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett and Anne Hathaway.

Rounding out the top 10 were:

"Tag" (\$5.6 million)

"Deadpool 2" (\$3.5 million)

"Sanju" (\$2.6 million)

"Solo: A Star Wars Story" (\$2.3 million)

"Won't You Be My Neighbor?" (\$2.3 million)—AFP ■

Social realism and a 'new voice' in Nigerian cinema

LAGOS — Nigerian film director Ema Edosio grew up in the poor suburbs of Lagos, which is the subject of her first film "Kasala!"

A low budget comedy set in the working class suburbs of Nigeria's capital, Ema Edosio's debut film "Kasala!" is a world away from the usual style and glamour of Nollywood.

Instead it almost oozes sweat, dust and marijuana with the smell of rotting meat and engine oil in what is effectively a love letter to Lagos that reflects a growing interest in social realism.

The film, whose title means "problems" in local street slang, is set in the streets of Ojuelegba, a working class suburb in Lagos's densely populated "mainland".

Wandering through the neighbourhood, residents greet this 34-year-old director like a local.

Even though Edosio herself lives on the "islands" — the more well-to-do area of this megacity of 20 million people — it is a reality she knows well after growing up in a similar area with her eight siblings.

"Eighty percent of Lagos is like this but it's... under-represented in the cultural scene," she

told AFP. "I want to be the voice that puts their life to the screen."

The plot, which unfurls over 24 hours, involves four young friends who are out for a good time and steal a car belonging to one of their uncles. But they end up having to find 20,000 naira (\$55, 47 euros) to fix it when they have an accident.

TJ and his friends are typical teenagers but even a youthful error of judgment can have serious consequences in a poor neighbourhood of Lagos.

The uncle is up to his eyes in debt and risks being killed if he doesn't sell the car.

The film shows young Africans stuck in poverty, debt and second-hand clothes, dreaming of a better life just like their idol, Afropop superstar Davido.

Above all, it is a film about friendship in which the resourcefulness of Africa's big cities is ever-present.

'Social cinema'

Gritty realism is exactly what attracted Abiodun Kassim, who plays the poor, indebted uncle who is trying to make ends meet at his filthy meat stall in the local market. "My character represents the backbone people of Nigeria. It's the daily life story of

all these people who force their way through life," he said.

"These... are the majority, but people don't talk about them."

Since its release, "Kasala!" has won critical acclaim in the Nigerian press. "2018 has not been a very good year for Nollywood," wrote Oris Aigbokhaevbolo on the Bella Naija website.

"But 'Kasala!' might yet save the year."

Writing on the Lagos Film Society website, Dare Dan hailed Edosio's "razor-sharp sensitivity to what life is like in these neighbourhoods from the very first shot". "Comedy, rooted in realism, is not something we often come across on Nigerian screens," he said.

'Refreshing, authentic'

Yet no local cinema has agreed to show "Kasala!"

"Everywhere I am told that people want to see inspiring movies," said Edosio, which for most Nigerians means showing wealthy people.

"This kind of social cinema is struggling to emerge," said Serge Noukoue, the organiser of the annual Nollywood Week film festival in Paris.

"It's not in the DNA of Nollywood, which aims to entertain.

"We're still in the 'high life' wave of Nigerian cinema — very sophisticated, in fashionable areas, women wearing lots of make-up..." At the festival, however, "Kasala!" was singled out as one of this year's "must watch" films.

"It's a refreshing, authentic film," said Noukoue.

"Ema Edosio is a 'new voice' in the universe of Nollywood. That's a good and very positive thing."

Counter-current

Abba Makama, director of "Green White Green" (2016), said he was "sick and tired" of "glossy and shiny" productions using actors with British or US accents.

He describes his film, whose title refers to the colours of the Nigerian flag, as his "mosaic of madness".

It was one of the first examples of a small but growing movement of social realism to hit the cultural scene in Africa's most populous nation.

The film has been shown at about 20 festivals across the world, including in Toronto, and is available on Netflix.

But again, it has never been shown on the big screen in Nigeria, despite its huge success.

"In the 2000s, there were only about 20 cinemas in the whole country," said Makama.—AFP ■



Nigerian film director Ema Edosio grew up in the poor suburbs of Lagos, which is the subject of her first film "Kasala!". **PHOTO: AFP**



Art Deco buildings line the three-kilometre long palm-fringed Marine Drive promenade. PHOTO: AFP

Mumbai's Victorian Gothic and Art Deco buildings win UNESCO status

MANAMA — Mumbai's Art Deco buildings — believed to be the world's second largest collection after Miami — were added on Saturday to UNESCO's World Heritage List alongside the city's better-known Victorian Gothic architecture.

