PROTECTING MYANMAR WORKERS ABROAD: RANDOM JOTTING P-8-9 (OPINION)

NATIONAL
State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Singapore Lecture to be broadcast
PAGE-3

NATIONAL
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Myanmar Theravada Buddha Vihara monastery in Moscow
PAGE-7

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds twelfth-day meeting

THE twelfth-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. During the meeting asterisk-marked questions were answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin, a motion tabled, a report read and submitted and a report discussed by the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.

The twelfth-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Asterisk-marked questions

Daw Khin Than Nu of Mindon constituency posed the first asterisk-marked question and asked if there is a plan to top up a layer and widen the Pathein-Monywa road section in Mindon Township simultaneously. The Deputy Minister replied that topping up a layer and widening the Pathein-Monywa road section in Mindon Township is conducted depending upon the present situation of the road and road layer design. Where necessary, fund for topping up a layer and widening is requested, and depending upon availability of fund, works are conducted, said the Deputy Minister.

SEE PAGE 2

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds twelfth-day meeting

THE twelfth-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session was held yesterday morning at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall. In the meeting asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, two reports read, a bill tabled and a motion discussed.

The twelfth-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Asterisk-marked questions

In the first question of the day, U Naing Ko Ko of Kachin State constituency 12 said Kachin State Hluttaw had conducted a field inspection on Chinese tissue culture banana plantations and found that the plantations were planting in excess of the permitted 40,000 acres, resulting in loss of tax revenue in billions to the country. He posed a question on what sort of action the relevant ministry has taken on this matter. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied that an advance tax of 2 percent was collected in Myitkyina Township tax offices for tissue culture bananas exported through border gates. The state government had formed a team to investigate planting of tissue culture

SEE PAGE 2

INSIDE TODAY

LOCAL NEWS
By-law needed to strictly control illegal wildlife trade
PAGE-4

LOCAL BUSINESS
Maritime trade reaches almost $10 billion in current FY
PAGE-5

WORLD
Ghana opens book of condolence in honor of Kofi Annan
PAGE-10

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds twelfth-day meeting

FROM PAGE 1

Next, U Zaw Min Thein of Laymyethna constituency raised a question on plans to remove trees, bushes, buildings and shops that restrict view and provide extra width to S-bends and U-turns (hairpin turns) on 12 ft. wide and 18 ft. wide Ministry of Construction roads. The Deputy Minister replied that in the bends and turns on important roads on hills and mountains, turn radiuses were widened for ease of big trucks using the roads. Road shoulder width and earth embankment width beside the roads were widened depending upon priority set, and in places where road widening is required, funds are requested and works conducted depending upon availability of the fund, said the Deputy Minister. Clearing of trees and bushes obstructing views will be conducted by the ministry and clearing of squatter huts, shops and roadside sellers on road junctions will be conducted in coordination with the state/region governments, explained the Deputy Minister.

U Wai Hlaing Tun of Pathein constituency then said Pyidawtha Housing Project in the center of Pathein Town consisting of 25 two-storey, four apartments per storey, private buildings and 150 houses were turned into public servant housing, but the process was not done according to law and asked if there is a plan to revert back the public servant housings into private houses as desired by the people. The Deputy Minister said a total of 350 apartments in the 25 two-storey apartment buildings and 150 houses of Pyidawtha House Project were designated as public servant housing during Ayeyawady Region Law and Order Restoration Council meeting 1/94.

Now, people living in 171 of the 350 apartments submitted a request to Ministry of Construction to re-designate the apartments as Pyidawtha Housing. Public servants living in public servant housings are to vacate the apartments when they retire, but public housings are apartments/houses where the public servants and their offspring can live on even after they retire. Converting a public servant housing to private housing is a sensitive matter and it needs to be considered in a nationwide manner,

U Nay Htet Win.

explained the Deputy Minister.

The Ministry has discussed with Ayeyawady Region government and will designate 171 apartments as public apartments while the remaining 179 apartments will remain as public servant apartments, said the Deputy Minister.

Questions raised by U Nay Htet Win of Sinbaungwe constituency, U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency and Daw Ni Shwe Hlyan of Thantlang constituency were also answered by the Deputy Minister.

Motion on implementing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

After the asterisk-marked question session, U Tin Maung Win of Seikkan constituency tabled a motion urging the government to conduct researches on skilled workers, technicians and engineers truly required by the nation, draw up appropriate policy and strategy and establish more Technical High Schools, Government Technical Institutes, Technical Universities in implementing Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Myanmar.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the Hluttaw's agreement to discuss the motion and announced further for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to enroll their names.

Second amendment bill to the Settlement of Labour Disputes Law

Afterwards, Hluttaw was informed about the receipt of second amendment bill to the Settlement of Labour Disputes Law sent by Amyotha Hluttaw with amendments, and bill committee member U Nay Myo Tun read and submitted the bill committee's report.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to table an amendment motion to submit their names.

Discussion on Pyithu Hluttaw Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee report

Following this, U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency, U Khin Maung Thein of Sagaing constituency, U Win Win of Minbu constituency and Dr. Min Thein of YeU constituency discussed the Pyithu Hluttaw Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee report.

Pyithu Hluttaw Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee member U Myo Naing responded to the discussions made by the Hluttaw representatives.

Committee secretary U Zone Teint then tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to agree and accept the report and the Hluttaw agreed and accepted the report.

The thirteenth-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session will be held on 29 August it is learnt. – Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds twelfth-day meeting

FROM PAGE 1

bananas without permission and to ensure that all is done according to the law, said the Deputy Minister.

The second question was raised by U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State constituency 3, and he asked if there is any plan to take action against prawn/shrimp ponds in Yathedaung Township, Rakhine State, that are blocking the two water discharge pipes of Panzinmaw embankment. Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw replied that the farmer embankment is managed by local management committee and as per 2012 ward/village tract administration rule of Ministry of Home Affairs, the ward/village tract administrators are to prevent the blockade of water gates and discharge pipes and action is to be taken against anyone who violate the prohibition. Rakhine State government will be informed about removing the prawn/shrimp ponds that are blocking the water discharge pipes, and action will be taken according to prevailing law if the blockage continues, said the Deputy Minister.

Finally Dr. Zaw Lin Htut of Mon State constituency 9 asked if there is a plan to upgrade state Agriculture Institute (Thaton) into lower Myanmar agricultural college or university. Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw replied that more Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) are required and technical and vocation sector will be promoted in an increasing momentum. Along the China-Myanmar economic corridor, agriculture higher education and TVET programs were conducted in cooperation, agriculture institutes are upgraded to regional agriculture colleges, proposal papers for human resources development were submitted and in the Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS) 2018-2019 to 2022-2023, plans are included to upgrade agriculture institutes to agriculture colleges.

Once this development strategy is approved and permitted, appropriate agriculture institutes will be selected for upgrade to agriculture colleges and required basic buildings, education aid, teaching staff

U Kyaw Kyaw Win.

and upgrading the skills of the teaching staff will be conducted. As such, when this development strategy is implemented, the matters raised in the question will be conducted, said the Deputy Minister.

Reading of reports

After the asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Ohn Kyi read and explained the committee report on Traditional Medicine Council Bill, approved and sent with amendment by Pyithu Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than then obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and approved the bill.

Next, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw submitted to the Hluttaw the Boundary Delineation Bill and Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Aung Thein read and explained the committee report on the Boundary Delineation Bill. This was followed by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announcing for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill to enroll their names.

Tabling of a bill

Afterwards, U Soe Moe of Ayeyawady Region constituency 1 tabled a bill amending the Bar Council Act to be discussed in the Hluttaw. It was supported by Daw Myat Thida Tun of Mon State constituency 5.

After taking the decision of the Hluttaw to accept and discuss the bill, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the agreement of the Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker also informed the Hluttaw on the receipt of Myanmar Mines Rules sent by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments and announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss it to enroll their names.

Hluttaw debates a motion

A motion tabled by U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8 urging the government to control and manage the management committee, development committee and farmland management committee to ensure that there is no corruption, because plots were formed on many farms and plantation lands and sold off illegally, causing losses of farms and plantation lands, and lands set aside for expansion of towns and villages were also lost in a similar manner, was discussed by U Mya Min Swe of Magway constituency 9, U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency 4, Naw Chris Tun @ Dr. Arkar Moe of Kayin State constituency 7, U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State constituency 3 and U Kyaw Kyaw Win of Rakhine State constituency 8.

The thirteenth-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 29 August, it is learnt. – Aung Ye Thwin ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives Netherlands Ambassador to Myanmar

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat meets with Netherlands Ambassador Mr. Wouter Jurgens in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received Netherlands Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Wouter Jurgens at Pyithu Hluttaw Building, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, matters relating to increasing bilateral relations, legislative works of the Hluttaw, establishing peace in the country, democracy reforms, investment, water resources management and agriculture were openly discussed and views exchanged.

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

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives Netherlands Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Netherlands Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Wouter Jurgens at Union Attorney General office guest hall yesterday morning.

At the meeting, implementing rule of law works that is basis in transition to democracy, improving legal framework to protect investments, increasing protection of human rights, increasing role of media sector, cooperation between legal experts of the two countries and sharing experiences and sending of state scholars were discussed.

Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo holds talks with Netherlands Ambassador Mr. Wouter Jurgens in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Present at the meeting were Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint, Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin and director Dr. Kyi Kyi Than Aung. —Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor, Thai PM exchange congratulatory message for 70 years of Myanmar-Thai relations

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and H.E. General Prayut Chan-O-Cha (Ret.), Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, exchanged congratulatory messages on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Thailand, which falls on 24 August 2018.—Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Singapore Lecture to be broadcast

A LECTURE titled "Democratic Transition in Myanmar: Challenges and the Way Forward" delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Singapore will be broadcast on Myanmar Television with Myanmar subtitles. The first part of the lecture will be broadcast on 23 August and the second part of the lecture will be broadcast on 24 August after the 8 pm local news. The complete discussion will be broadcast on 25 August after the 8 pm local news, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification 115/2018

12th Waxing of Wagaung, 1380 ME
23 August, 2018

Granting permission to "The People's Party" to register as a political party

THE People's Party headquartered at No. 279, first floor (B), at Thumingala Street, Ward 9, in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, has been permitted to register as a political party in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law as of 23 August 2018.

The registration number of The People's Party is 110.

(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

By-law needed to strictly control illegal wildlife trade

UPON institution of a by-law for the protection of wildlife and conservation of natural areas, illegal wildlife trade can be strictly controlled, said U Thein Toe, director of Yangon Region Forest Department.

He mentioned that at a meeting with stakeholders concerned in order to receive suggestions for formulation of a by-law for protection of wildlife and conservation of natural areas.

"Crime and punishment under previous law is no longer relevant. New law seems to cover criminal liability and so, punishments will vary depending on cases for fully and partially protected wildlife animals. This move is hoped to be effective in cracking down on illegal wildlife trade in border areas", said U Thein Toe.

Myanmar has become an illegal wildlife trading hub with an increasing demand of wildlife products. World Wildlife Fund (WWF) reports that there is a central big market for illegal wildlife trade in Golden Triangle area where China, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand border areas meet. The Department of Forest is conducting awareness campaigns to stop shops selling wildlife animal souvenirs and cuisines at pagoda precincts, airports and markets.

In order to be adaptable with changing times, the Protection of Wildlife and Protected Areas Law 1994 was revised and enacted on 21 May 2018. —Min Thit (MNA) ■

PHOTO: WWF-GERMANY

Kayin wrist-tying event celebrated in Minhla Township

Kayin ethnic people celebrating Kayin wrist-tying event in Minhla Township. **PHOTO: PAUKSA (MINHLA)**

UNDER the supervision of Bago Region Kayin ethnic affairs minister, a Kayin wrist-tying ceremony was held at Myoma monastery, Ward-2, Minhla Township on 21 August around 9 am.

At the ceremony, Kayin people paid respect to the Kayin national flag and sang Kayin national song. Then, Gyobingauk Town, Chaunggwa village Sayadaw delivered a sermon.

Bago Region Kayin Ethnic Affairs Minister Naw Pwai Say explained about the nine items typically included in the wrist-tying ceremony. The event was held with the aim to reunite Kayin people living away from their families and relatives, and to prevent them from forgetting their cultural traditions.

Region Kayin Literature and Culture Committee deputy chairman Dr. Saw Kyi Soe, District Kayin Literature and Culture Committee chairman Saw Thaung Gyi and Minhla Township administrator U Khin Maung Zaw explained about Kayin people maintaining their traditional language and culture. Minhla Township representative Naw Su Su Htaw gave a speech of appreciation.

At the Kayin wrist-tying ceremony, the minister and other dignitaries tied white threads around each other's wrists. About 1,200 Kayin people from the district attended the ceremony. Then, they treated tradition foods and performed traditional dances to the guests.

The Kayin wrist-tying ceremony is held during the month of Wagaung, or August, every year. Wrist-tying is meant to protect children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren from harm and evil spirits.—Pauksa (Minhla) ■

Relief camps opened due to water level rising again in Thanlwin River

AUTHORITIES have opened new flood relief camps as water level in Thanlwin River has reached above its danger level, following continuous rain in Kayin State, Hpa-an District, Hlaingbwe Township, Shwe Gun Village.

The water level in Thanlwin River reached 1158 cm on the morning of August 21 and in Shwe Gun Village above the danger level of 980 cm. Therefore, authorities opened a new flood relief camp and there are now about 1,861 persons from 411 families temporarily sheltering at the camp.

Township administrator, officials, social organization members and welfare organizations are planning to donate rice, food supplies and personal effects to the victims from the flooded areas.

Following continuous rain, people are facing difficulties to travel by cars and motorbikes to Shwe Gun, Kyunpako, Jo Chaung and Thayargon villages. Authorities are providing motor boats for the people to travel safely. —Thein Than (IPRD) ■

Maritime trade reaches almost $10 billion in current FY

THE value of trade through shipping between Myanmar and international traders totalled US$9.997 billion since this April, increasing by $1.226 billion from this time last fiscal year, according to the official statistics issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

At this time in the last FY, maritime trade was $8.8 billion in total, with exports worth $3.124 billion and imports worth $5.646 billion. The country's value of imports is usually greater than its exports. Between 1 April and 10 August this year, the country's export was valued at $4 billion while its imports reached nearly $6 billion.

When compared with the same period in the last year, this year saw an increase in value of marine export/import. According to the ministry's data, the country's export during the period went up by $876 million and its imports also increased by $349 million.

The overall value of overseas trade as of 10 August this year exceeded $13 billion, which shows an increase by $1.6 billion in comparison with this time last year.

Approximately 80 per cent of the country's total trade is delivered by sea. Myanmar primarily imports capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer products, whereas it exports seven major groups of commodities, such as agricultural, animal and aquaculture products, forest-based products, minerals, manufacturing goods and other miscellaneous items.

According to the ministry's annual statistical report, the country's maritime trade was valued at $25.019 billion during the last FY. The external trade by sea was $14.67 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, $20.37 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, $22.37 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, $20.56 billion in the 2015-2016 FY and $21.43 billion in the 2016-2017 FY.—Shwe Khine

Cargo vessels carrying containers in the Yangon River. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

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Private sector import of capital goods decrease by $30 million

THE value of capital goods imported into Myanmar by private sector between 1 April and 10 August this year reached US$2.117 billion, a decrease in value by $30 million, against the same period in the last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period in the last 2017-2018 FY, the private sector bought $2.148 billion worth of capital goods.

Despite decrease in value of capital goods by private sector this year, the import of the same products by public sector increased by over $120 million.

The ministry's data showed that the total import value between Myanmar and international countries was $7.032 billion over the first 132 days of this FY, including $458.473 million by the private sector and $6.573 billion by the public sector. The figures increased by $381 million matched against the last FY. This year, the country imported semi-finished goods worth $2.723 billion and consumer goods worth $1.812 million.

Myanmar conducts external trade with ASEAN members, European Union member states, some island nations, Asian and African states, as well as a few western countries, with goods mainly being transported by sea.—Swe Nyein ■

Export surpasses import in border trade

MYANMAR'S export outperformed import, while carrying out border trade with the neighbouring countries — China, Thailand, India and Bangladesh — between 1 April and 10 August of six-month interim period prior to next fiscal year 2018-2019, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Over the past four months, Myanmar's export through border gates is worth US$1.98 billion whereas import is valued at $1 billion. Border trade this year totaled $3 billion, which is up by $431 million compared to similar period of last Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Myanmar's trade flows in and out of the following border gates: Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpaikti, Kengtung, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Tachilek, Mawtaung, Meisei, Sittway, Maungtaw, Tamu and Reed. Myawady, Tachilek, Sittway, Meisei and Hteekhee show higher import than export. The remainders are seen export surpassing import.

Border trade over past four months were registered at $2.17 billion at Muse, $74 million at Lwejel, $118 million at Chinshwehaw, $78.9 million at Kanpaikti, $0.87 million at Kengtung, $32 million at Tachilek, $287 million at Myawady, $48 million at Kawthoung, $84.5 million at Myeik, $3 million at Hteekhee, $3.5 million at Mawtaung, $0.38 million at Mawse, $50 million at Sittway, $3.7 million at Maungtaw, $46 million at Tamu and $12.4 million at Reed gates respectively.

Myanmar exports agro products, fishery products, livestock, minerals and other products, while machinery, chemicals, fertilizers, raw materials and consumer goods are imported into the country.—GNLM ■

EAOs donate cash assistance for flood victims nationwide

Ethnic armed organizations -EAOs donated cash to flood affected people through the Peace Commission yesterday.

Representatives of the Wa Special Region-2, on behalf of EAOs, handed over K436.68 million to the Peace Commission at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Yangon.

Speaking at the ceremony, Peace Commission Chair Dr Tin Myo Win said it was a noble donation because it supported the right things to real people in need at the right time.

As for now, ethnic people are giving their special aid for the flood affected ethnic people in Myanmar and that means the same family members are helping each other. Whatever the differences seen in the family, they have the same goal, peace. In building trust, understanding and friendship, helping each other can really work towards peace, said the Peace Commission Chair. Next, head of representatives of Wa Special Region-2 U Nyi Yann explained the aims of the donation and donated Ks 436.68 million to the Chairperson of the Peace Commission and a certificate of honour was given back to donor U Nyi Yann.

Member of the Union Peace Commission's peace assistant group U Moe Zaw Oo said to the media that, "We have arranged to make donations in Kayin State, Mon State, Taninthayi and Bago regions because these regions were affected by the floods severely. This is the first organization which has donated cash assistance for flood affected people to the Union Peace Commission. The reason they came to donate at the commission is because they are all ethnic kin."