The decision was approved at a UNESCO meeting in the Bahraini capital Manama.

A not-for-profit team of enthusiasts are in the process of documenting every single one of Mumbai's Art Deco treasures but they estimate there may be more than 200 across India's bustling financial capital.

The majority of them, built on reclaimed land between the early 1930s and early 1950s, are clustered together in the south of the coastal city where they stand in stark contrast to Victorian Gothic structures.

"The Victorian ensemble includes Indian elements suited to the climate, including balconies and verandas," UNESCO said in a press statement announcing the decision.

"The Art Deco edifices... blend Indian design with Art Deco imagery, creating a unique

style that has been described as Indo-Deco," it added.

The two vastly different architectural traditions face off against each other across the popular Oval Maidan playing field, where enthusiastic young cricketers hone their skills.

On one side lie imposing and rather austere 19th century buildings housing the Bombay High Court and Mumbai University, with their spires and lancet windows. On the other side stand sleeker buildings boasting curved corners and balconies, vertical lines and exotic motifs.

They were built by wealthy Indians who sent their architects to Europe to come up with modern designs different to those of their colonial rulers.

"Mumbai's Art Deco buildings have always lived in the shadow of the Victorian Gothic structures built by the British but this recognition by UNESCO today helps elevate Art Deco to its rightful place," Atul Kumar, the founder of Art Deco Mumbai, told AFP. "Across a 22-acre stretch of playing field we have two distinct architectural styles. One symbolic of India's colonisers. The other

representing the aspirations of a new, wealthy Indian class."

Mumbai's Art Deco buildings house residential properties, commercial offices, hospitals and single screen movie theatres, including the popular Regal and Eros cinemas.

Their characteristics include elegant Deco fonts, marble floors and spiral staircases.

Most of the Art Deco buildings, including along the three-kilometre long palm-fringed Marine Drive promenade, are five storeys high and painted in bright colours such as yellow, pink and blue.

Some of Mumbai's most recognisable buildings are built in the Victorian Gothic style, including the city's famous main train station, which used to be known as Victoria Terminus.

The Bombay High Court, Mumbai University and the headquarters of the city's civic authority are other examples of that style. They were built in the 19th century as Britain strengthened its hold over India. Many of the edifices boast tinted windows, flying buttresses and ornate carved figures.—AFP ■

Ancient woodworking technique revived in modern times

LANZHOU — Woodworker Sun Gang has spent most of his life learning and preserving the traditional mortise-tenon joint structure technique, widely found in ancient Chinese buildings and furniture.

In ancient China, buildings contained no nails, and were instead built using the mortise and tenon joint process, a concavo-convex connection method used to combine two pieces of wood. The earliest mortise-tenon structure example dates back 7,000 years to the Hemudu culture in China's Zhejiang Province. "The mortise-tenon structure is our ancestors' great wisdom," said Sun.

Born in a village in Gansu Province, 52-year-old Sun dropped out of elementary school after just three years.

Under his father's instruction, Sun acquired carpentry skills and began to do woodwork at 13. "At that time my family was so poor we could barely afford any furniture or tools," Sun recalled. "But my father and I made ploughs, wood tables and chairs by ourselves."

"It was hard to find iron nails. Instead, my father taught me how to make simple mortise-tenon joints and use them to assemble little gadgets," Sun said. "It was then that I fell in love with the craft."—Xinhua ■

Sun has had quite the journey to go from simply a fan of mortise-tenon structures to preserving an intangible cultural heritage.

In 1987, Sun left home to look for work in neighboring cities as a decorator and furniture maker. After ten years of hard work, Sun had saved a large sum of money and honed his carpentry skills. In 1998 he returned home and started his own business - producing modular furniture in large quantities which was then popular in the market.

However, Sun found almost no furniture used the mortise-tenon technique anymore, with nails and glue being used for large-scale industrial production instead.

"Traditional redwood furniture made with mortise-tenon joint structures is known for its shape, curve and technique," said Sun. After conducting market research in Shanghai and

Guangdong, Sun surprisingly found that his idea had huge market potential.

His first sale was for 6,000 yuan (about 900 US dollars), selling a wooden round-back chair with mortise-tenon joint structure. In 2014, Sun set up a company to specially produce and sell tailored cultural and creative products including furniture and wooden handicrafts featuring mortise-tenon joints.

In Sun's 300-square-meter factory, he displayed just how strong the wooden joints are by putting his entire body weight on a hand-made wooden arch bridge but it didn't even move.