U Nyi Yann from Wa Special Region-2 handing over cash donation to Chairperson of the Peace Commission Dr Tin Myo Win. **PHOTO: MNA**

There will be much more benefits than usual as ethnic people are donating for the ethnic people affected by floods in Mon State, Kayin State and Taninthayi region and it can be said that unity plus friendship were seen between the ethnics on the road to peace, he added. Also present at the ceremony were, Vice Chairperson of the Union Peace Commission U Thein Zaw and members of the Secretariat of the UPDJC Lt-Gen U Khin Zaw Oo (Retd), U Naing Ngan Lin, Dr. Aung TunThet, U Hla Maung Shwe and representatives led by U Nyi Yann and U San Shwe from Wa Special Region (2).— Myanmar News Agency ■

Department of Population launches redesigned website

Launching ceremony of Department of Population's website held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Department of Population under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and OneMap Myanmar have collaborated to introduce the Department of Population's website and explain about the REDATAM Database for the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census and online interactive maps in a launch event held at M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Attending the launch event were Permanent Secretary U Aye Lwin from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, ministry officials, UNFPA representative Ms. Janet E. Jackson, officials from OneMap Myanmar and invited guests.

Permanent Secretary U Aye Lwin spoke at the event, saying that the ability to receive accurate news and information quickly is important for the country's economic development. He said his ministry has successfully compiled the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census for the first time in 30 years, and results of the census have been fully publicized at each level.

The permanent secretary said the results from the census have been uploaded to their website and the website has been completely redesigned with technological assistance from OneMap Myanmar for a smoother experience and easier access. He also said the REDATAM Database has been formulated so that people can compile their own statistics and tables for use in their projects and research. He added that support will be given if 10 per cent of micro data from the 2014 Census is requested and will further assist regional statistics.

Following were explanations by UNFPA representative Ms. Janet E. Jackson about UNFPA's support in conducting the census, an official from OneMap Myanmar on the website's new designs, and the Department of Population's Acting Director-General Dr. Nyi Nyi on the website and its functions.

Officials also explained about the interactive maps, REDATAM Database and excel date, and micro data launching before conducting a Q&A session with the attendants.

Information relating to the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, including the national-level reports, fifteen reports from Nay Pyi Taw and regions and states, thirteen research reports, maps charting the census, and over 400 township and sub-township reports, have been uploaded to www.dop.gov.mm for ease of access.

The new design of the website was accomplished with support from OneMap Myanmar and displays information separated into seven categories for the census, publications relating to the census, data and maps, activities, the history of the department and exhibiton room.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Seminar on copyright and collective management held in Yangon

A JOINT seminar by the Ministry of Education, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Japan's Agency for Cultural Affairs (ACA) was held in Yangon's Melia Hotel yesterday with the title "Awareness Seminar on Copyright System and Collective Management Organization (CMO)".

As the first order of business, Dr. Myint Thein, Rector of the Yangon Technological University, and Mr. Tsunashige Shirotori, Director of the Office for Promoting Works Distribution Copyright Division, Japan Copyright Office, Agency for Cultural Affairs, both respectively delivered the opening speech.

As the seminar progressed, presentations on various titles were made including 'Status of the Establishment of IP Systems in Myanmar' by Director Dr. Hnin Nwe Aye of the Copyright Department under the MOE's Department of Research and Innovation, 'Copyright System of Myanmar and Knowledge on CMO' by Dr. Nwe Yi Win, 'Copyright System in the Music Industry in Myanmar' by Vice-Chair Composer U Myint Moe Aung of Myanmar Performance Rights Organization (MPRO), 'Collective Management System in Japan' by Mr. Tsunashige Shirotori, Director of Japan's ACA, 'Lesson Learned of Japanese CMO' by Mr. Satoshi Watanabe, and expert from the Japanese Society for Rights of Authors, Composers and Publishers (JASRAC), and 'Lesson Learned of International CMO' by Mr. Benjamin Ng, the Asia-Pacific Regional Director for International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC).

Attending the seminar were officials from the Office of the Chief Justice of the Union, Office of the Union Attorney-General, ministries, representatives from the Myanmar Literature and Fine Arts Association, the Intellectual Property Proprietors Association of Myanmar (IPPAM), legal experts and professionals, students and faculty from Yangon University, representatives from the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar (JCCM), and officials from MOE's Copyright Department.

The seminar primarily focused on reviewing opportunities and the current state of affairs for literature and the fine arts, effective implementation of a collective management system for copyright issues, the tasks and responsibilities of a CMO, laying the foundation for establishing CMOs in the future, and collecting relevant news and information. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Myanmar Theravada Buddha Vihara monastery in Moscow

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party who are in Russian Federation visited Myanmar Theravada Buddha Vihara monastery yesterday morning.

At first, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party pay homage to Buddha image in the monastery and Sitagu Sayadaw Ashin Nannissara who was in Russian Federation to propagate Buddhism.

Sitagu Sayadaw spoke of matters need to be done for the long term sustenance of Myanmar Theravada Buddha Vihara monastery in Moscow and the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services explained about the status of donation toward the long term sustenance of the monastery.

Next, Sitagu Sayadaw and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services inspected the site in the monastery compound where a Dhammayone (Congregation Hall) will be built, monastery expansion works conducted, construction of a Shwezigon Pagoda replica in the compound of the cultures of the world museum compound and status of constructing a Bagan era Dhammasetkya Mudra Budha image and discussed religious matters.

Afterwards, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services donated Waso Robe and offertories to Sitagu Sayadaw and Tatmadaw senior officers donated Waso Robe to the Sanghas.

Later, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services donated cash to monastery trustee and offered day 'soon' (lunch) to Sitagu Sayadaw and Sanghas. Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services then inspected the expansion site of the monastery according to the Facebook of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—Myanmar News Agency

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing donates Waso Robe to Sitagu Sayadaw Ashin Nannissara in Moscow. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES FACEBOOK**

Union Minister U Ohn Win holds talks with Japanese Deputy Mayor Mr. Atsuhito Sadakari yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Ohn Win receives Deputy Mayor of Fukuoka Prefecture

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, U Ohn Win, received the Deputy Mayor of Fukuoka Prefecture in Japan, Mr. Atsuhito Sadakari, and his delegation at the union minister's office yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed promoting bilateral relations between Myanmar and Japan, marking Yangon City and Fukuoka City as sister cities and their processes, the living conditions of animals at the Fukuoka City Zoological Garden and its processes, negotiations on trading wildlife between the two countries so that Fukuoka can exhibit elephants; a species that have been missing from the Japanese zoo since 2017; exchanging wildlife conservation techniques, providing trainings, providing support for medical supplies and equipment, and other collaborative ventures.—Myanamr News Agency

Local, foreign media gather news in Maungtaw Township

A GROUP of journalists from domestic and foreign media agencies departed from Sittway for Maungtaw yesterday to gather news on the ground concerning Maungtaw District's development, rehabilitation and relocation processes.

The media group first met with Maungtaw District Deputy Administrator U Ye Htoo, District Police Superintendent Police Lt-Colonel Tun Myint Tun and other officials at the Maungtaw District General Administration Office.

During the meeting, Deputy Administrator U Ye Htoo explained about the UEHRD-facilitated repatriation process for returnees, rebuilding houses in the district, and the construction and completion of reception centers, while Police Lt-Col Tun Myint Tun explained about security measures taken. This was followed by a Q&A session between the media group and officials.

In the afternoon, the media group travelled to Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre, viewing the structure and gathering news.

The media group then travelled to Shwe Zar Village and interviewed the Muslims, Hindus and local residents peacefully co-existing.—Ramanya, Myo Thu Hein

Journalists meeting with officials at the Office of the Maungtaw District General Administration Department in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MAUNG KHAING SOE (DISTRICT IPRD)**

Rice provided to flood victims in Taninthayi Region

RELIEF Aid Distribution Team distributed rice bags donated by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Taninthayi region government to a total of 13,718 victims in ten temporary relief camps on 23 August, according to the temporary relief camp administration office.

Following continuous heavy rain that starts on 15 July, there are flood in Taninthayi Township, Myeik District, Taninthayi Region. The river remain flooded in Taninthayi Region to date. The ten temporary relief camps are monasteries in Chaunggyi Ward, Myanmar Indaw Village, Kyauk Mee Kyaung Village, Chaung Lamu Village and Ban Thae Village, Taninthayi hall, Chaung Nge Avenue school, Kyein Chaung school, Myay Ma Ohn village hill and Chaung Lamu village school.

There are a total of 13,718 flood victims including 6,762 flood victims from 1,338 households who were moved to their relative houses and 6,956 flood victims from 1,405 households who were moved to the ten temporary shelter camps, according to announcement released by temporary relief camp administration office.—Nan Thar Yi

None of us can tackle threats of terrorism alone

THE terrorist attacks on security forces and people in Rakhine State happened in 2016 and 2017 while the government was making efforts to bring peace and development to the state.

Myanmar is faced with terrorism which is a dangerous trend also for the region.

The communal violence in 2012 and the terrorist attacks by the ARSA in 2016 and 2017 also intensified the mistrust which has existed between the two different communities for decades.

The danger of terrorist activities, which was the initial cause of events leading to the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine, remains real threat.

Unless this security challenge is addressed, the risk of inter-communal violence will remain.

It is a threat that could have grave consequences not just for Myanmar but also for other countries in our region and beyond. Terrorism should not be condoned in any form for any reason.

We have strengthened our border guard police capacity to ensure the safety of the returnees as well as all other communities – Rakhine, Muslim, Daingnet, Mro, Thet, Maramagyi and Hindu. They all are victims of violence and terrorism. Security needs to be ensured for all.

> “To resolve our challenges, we are ready to continue to work with the international community.

To resolve our challenges, we are ready to continue to work with the international community. Nowhere is far away from anywhere when it comes to terrorism, and none of us can tackle this threat alone.

We hope that the international community, on their part, will pursue a more objective and balanced approach to help overcome the challenges Myanmar is facing including the terrorism threat.

They must support the government’s efforts to build trust between the two different communities in Rakhine because we believe that lack of mutual understanding between the two communities will lead to mutual suspicion and hostility.

The outside world should stop their hate narratives which have driven wedges between the two communities. Taking non-constructive measures would be counterproductive, as it will further polarize the communities and undermine the efforts for the long-term objective of reconciliation.

We thank all our friends near and far who are helping us in different ways to resolve the challenges in Rakhine and thus helping our nascent democratic transition to succeed.

We who are living through the transition in Myanmar view it differently from those who observe it from the outside and who will remain untouched by its outcome.

We believe that the better choice before us is to recognize the reality of the situation on the ground and accommodate each other’s concerns. We must work together to build trust and confidence in order to achieve lasting peace, stability and development in Rakhine as well as to counter the threat of terrorism in our region.

Protecting Myanmar workers abroad: Random Jotting

By Sayar Mya (MOFA)

A FEW days back, the author came across a news item reported by Myanmar News Agency in the Global New Light of Myanmar (18 August 2018) about the ordeal and repatriation of 14 stranded Myanmar migrant workers from Saudi Arabia. Amidst unfortunate conditions and problematic events in a foreign country, it was indeed a sad story, but the author is happy to learn that they arrived back safe and sound and now at home sweet home.

It was learnt that fourteen Myanmar migrant workers, who were denied getting final exit visa by their employers for leaving their jobs in Riyadh of Saudi Arabia, returned Yangon on 17 August 2018, after negotiation between Myanmar government and Saudi authorities.

In bringing them back, the Consular and Legal Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar Embassy in Riyadh, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population negotiated with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), employers of the workers and Saudi authorities.

The 14 workers are from a small group of 26 persons who left for Saudi Arabia since December 2010 to work there under a six-year contract with Dar Al Samara Est under General Contracting. Of them, one returned home with his own arrangement after the contract, but the remaining workers left their jobs before the terms of contract were completed due to lack of salary, threats and food issues.

Eleven workers returned home under their own arrangement, following the negotiations between the Myanmar Embassy and Saudi authorities. The last batch of 14 workers were exempted from paying tax, visa fees and fine, thanks to the negotiations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Saudi authorities. The IOM paid flight expenses for the workers.

Myanmar stance on migrant workers

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi called for improving Myanmar migrant workers’ access to education and healthcare services in Thailand during her talks with Thai Prime Minister Retired General Prayuth Chanocha at the Government House in Thailand on 23 June 2016.

In his response, the Thai Prime Minister said that measures will be taken to give Myanmar migrant workers the rights to equal treatment as Thai workers, saying that 500 million Baht have been allocated to all migrant workers to access education and 500 million Baht for healthcare services.

In her speech, the State Counsellor requested the Thai Prime Minister to allow Myanmar migrant workers to work legally in Thailand as soon as possible and to protect Myanmar migrants working on fishing boats against human trafficking and torture by local authorities.

People-centered policy

In order to clarify the trajectory of Myanmar’s foreign policy, a formal foreign policy pronouncement was issued in the capital city of Nay Pyi Taw on 22 April 2016, where State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pledged that the government would adopt a people-centered policy, emphasizing the relations between peoples of different countries, and creating friendly and cooperative relations among them.

Safeguarding the Myanmar nationals

While meeting with 18 Myanmar ambassadors from the Asian Region in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 June 2016, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi urged them to work for the country through dynamic diplomacy and to protect and to save from harm Myanmar nationals on social and humanitarian grounds.

During the historic visit to London in September 2016, the State Counsellor met with 12 Myanmar ambassadors assigned in countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. During the meeting, the State Counsellor clarified priorities in Myanmar as well as the country’s foreign policy, saying that Myanmar has friendly relations with all countries in the world, practicing the non-aligned policy. She urged the diplomats to give protection to Myanmar citizens in the countries in which they are assigned and to protect the interests of Myanmar. She also clarified undertakings for development of the political, economic and social sectors of the country.

Filipino migrant workers

While serving abroad for over 16 years in the Myanmar Foreign Service, the writer has noticed the systematic and pragmatic approach of the diplomats from the Philippines in protecting and safeguarding their nationals. This submission of observation regarding the Philippines authorities does not necessarily mean to undermine our own existing methods and procedures, because they are “so far so good”. However, the writer would like to share some positive outlooks of our neighbor.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) is an agency of the Government of the Philippines responsible for overseeing the benefits of the overseas employment program of the Philippines. It is the main government agency assigned to monitor and supervise recruitment agencies in the Philippines. The POEA's office is located at EDSA corner Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.

The Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995 instituted State policies of overseas employment and established standards for protection and promotion of welfare for migrant workers and their families, and for overseas Filipinos in distress. Regarding deployment of migrant workers, the act mandates, "The State shall deploy overseas Filipino workers only in countries where the rights of Filipino migrant workers are protected."

Deployment restrictions

On 1 November 2011, the POEA Governing Board (GB) published GB Resolution No. 7, which specifies a list of 41 countries where OFWs (Overseas Filipino Workers) cannot be deployed for non-compliance with the guarantees required under R.A. 10022. In section (1) of R.A. 10022, it is mentioned that the State shall, at all times, uphold the dignity of its citizens whether in country or overseas, in general, and Filipino migrant workers, in particular, continuously monitor international conventions, adopt/be signatory to and ratify those that guarantee protection to migrant workers, and endeavor to enter into bilateral agreements with countries hosting overseas Filipino workers.

As of November 2011, the POEA lists 125 countries as being accommodating with the guarantees required under R.A. 10022.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has reaffirmed on 21 July 2018 its commitment to the administration’s reforms, as President Duterte delivered his third State of the Nation Address.

In a statement, Philippine Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said his department is “steadfast in according full protection to workers by ensuring job security pursuant to the directive of the President.”

Bello said the DOLE has taken initiatives to pursue the effective implementation of the workers rights to security of tenure and “eliminate practices that circumvent and avoid the law prohibiting illegal contractual arrangements.”

The department also stated it has established 18 One-Stop Service Centers for overseas Filipino workers across the country, which integrates frontline services of key government agencies.

Repatriation is indeed not a big deal

In conclusion, the author of this article would like to quote what Secretary Bello has argued.

“We have likewise repatriated almost 22,000 migrant workers in distress since 2016,” Bello said.

The department also noted it has signed bilateral labor agreements with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Cambodia, to strengthen the protection on migrant workers.

The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families is a United Nations multilateral treaty governing the protection of migrant workers and families. Signed on 18 December 1990, it entered into force on 1 July 2003 after the threshold of 20 ratifying States was reached in March 2003. The Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) monitors implementation of the convention, and is one of the seven UN-linked human rights treaty bodies.

All persons, regardless of their nationality, race, legal or other status, are entitled to fundamental human rights and basic labor protections, including migrant workers and their families. Migrants are also entitled to certain human rights and protections specifically linked to their vulnerable status.

Allow me to conclude by saying, “Let us protect our migrant workers” as much as we could.

■

Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons

Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

13th September

The entire public needs to participate, Trafficking in persons to eliminate...

2018 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day’s Objectives

- To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combating human trafficking as a national duty;
- To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
- To protect and care trafficked victims with empathy; and
- To strengthen cooperation and coordination among all counter trafficking stakeholders – government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and general public.

Flood Bulletin
(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 23-8-2018)

Flood condition of Sittoung River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (2½) feet at Madauk above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (5) days.

Flood condition of Thanlwin River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River has exceeded by about (4) feet at Hpa-an above its danger level. It may fall about (1½) feet during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised that people who have settled near the river banks and low lying area in Madauk and Hpa-an Township, to take precautionary measures.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 23 August 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 24 AUGUST 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago regions, Chin State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Sagaing and Bago regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-9)feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (5 -7)feet in off and along Rakhine Coasts.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon states.
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 AUGUST 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 AUGUST 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 AUGUST 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Ghana opens book of condolence in honor of Kofi Annan

ACCRA — People from all walks of life have been trooping to the Accra International Conference Center (AICC) to sign the book of condolence opened here on Wednesday in honor of late former United Nations (UN) Secretary General Kofi Annan.

The former head of the global body passed away on Saturday at a hospital in Bern, Switzerland, after a short illness.

Among the dignitaries who paid tribute to the late international statesman was Anne-Claire Dufay, Country Representative of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"We are all saddened by the departing of Hon. Kofi Annan, former Secretary General. We have been truly inspired by Kofi Annan. I personally met him in East Timor in the year 2000 after the conflict," the UNICEF official stated. She recalled the visit by the late former Secretary General where he really inspired the UN staff with his words related to peace and human rights.

"So we would like to extend our deepest condolences to his wife and his family and friends. He will continue to inspire all of us at the United Nations and the UNICEF," she added.

The Memory Table created for the condolence book is decorated in flowers with the flag of Ghana set at half mast behind it and photos of the late octogenarian. Also paying tribute to Kofi Annan was Ghana's Minister for Development Planning George Gyan-Barfuor and clergyman Lawrence Tetteh.

"Saturday we heard about the demise of Kofi Annan. It's a big blow not only to Ghana but also to the international community because someone who has ascended to the throne of Secretary-General of the UN is not a small achievement," Ghanaian journalist, Henry Martinson told Xinhua. "What we should be doing is to remember some of his legacies," Martinson urged.