"Those marvelous mortise-tenon joints enable the wood bridge to carry a weight beyond our imagination," said Sun.

"Wooden components are perfectly joined together without nails and can stay firm for thousands of years," Sun added.

Among his woodwork, Sun was very proud of a pair of wooden vases. "The components fit each other perfectly and you cannot see a single tiny crack. The vases received an offer for 400,000 yuan, but I did not sell them," Sun said.

In 2017, the company had sales of more than 1 million yuan. Throughout Sun's career, he has always believed that this ancient technique should be passed on to younger generations so more people can know about it.

"Classic traditional art is permanent and must be better preserved," said Sun, who was chosen as one of the preservers of the provincial intangible cultural heritage in Gansu in 2017.

Sun has shared his skills with more than 10 people including his son Sun Yacheng who sees his father as a great inventor.

"It is a hard job to make mortise-tenon structures, but my father succeeds because of his intelligence, even several senior engineers cannot do what he does," said Sun Yacheng.

"It is not easy to maintain inner peace and tranquility in today's busy world, but dealing with the mortise-tenon joint structure can help you," said senior Sun. "Believe it or not, I can spend hours working on a piece with the traditional joint structure."—Xinhua ■

International masterpieces of fine art displayed in Beijing

BEIJING — Art lovers can currently view about 200 fine-art masterpieces from renowned artists of 61 countries in the National Art Museum of China in Beijing.

The art is mostly by 19th and 20th century artists, including Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali, Kathe Kollwitz and Katsushika Hokusai,

according to the museum. "The exhibition would like to highlight the emotional, intellectual and spiritual experience shared by all humans and humanity, surpassing time and space," said Wu Weishan, curator of the museum, at a press conference Friday. "Art is a bridge linking the world

to realize 'a community with a shared future for humanity,'" he said. Besides oil paintings, there are also woodcut prints, sculptures, photographs, watercolor paintings, sketches and lacquer paintings.

The exhibition will run from 29 June to 8 July.—Xinhua ■

Federer, Serena lead Wimbledon against World Cup

LONDON — Roger Federer and Serena Williams bring the curtain up on Wimbledon Monday with the All England Club confident their tournament can comfortably capture the imagination of a public distracted by the World Cup.

Federer, the record eight-time champion, opens proceedings on Centre Court against Serbia's Dusan Lajovic.

Williams, meanwhile, has been shunted off to Court One where she tackles Dutch outsider Arantxa Rus.

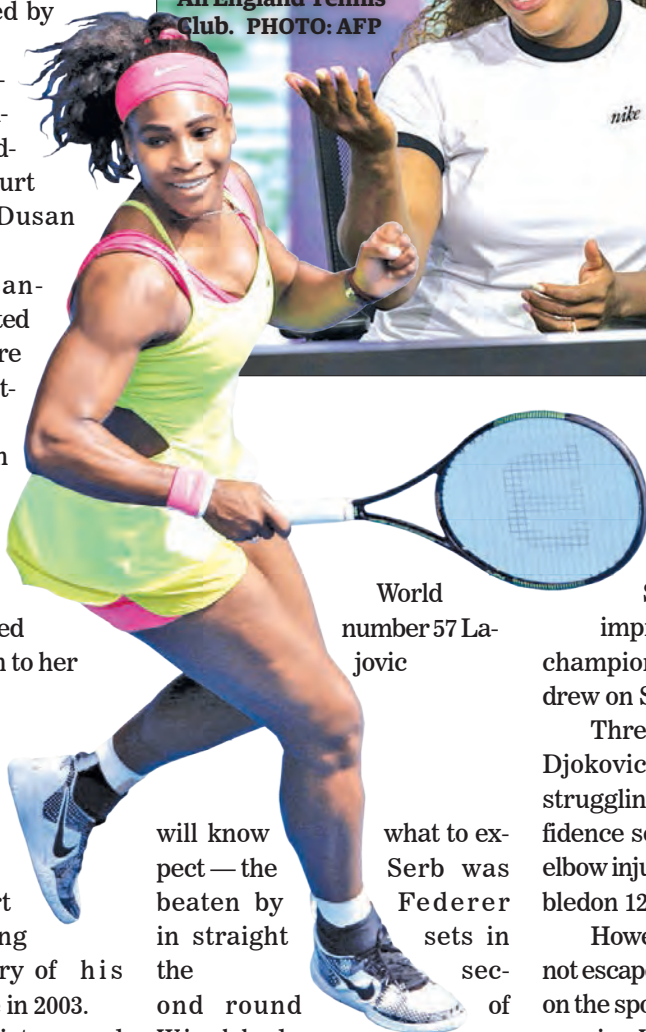
The American returns to the tournament for the first time since claiming a seventh title in 2016 having missed last year to give birth to her daughter.