The book of condolence will remain open till next Wednesday to allow the general public to pay tributes to Kofi Annan.

President Nana Akufo-Addo signed the book of condolence opened in Kofi Annan's family house on Sunday.—Xinhua ■

Photo taken on 22 August 2018 shows the Memory Table created for the condolence book in honor of late former United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the Accra International Conference Center (AICC) in Accra, captial of Ghana. People from all walks of life have been trooping here to sign the condolence book opened here on Wednesday in honor of the former head of the global body. Annan died on Aug. 18 in Switzerland, at the age of 80. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

ICRC calls for swift humanitarian support to displaced Ethiopians from inter-communal conflict

ADDIS ABABA — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Wednesday called for swift measures to meet the humanitarian needs of nearly one million people who are displaced due to inter-communal violence in Ethiopia.

The UN migration agency has recently revealed that since April this year some 970,000 people have fled their homes due to fighting between communities along the border of Ethiopia's Gedeo Zone in the Southern region and West Guji Zone in Ethiopia's largest Oromia region.

According to the ICRC, while aid has increased in recent weeks, "it is still insufficient to meet the needs of the displaced. With schools being used as shelters and so many children still displaced, it could also be difficult for students to return to school when the new academic year starts in September."

"Schools, factories, and courthouses are just a few of the buildings that now act as shelters for displaced families in southern Ethiopia after a wave of inter-communal clashes along the border areas of Gedeo and West Guji zones drove nearly one million people from their homes," the ICRC said in a statement on Wednesday.

People often lack food and clean water, and are sleeping on the floor with no blankets or mats.

Kochere district in Gedeo zone has seen its population nearly double from 130,000 people to more than 230,000, according to the ICRC.

The influx of displaced people has also put a heavy strain on host communities, many of whom were already struggling with food insecurity.

Hospitals and clinics have also been overwhelmed by the sharp increase in patients, according to ICRC.

"We have seen health centers in the area faced with an enormous problem.

They were working ok, but suddenly, they have got more than double the population coming in and many, many of those people who are coming in are sick already," the statement quoted James Reynolds, ICRC's Head of Delegation in Ethiopia.

"When something like that happens, the conditions in which those people are living are really very, very difficult," Reynolds added.

The UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) last month released 15 million US dollars to urgently scale up humanitarian assistance to people affected by escalating inter-communal violence in Ethiopia. —Xinhua ■

The ICRC called for swift measures to meet the humanitarian needs of displaced people due to inter-communal violence in Ethiopia. **PHOTO:XINHUA**

Saudi Arabia insists 'committed' to Aramco IPO

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia on Thursday rejected reports that Aramco's planned initial public offering had been scrapped, saying the kingdom had stepped up preparations for the stock market debut of the state energy giant.

"The government remains committed to the IPO of Saudi Aramco at a time of its own choosing when conditions are optimum," energy minister Khalid al-Falih said in a statement.

The plan to float around five percent of Aramco -- expected to be the world's largest stock sale -- forms the cornerstone of a reform programme envisaged by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to wean the economy off its reliance on oil.

But Aramco executives have repeatedly cited unfavourable market conditions to push back the IPO, earlier scheduled for this year, with many observers sceptical whether the listing will happen at all.

Fresh speculation about the listing swirled late Wednesday after a media report that the kingdom had halted the plan and financial advisors working on it had been disbanded.

London, New York and Hong Kong have all vied for a slice of the much-touted IPO.

But experts say Aramco's inability to generate a $2 trillion valuation sought by the crown prince and legal concerns that the IPO will invite unprecedented scrutiny to the company have prompted indecision and delays.

Falih, however, insisted that the kingdom had boosted preparations for the listing.

"The government has undertaken a number of major preparatory measures including issuing a new income tax law as it relates to hydrocarbons activities, reissuing a long-term exclusive concession, and appointing a new board of directors," Falih said.

Falih refused to specify a possible timing for the IPO, reiterating that it depended on factors such as "favourable market conditions and a downstream acquisition which the company will pursue in the next few months".

He did not elaborate on the acquisition but Aramco chief executive Amin Nasser last month confirmed preliminary talks to acquire a "strategic stake" in SABIC, the world's fourth largest petrochemicals company that is 70 percent owned by the government-run Public Investment Fund (PIF).

Nasser had acknowledged in an interview to Al-Arabiya television that a potential SABIC deal would "affect the time frame for Aramco's initial public offering".

Observers see the acquisition of a stake from PIF as a complex alternative to raise much-needed cash for the kingdom's top sovereign wealth fund.—AFP ■

Trump denies wrongdoing, slams Cohen 'stories' on hush payments

US President Donald Trump was dealt back-to-back blows in the cases of his former lawyer Michael Cohen (L) and former campaign chairman Paul Manafort (R).
PHOTO: AFP

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump insisted Wednesday he did nothing wrong after his longtime attorney implicated him in illicit hush payments made before the 2016 election, as experts warned the legal maelstrom swirling around the Republican leader could further threaten his presidency.

On perhaps the worst day of Trump's tumultuous time in office, his former fixer Michael Cohen told a federal judge Tuesday he had made illegal campaign contributions — in the form of payments to silence women alleging affairs with Trump — at his boss's request.

Cohen's statements came on a day of head-spinning political drama for Trump, whose former campaign chief Paul Manafort was found guilty within the same hour of federal tax and bank fraud, in the first case sent to trial by the special prosecutor probing Russian meddling in the 2016 election. While the full implications for the real estate mogul-turned-president remain unclear, Cohen's statements — and the prospect of more revelations to come — puts Trump in legal peril. But the mercurial US leader appeared determined to ride out the latest storm.

After first accusing Cohen of making up "stories" to cut a plea deal, he then tweeted that the lawyer's actions were "not a crime," and went further in an interview with "Fox and Friends," saying they were "not even a campaign violation."

In that interview, Trump said the hush payments were financed with his own money — to which Cohen had access -- and that while he had no knowledge of them at the time, he had since been fully transparent.

"My first question when I heard about it was, 'Did they come out of the campaign?' because that could be a little dicey," he said of the payments — believed to have been made to porn star Stormy Daniels and Playboy model Karen McDougal.

"But they didn't come out of the campaign," he said. "They came from me and I tweeted about it."

Despite Trump's defiant tone, Washington-based campaign finance expert Kate Belinski, of the Nossaman law firm, said to expect legal consequences for both Trump and his campaign — most likely in the form of a civil complaint before the Federal Election Commission. Cohen has meanwhile pleaded guilty to two counts of violating campaign finance laws, along with six counts of fraud — identifying Trump as his co-conspirator when it came to the hush payments.

'He did nothing wrong'

In a string of interviews early Wednesday, Cohen's own lawyer Lanny Davis took aim squarely at the president, dubbing him a "criminal."

"He committed a crime," Davis told CBS News. "If he were not president, he clearly would be indicted and jailed for that crime."

In practice, an indictment is highly unlikely: since 2000, the Justice Department position has been that a sitting president is "immune from indictment as well as from further criminal process." And while the president could theoretically be impeached, it remains a remote prospect in a Republican-dominated Congress where even Democrats are focused on letting Robert Mueller's Russia probe play out. But Cohen's cooperation with investigators may yet pose a wider threat. Writing on the Lawfare blog, former White House counsel Bob Bauer said: "As (Richard) Nixon found when one of his lawyers also became a witness for the government, this can be the beginning of very hard times." The White House insisted Trump was not concerned "at all" that Cohen might implicate the president by cooperating with Mueller. "He knows that he did nothing wrong and that there was no collusion," White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said. But Davis told CBS News that Cohen knew of election tampering efforts during the 2016 campaign that would be "of interest to the special counsel."—AFP ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(16/2018)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-015(18-19)	Welding Set with Accessories (400 V) Maximum Current At 100% Duty Cycle 400 AMP (Dry Type) (1) Lot	US$
(2)	IFB-016(18-19)	CNG Ground Storage Cascade (3) Sets	US$
(3)	IFB-017(18-19)	CNG Compressor Driven Electric Motor Package & Accessories (1) Lot	US$
(4)	IFB-018(18-19)	Lathe Machine with Electromagnetic PLC System (1) Lot	US$
(5)	IFB-019(18-19)	Hydrostatic Testing System (Direct Expension Method for Type II CNG Cylinder Complete Set (1) Set	US$
(6)	IFB-020(18-19)	Cascade Trailer (1) Unit	US$
(7)	DMP/L-076(18-19)	Steel Ball Valves and Pipe Fittings (2) Groups	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-077(18-19)	Air Compressor (1) Set	Ks
(9)	DMP/L-078(18-19)	Desander Unit (Number of Cyclone-2Nos, Operating Pressure(0.2-0.5)MPA (2) Sets	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-079(18-19)	Degasser Unit (Volume Flow Rate-(220-260) M3 / HR) (3) Sets	Ks
(11)	DMP/L-080(18-19)	Dispenser (2 Products, 2 Hose) (2) Nos	Ks
(12)	DMP/L-081(18-19)	Air Compressor Engine Driven with Dryer (100 KW) (1) Set	Ks
(13)	DMP/L-082(18-19)	Batch Mixer (BACS-300-100A) (2) Sets	Ks
(14)	DMP/L-083(18-19)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor(700GPM x 700FTHD), 185KW (2)Sets	Ks
(15)	DMP/L-084(18-19)	Double Girder Overhead Crane (15) Tons Complete Set (1) Set	Ks
(16)	DMP/L-085(18-19)	Skid Mounted Crude Transfer Pump with Engine (200IGPM x 300PSI)(73-97KW) (1) Set	Ks
(17)	DMP/L-086(18-19)	Skid Mounted Crude Transfer Pump with Engine (100IGPM x 300PSI)(73KW) (3)Sets	Ks
(18)	DMP/L-087(18-19)	Hacksaw Machine with Motor [Work Size-220mm, 1.5 KW] (1) Set	Ks
(19)	DMP/L-088(18-19)	Air Compressor with Motor (3000 L/MIN, 8 KG/CM^2, 20 HP) (1) Set	Ks
(20)	DMP/L-089(18-19)	Horizontal Lathe Machine with Motor [Spindle Hole-130 mm, Center Distance ≥1500 mm, Motor Power ≥ 10 KW, 4 Jaw Chuck (1)Set	Ks
(21)	DMP/L-090(18-19)	Upgrading for POS System of CNG (1) Lot	Ks
(22)	DMP/L-091(18-19)	Suction Dryer (1) No	Ks
(24)	DMP/L-092(18-19)	Cooling Tower (2) Nos	Ks
(25)	DMP/L-093(18-19)	Analog Gas Detector (Methane) (2) Units	Ks
(26)	DMP/L-094(18-19)	1.5MW(1875KVA) Gas Engine Driven Generating Set attached with Switch Gear Panel (1) Set	Ks
(26)	DMP/L-095(18-19)	36 KW Diesel Engine Driven Generating Set (4) Sets	Ks
(27)	DMP/L-096(18-19)	Fuel Bowser (2800 Gal Capacity) (1) Unit	Ks
(28)	DMP/L-097(18-19)	Caterpillar C 15 Engine with Gear Box Assy (475 HP) (1) Set	Ks
(29)	DMP/L-098(18-19)	Caterpillar C 18 Marine Engine with Gear Box (670 HP) (2) Sets	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricty and Energy Website Portal (www.moee.gov.mm) as from **24 August 2018**. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm** on **24 September 2018**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time- 24-9-2018, 14:00 pm

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411206

Trade Mark Ads 09251022355, 09974424848

Defiant Australia PM Turnbull refuses to 'give in to bullies'

SYDNEY — Defiant Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull vowed not to "give in to bullies" Thursday in the face of a new leadership challenge, but said he will quit politics if his party no longer supports him.

Former home affairs minister Peter Dutton, an ex-police officer and right-wing conservative, said he was confident he now had the numbers to unseat Turnbull, considered a moderate.

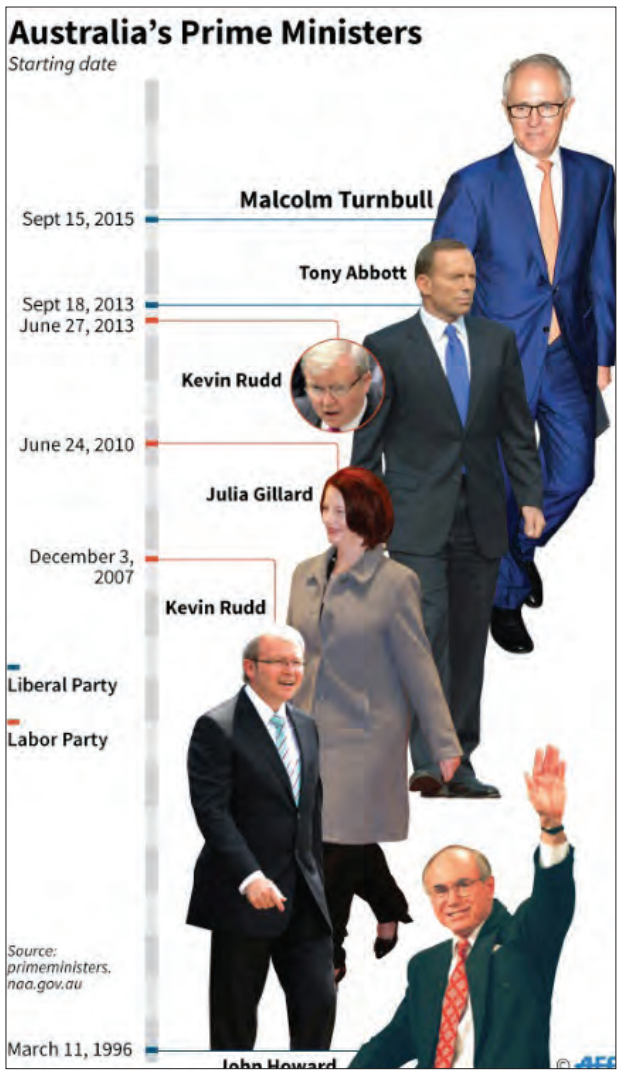
And with senior ministers defecting, Turnbull's near three-year grip on power is tenuous despite surviving a snap ballot on his leadership on Tuesday, winning the vote 48-35.

He said Dutton had yet to prove he has majority backing from the Liberal Party — a requirement for him to force another meeting to have a second crack at the top job ahead of national elections due by the middle of next year.

If the petition arrives showing this, the meeting will be held at midday on Friday and Turnbull will not stand as a candidate and leave parliament.

Turnbull accused Dutton and his supporters of intimidation with the crisis snowballing quickly since it began unfolding on Monday after months of poor opinion polls and a revolt by fellow Liberal politicians over plans to embed carbon emissions targets in law.

"What began as a minority has by a process of intimidation persuaded people that the only way to stop the insurgency is to give in to it," he said.



Australia's prime ministers. **PHOTO: AFP**

"I do not believe in that. I have never done that. I have never given in to bullies, but you can imagine the pressure it's put people under."

He added that what Australia was witnessing was "a very deliberate effort to pull the Liberal Party further to the right".

Dutton earlier told reporters he had advised Turnbull by phone that "it was my judgement that the majority of the party room no longer supported his leadership".

"As such, I asked him to convene a meeting of the Liberal Party at which I would challenge for the leadership of the parliamentary Liberal Party," he added.

In a major blow, Turnbull's influential Finance Minister Mathias Cormann, along with the employment and education ministers, then said he no longer had their backing.

They joined at least 10 other ministers who have either resigned or offered to.

"It is in the best interests of the Liberal Party to help manage an orderly transition to a new leader," said Cormann, who used to be a trusted ally.

'Absolute crap'

In a twist to the plot, ABC and Sky News reported that Treasurer Scott Morrison, Turnbull's right-hand man, may also stand if there was a ballot in a bid to derail Dutton's power grab.

Complicating matters, it has emerged that Dutton has financial interests in childcare centres that get government subsidies — possibly breaching constitutional rules — and Turnbull suggested he may not be eligible to sit in parliament, let alone be prime minister.

"This issue of eligibility is critically important," he said, with the solicitor-general looking into it.

Dutton, described by supporters as a pragmatic legislator who gets things done and by detractors as a racist who demonises refugees, has said he has legal advice that he is in the clear.

He quit his cabinet position after his first failed leadership bid on Tuesday and has said that if he became prime minister, he would focus on cutting immigration to ease population pressures and boosting water investment to help drought-stricken farmers.

Dutton and his camp, including former prime minister Tony Abbott who once described climate change as "absolute crap", have also made clear keeping power prices down was more important than meeting Canberra's commitment to slash carbon emissions by 26 per cent by 2030.

The unrest is the latest chapter in a turbulent decade for Australian politics, with no leader managing to serve out a full term since John Howard lost the 2007 election.

And it has played into the hands of the Labor opposition, which has been making the most of it.

"Another day and another one of chaos from this government — a government that has effectively stopped governing because it's too busy fighting itself," said deputy opposition leader Tanya Plibersek.—AFP ■

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Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated **24th August 2018** lmm@kcyangon.com

Myanma Port Authority "Notice of High Tide"

Exceptionally high spring from 20.24 feet to 20.34 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of August 27th to August 31st, 2018. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V COSMIC ACE VOY. NO. (EAL-10)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V COSMIC ACE VOY. NO. (EAL-10) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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 ECL (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301191, 2301178

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REOI)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Electrification Project (NEP). The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NEP, intends to recruit an eligible candidate under the Contracts for which this Request for Expression of Interest is issued. DRD now invites eligible candidates to express their interest in applying the following item:

Ref No	Description of Job	Quantity	Duration
C2-TA 31	Local Technician for Practical Technical Training	1	12 months

Eligible candidates having expressed interest will receive a Term of Reference (TOR) by e-mail. Interested candidates will be submitted their CV to the address below via email or personal not later than **(7.9.2018).** For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Department of Rural Development, Office No. (36), Nay Pyi Taw. Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 0673418635 and email to ksaung@gmail.com, drdnep.procurement@gmail.com, neppmo.drd@gmail.com.

'Trash is gold' as Benin community turns waste into biogas

PORTO-NOVO (Benin) — Garbage has never smelled so sweet for a small village in southern Benin since it opened a pilot waste treatment centre to turn household rubbish into gas — and cash.

"Our trash has become gold. We no longer throw it into the bush. We use it to make money," beams Alphonse Ago, who lives next to the centre in Houegbo village.

ReBin, a Swiss foundation for sustainable development, built the 1.3-hectare (3.2-acre) facility, which every week turns around six tonnes of organic waste into 200 cubic metres of biogas — saving some 164 tonnes of wood from being used to make charcoal.

The centre, which opened late last year, also plans to produce around 400 tonnes of organic fertiliser per year.