"I think it remains a little bit nerve-racking. It's a big deal," said Federer on returning to Centre Court and who is marking the 15th anniversary of his first Wimbledon title in 2003.

"Besides the history and the mythical place that it is, you cannot also practice on it.

"The entire atmosphere changes at Wimbledon, and you realise the eyes are on you."

US player Serena Williams speaks at a press conference on 1 July, on the eve of the 2018 Wimbledon Championships, at The All England Tennis Club. PHOTO: AFP



World number 57 Lajovic

Open, not having played a grass court warm-up event.

The 36-year-old Swiss star's odds also improved when two-time champion Andy Murray withdrew on Sunday with injury.

Three-time winner Novak Djokovic, meanwhile, is still struggling with form and confidence so badly bruised by the elbow injury he suffered at Wimbledon 12 months ago.

However, even Federer cannot escape the giant shadow cast on the sporting landscape by the ongoing World Cup.

He was even dragged into a discussion on Sunday over whether or not he and Nadal — 10 years after their epic All England Club final — could be

will know expect — the beaten by in straight the second round Wimbledon in 2017. Federer is the overwhelming favourite to lift a ninth title and 21st career major especially with old rival Rafael Nadal, fresh from an 11th French

what to expect — the beaten by in straight the second round Wimbledon in 2017. Federer is the overwhelming favourite to lift a ninth title and 21st career major especially with old rival Rafael Nadal, fresh from an 11th French



Switzerland's Roger Federer practices at The All England Tennis Club in Wimbledon on 1 July, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

likened to Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

"Sure, yeah. They have a long-standing rivalry. I have the same with Rafa," Federer said.

"They're very different from one another. I guess there's some similarities there as well." The All England Club will stick to its policy of refusing to show World Cup matches on its giant screen adjacent to Court One.

The men's final, meanwhile, will still start at 2pm local time as scheduled on 15 Sunday, July — just two hours before the World Cup final kicks off in Moscow.

Williams, seeded 25 this year despite a ranking of 181, has never played Rus, the world 107 who made the third round in 2012 but

failed to get out of qualifying on her last three visits. Monday's other Centre Court matches see Australian Open champion Caroline Wozniacki face Varvara Lepchenko of the United States.

Bulgarian sixth seed Grigor Dimitrov, a semi-finalist in 2014, completes the programme against three-time major winner Stan Wawrinka.

Also getting their campaigns underway on Monday are five-time women's champion Venus Williams against Johanna Larsson. Third seeded Marin Cilic, the runner-up to Federer in 2017 and this year's Queen's champion, takes on Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka.

—AFP ■

Salah's new contract shows belief in Liverpool: Klopp

LONDON — Egyptian international Mohamed Salah's stunning first season with English Premier League side Liverpool earned him a long-term contract with the club on Monday.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said the fact the 26-year-old striker — who scored 44 goals in just 52 appearances last season — signed such a deal reflected his belief the club were on course for a successful era.

Salah's goals played a large part in Liverpool reaching the Champions League final against Real Madrid.

However, that proved a rare sour note for the player as Salah was slammed to the turf by Real Madrid's Sergio Ramos, causing a painful separation of his left

shoulder. Salah returned to action for the first time in three weeks against Russia at the World Cup in their group match last month but was a shadow of the player that had dazzled for Liverpool and earned him the Africa player of the year award.

The new contract "demonstrates two things very clearly — his belief in Liverpool and our belief in him," Klopp told the Liverpool website.

"I think this news can be seen for what it is; rewarding a person who performed and contributed greatly for the team and the club last season," said Klopp.

"We want world-class talent to see they have a home at Anfield where they can fulfil all their professional dreams and ambitions

— we are working hard together to achieve this.

"When someone like Mo Salah commits and says this place is my home now, it speaks very loudly I think.

"Equally, our commitment to him says we see his value and want him to grow even more and get even better within our environment."

Salah registered the second-highest total of goals in a season in Liverpool's history, just three behind Ian Rush's record of 47 and surpassing Roger Hunt's haul of 42.

Thirty-two of those came in the Premier League, setting a new record in a 38-game season and earning him the Golden Boot.—AFP



**FIFA WORLD CUP
RUSSIA 2018**

20:30 MST (3.7.2018)

Sweden			Switzerland
00:30 MST (4.7.2018)			
Colombia			England

World Cup 2018 Results

Croatia	1 - 1	Denmark
<i>Croatia win on penalties (3 - 2)</i>		
Brazil	2 - 0	Mexico