The facility processes around six tonnes of organic waste every week, turning it into 200 cubic metres of biogas. **PHOTO: AFP**

So far, around 100 households in the area have signed up to the scheme to deposit their waste at the centre on a daily basis. Every 10 kilogrammes (22 pounds) of waste fetches 250 CFA francs (around 50 euro cents, 57 US cents), paid either in cash or credit — to buy biogas.

The fuel is a precious commodity in a rural region where electricity remains scarce. Agnes Avoce, a shopkeeper and mother of five, proudly straps a large plastic bag of the gas onto her back. Biogas, she says, is much cleaner and more efficient for cooking than charcoal — which "darkens the pots and makes me sick" — and she is more than happy to make the switch.

Avoce is not alone; five other women are waiting to pick up gas. "There are queues here since we opted for biogas," another customer says.

'Goldmine'

Symphorien Adonon, 35, drops off a week's worth of carefully sorted waste, smiling as he pockets his cash payment.

"Now I have enough to do the shopping for dinner," says Adonon, who drives a motorcycle taxi.

The centre has treated more than 20 tonnes of waste since it began operations late last year.

In addition to the customers' household waste, there is also rubbish collected by a local non-government organisation, Astome. The NGO's chief, Florent Gbegnon, says he used to collect it on a push cart, but he now uses a tricycle provided by the centre. "It's a huge relief," he says as he dumps a load of pineapple skins. "Pushing the cart was a real burden."

It was the massive amounts of waste such as pineapple skins that originally caught the attention of ReBin's founder, Mark Giannelli, and inspired him to set up the treatment centre in Houegbo.

"I saw this not as a problem, but as an opportunity, and I thought it was a goldmine," Giannelli told AFP. Benin is Africa's fourth-biggest exporter of pineapples. And in Houegbo, which has one of the busiest markets in the region, local sources estimate that more than a tonne of waste is generated every day from that fruit alone. Giannelli told AFP that he had been searching for a potential site for his project in Benin's West African neighbours Ghana and Togo. But it was the enthusiasm with which the locals embraced his idea that finally convinced him to set up the waste treatment centre here, he said. —AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V OLYMPIA VOY. NO. (1819/1820)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OLYMPIA VOY. NO. (1819/1820) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO. (038N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO. (038N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-8-2018 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

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (224N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (224N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-8-2018 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (102 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (102 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO. (0255-568W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO. (0255-568W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-8-2018 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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PA PA JOHN VOY. NO. (18104)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PA PA JOHN VOY. NO. (18104) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 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 GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING & LOGISTICS SERVICES CO. LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

Next season of 'Big Bang Theory' to be its last

LOS ANGELES—Award-winning ratings smash "The Big Bang Theory" will end with the finale of its 12th season in May next year, CBS said on Wednesday, lavishing praise on the long-running comedy.

Focusing on a highly intelligent but socially-awkward professor and his group of scientist friends, "Big Bang" was the biggest comedy ratings draw on broadcast television for years, winning 10 Emmys.

"We are forever grateful to our fans for their support of 'The Big Bang Theory' during the past 12 seasons," CBS said in a statement released jointly with producers Warner Bros. Television and Chuck Lorre Productions.

"We, along with the cast, writers and crew, are extremely appreciative of the show's success and aim to deliver a final season, and series finale, that will bring 'The Big Bang Theory' to an epic creative close."

Focusing on a highly intelligent but socially-awkward professor and his group of scientist friends, "Big Bang" was the biggest comedy ratings draw on broadcast television for years, winning 10 Emmys . **PHOTO: AFP**

The show—which will end its 12-year run on 279 episodes—is a rare example of a long-running hit TV series that has managed to retain its massive viewing figures.The last season attracted an audience of almost 19 million per episode, not far off its ninth season peak of 20.4 million.

It hit the headlines in its most recent seasons for a deal which meant its lead cast of Jim Parsons, Johnny Galecki, Kunal Nayyar, Simon Helberg, Kaley Cuoco, Mayim Bialik and Melissa Rauch all earning the same -- estimated at a shade under $1 million an episode.

"There are many ways to look at the dozen years of 'Big Bang Theory' as we draw to a close, but for me it will be the family that gathered each week to create a true labor of love," tweeted co-creator Bill Prady.

"I will treasure my Big Bang family to the end of my days."

Last year CBS premiered "Young Sheldon," a prequel series starring Iain Armitage as a nine-year-old version of nerdy genius Sheldon Cooper. It begins its second season on CBS in September.

The main show's final season premieres on Monday September 24 before shifting back to its regular Thursday time slot. —AFP ■

Asia Argento, who shot into the headlines for accusing disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein of rape, paid Jimmy Bennett hush money after he claimed that she sexually assaulted him in a California hotel room in 2013. **PHOTO: AFP**

US actor speaks out over Asia Argento assault claim

PARIS—The US actor who accuses Asia Argento of sexually assaulting him as a teenager said Wednesday that he had been too "ashamed and afraid" to speak publicly against the Italian actress and abuse campaigner.

Argento, who shot into the headlines for accusing disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein of rape, paid Jimmy Bennett hush money after he claimed that she sexually assaulted him in a California hotel room in 2013.

"I did not initially speak out about my story because I chose to handle it in private with the person who wronged me," Bennett said in a statement posted on his Instagram account Wednesday, his first public remarks on the matter."My trauma resurfaced as she came out as a victim herself," he added, saying he had not spoken publicly until now because he was "ashamed and afraid to be part of the public narrative."

The actor and rock musician was 17-years-old at the time of the alleged assault. The legal age of consent in California is 18. Argento was 37.

The *New York Times* reported on Sunday that Argento paid Bennett $380,000 after his lawyers launched legal action, a month after Argento's accusations against Weinstein were made public.

On Wednesday, Bennet said he "tried to seek justice in a way that made sense to me at the time," on the grounds that he was "not ready to deal with the ramifications of my story becoming public." —AFP ■

Beauty is confidence: Kareena Kapoor Khan

MUMBAI—Bollywood diva Kareena Kapoor Khan believes looking beautiful is all about feeling confident.

The 37-year-old actor, who is launching her signature makeup range in collaboration with Lakme, says polishing one's strength is the best way to stand out in the crowd.

"Beauty is confidence. I strongly believe that highlighting your positives and playing on your strengths is the key to looking beautiful.

"And one beauty secret that I abide by is that 'less is more'. A statement bright, bold lip with defined cheeks is my go-to look for all seasons," Kareena said in a statement. The range curated by the actor includes products, like cheek contour, face contours and pout definers.

This range also brings alive Lakme's beauty theme of the season, 'Shades of a Diva'.

Kareena will be turning showstopper for designer Monisha Jasing at the grand finale of the ongoing Lakme Fashion Week Winter/Festive 2018. LFW runs through 26 August.—PTI ■

Plane carrying US rapper forced to make emergency landing

NEW YORK—A small plane carrying US rapper Post Malone was forced to make an emergency landing at a New York state airport on Tuesday after two of its tires blew out during takeoff, aviation authorities said.

The Gulfstream G-IV jet took off for London at 10:50 am local time at Teterboro Airport, located some 50 kilometers (30 miles) from New York, the Federal Aviation Authority said.

According to the FAA and the FlightRadar website, the plane, which was carrying a total of 16 people on board according to celebrity news site TMZ, went around in several circles in order to drain its fuel reserves before landing at Stewart airport, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) from New York city, close to 4:00 pm.

The 23-year-old, who won "Song of the Year" on Monday night's MTV video awards for "Rockstar," tweeted: "i landed guys. thank you for your prayers. can't believe how many people wished death on me on this website."—AFP ■

Post Malone (R), who won "Song of the Year" on Monday night's MTV video awards for "Rockstar," tweeted: "i landed guys. thank you for your prayers. can't believe how many people wished death on me on this website". **PHOTO: AFP**

European wind survey satellite launched from French Guyana

GEORGETOWN (Guyana)—A new satellite that will use advanced laser technology to track global winds and improve weather forecasts has been successfully put into orbit, launch company Arianespace said.

The launch of the "Aeolus" satellite—named after the guardian of wind in Greek mythology—took place at 2120 GMT Wednesday, after a 24-hour delay due to adverse weather conditions.

Arianespace's light-lift vehicle "Vega lofted its passenger during a flight lasting just under 55 minutes, with Aeolus placed into a Sun-synchronous orbit," the company said after the launch.

Sun-synchronous orbits allow satellites always to have view of the Sun, for example so their solar panels can always draw power.

The satellite "will probe the lowermost 30 kilometres (18 miles) of the atmosphere in measuring winds around the Earth," Arianespace said.

The launch of the "Aeolus" satellite -- named after the guardian of wind in Greek mythology -- took place at 2120 GMT Wednesday, after a 24-hour delay due to adverse weather conditions. **PHOTO: AFP**

Aeolus is part of the Copernicus project, a joint initiative of the European Union and the European Space Agency (ESA) to track environmental damage and aid disaster relief operations.

The satellite is equipped with a single instrument: a Doppler wind lidar—an advanced laser system designed to accurately measure global wind patterns from space.

"The LIDAR's near-real-time observations will provide reliable wind profiles, further improving the accuracy of numerical weather and climate prediction, as well as advance the understanding of tropical dynamics and processes relevant to climate variability," Arianespace said after the launch.

It described the satellite as the world's first space mission to gather information on Earth's wind on a global scale.

Tropical winds in particular are very poorly mapped because of the almost complete absence of direct observations.

The Doppler lidar transmits short, powerful pulses of laser light toward Earth in the ultraviolet spectrum. Particles in the air—moisture, dust, gases—reflect, or scatter, a small fraction of that light energy back to the transceiver, where it is collected and recorded.

The delay between the outgoing pulse and the so-called "backscattered" signal reveals the wind's direction, speed and distance travelled.

Once per orbit, data is downloaded to a ground station in Svalbard, Norway. —AFP ■

A 'missing link' sheds light on mystery of turtle evolution

TOKYO — How did the turtle get its shell? It sounds like the start of a fable, but it's something scientists have wondered for years, and new fossil research is providing some clues.

The way that turtles evolved into their modern form, with a shell fused to their skeleton and a beak-like face without teeth, has been described as "one of evolution's most enduring puzzles."

The fossil skeleton of Eoorhynchochelys sinensis was found in Guizhou province, China. **PHOTO: AFP**

Relatively few fossils of early turtles have been found, leaving it a mystery how the creature developed its unique features, and even which ancestors they evolved from.

But new research published Thursday in the journal *Nature* fills in some gaps by examining a turtle fossil discovered in China that dates back 228 million years.

The skeleton has a beak, but also some teeth, suggesting it may be a "missing link" in the evolution from an earlier toothy turtle to today's form.

"This is the first early fossil turtle with a beak," said Chun Li, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing and co-author of the paper on the fossil dubbed Eorhynchochelys.

"The interesting thing is that although a beak had developed, the teeth were preserved, so it is a half-beak, half-toothed jaw -- an excellent transitional characteristic," he told AFP.

The fossil is also large, at 2.5 metres long, with a lengthy tail and broad and flat ribs along its back that appear to have formed a disc-like precursor to a shell. —AFP ■

Saga of early humans etched in DNA of mixed-species child

PARIS—Denny was an inter-species love child.

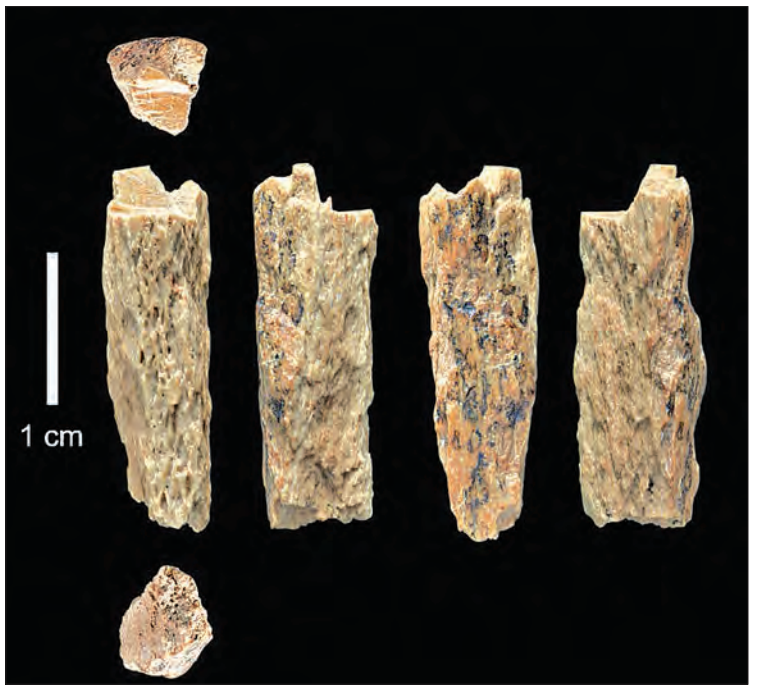
Her mother was a Neanderthal, but her father was Denisovan, a distinct species of primitive human that also roamed the Eurasian continent 50,000 years ago, scientists reported Wednesday in the journal *Nature*.

Nicknamed by Oxford University scientists, Denisova 11 — her official name —was at least 13 when she died, for reasons unknown."There was earlier evidence of interbreeding between different hominin, or early human, groups," said lead author Vivian Slon, a researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology.

"But this is the first time that we have found a direct, first-generation offspring," she told AFP.

Denny's surprising pedigree was unlocked from a bone fragment unearthed in 2012 by Russian archeologists at the Denisova Cave in the Altai Mountains of Siberia.

Analysis of the bone's DNA left no doubt: the chromosomes were a 50-50 mix of Neanderthal and Denisovan, two distinct species of early humans that split apart between 400,000 to 500,000 years ago.



Denny's surprising pedigree was unlocked from a bone fragment unearthed by Russian archeologists at the Denisova Cave in the Altai Mountains of Siberia. **PHOTO: AFP**

"I initially thought that they must have screwed up in the lab," said senior author and Max Planck Institute professor Svante Paabo, who identified the first Denisovan a decade ago at the same site. Worldwide, fewer than two dozen early human genomes from before 40,000 years ago -- Neanderthal, Denisovan, Homo sapiens—have been sequenced, and the chances of stumbling on a half-and-half hybrid seemed vanishingly small. Or not.

Inter-species hanky-panky

"The very fact that we found this individual of mixed Neanderthal and Denisovan origins suggests that they interbred much more often than we thought," said Slon. —AFP ■

Woods, Mickelson confirm $9 million duel in Las Vegas

Phil Mickelson (L) and Tiger Woods meet during a preview day of the World Golf Championships - Bridgestone Invitational, at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio, on 1 August 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

LOS ANGELES—Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson will go head-to-head in a winner-take-all $9 million (7.78 million euro) duel in Las Vegas in November, it was announced on Wednesday.

Woods and Mickelson, who have 19 Major titles between them, will face off at the Shadow Creek Golf Course on November 23, coinciding with Thanksgiving weekend in the United States.

The match play duel between the two veterans, a head-to-head meeting that has been mooted repeatedly over the years, will be screened on pay-per-view.

"It's an opportunity for us to bring golf to the masses in prime time during a period where we don't have much going on in the world of golf," Mickelson told ESPN on Wednesday.

"It's a way to show a side you don't normally see by having us miked up to hear some of the interaction between us."

Mickelson and Woods had an occasionally frosty relationship during their prime years at the summit of men's golf but have enjoyed warmer ties recently after working closely during various Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup campaigns.

Mickelson said there was no chance of the duo carving up the lucrative purse between them, insisting that the event would be winner-take-all."If you (don't) do that, it undermines it," Mickelson said. "The whole point is the winner-take-all thing. That's the exciting part about it."

Former world number one Woods only returned to golf this year after missing most of the previous two years due to recurring back problems.

The 42-year-old bagged a second place finish at the PGA Championship earlier this month while 48-year-old Mickelson missed the cut.—AFP ■

Toungoo teams to play for U-14 Football Tournament trophy today

TOUNGOO (A) and Toungoo (B) will play for the Championship title of the U-14 Football Tournament today at 3:30 p.m, which will be held at Hanthawady United Stadium in Bago.

Under the supervision of Myanmar National League(MNL) and Myanmar Football Federation (MFF), and sponsored by Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (MPT), the youth tournament has been promoting football awareness among youths.

In the semifinals, Toungoo (A) team advanced to the final by beating Bago (A) team 3-0, while Toungoo (B) team made the final by winning over Pyay (B) team by 6-5.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Myanmar (green) vies for the ball with Thailand (red) in men's double sepak takraw competition in JSC Roneu Stadium in Palembang.—**PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar teams try best at 2018 Asian Games

MYANMAR athletes competed their best on the fifth day of the 18th Asian Games, which is being held in Jakarta and Palembang in Indonesia yesterday, but the luck was not on Myanmar side. Myanmar athletes lost in most of the games they competed yesterday.

In Round of 32 level of men's single recurve archery competition in Jakarta, Myanmar's Htike Lin Oo beat Kyrgyzstan by a record of (6:0), but in the Round of 16 level, he lost to Malaysia by (7:1). In Round of 16 level of women's single recurve archery competiton, Myanmar's Thida Nwe Oo lost to China (6:0).

Again, in the men's double sepak takraw opener at JSC Roneu Stadium in Palembang City, Myanmar team lost to Thailand 2-1. Later, in the second match of the same event, Myanmar also lost to Laos 2-1.

In the women's double international boat race competition, Myanmar team had to be contented with the fifth place.—Myanmar News Agency ■

World Cup failure haunts German stars as Bundesliga returns

BERLIN—The Bundesliga returns Friday with German football shaken by the shambolic early World Cup exit while Bayern Munich hope new coach Niko Kovac can maintain the relentless success the club expect.

Germany's embarrassing failure to defend their title in Russia, crashing out after finishing bottom of their group, leaves several Bundesliga stars with a point to prove in the new season.

Bayern kick off the new campaign on Friday at home to Hoffenheim, who will make their debut in the Champions League group stages this season, with midfielder Thomas Mueller admitting the World Cup debacle provides extra motivation.

Axel Witsel is the biggest new signing for the new Bundesliga season. **PHOTO: AFP**

"It's about how we can do better - after going out like that, you handle failure very badly, because no-one expected it," Mueller told the Bayern website.

After the debacle in Russia, Germany coach Joachim Loew is expected to make sweeping changes when he names his squad on Wednesday for the home game against newly-crowned world champions France on September 6 in the Nations League.

The focus against Hoffenheim at the Allianz Arena will be on Bayern's World Cup stars Mueller, Jerome Boateng, Mats Hummels and Manuel Neuer, who all under-performed on the World Cup stage.

The spotlight will also fall on Kovac in his first home league game after joining from Eintracht Frankfurt, who shocked Bayern 3-1 in May's German Cup final in his final game. —AFP ■