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Villagers from northern Rakhine State fled to Sittway above, and Bangladesh border to escape the ongoing terrorist attacks. PHOTO: MNA

Seven more civilians killed in Rakhine

Members of the Mro ethnic tribe killed in a terrorist attack by ARSA; thousands continue to flee to Sittway and border

THE government confirmed yesterday that seven Mro ethnic people were killed and five injured by terrorists on Monday during an attack on Khon-Taing Village in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State.

Hundreds of extremists Terrorists from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) descended on the small village, killing the villagers and then burning down their homes, the government said.

“About 400 ARSA extremist terrorists attacked Khon-Taing Village of Mro ethnic people in Maungtau Township on 28th August afternoon and burnt down the homes. In the attack, three men and four women were killed while two men and three women were injured while one man and two women are still missing,” said a report released by the information committee of the government.

The ARSA extremist terrorists continued their attacks with

improvised explosive devices (IEDs) against security forces and burnt down neighbouring villages, according to the report.

Ethnic villagers from the conflict areas are fleeing to Buthidaung and Maungtau and nearby police outposts. One soldier, 11 policemen, one civil servant, seven members of a Hindu family, five Daingnet ethnic people and seven Mro ethnic people have so far been killed in the attacks, in addition to scores of terrorists, which started with a

series of coordinated attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists on security forces on Friday.

“A mass of extremist terrorists came to our village in large group. While defending against them, an arrow they shot hit me on my leg through. At that time, our villagers gathered, frightening the terrorists to run away,” said Maung Tha Aung, a local ethnic man from Tharyargone Village in Maungtau township, who fled to Sittway.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 5th Regular Session holds its 20th day meeting

At 20th day meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held at 1:30 pm yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, parliamentarians discussed the reports on findings and conclusion notes of Public Account Combined Committee.

Regarding the annual report 10/2017—finding and conclusion notes of Public Account Combined Committee, U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, U Zone Hle Htan of constituency 4 in Chin State, U Khin Maung Thi of Loilem constituency, Dr Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency, U Yan Lin of Kyaukse constituency,



Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency. PHOTO: MNA

U Tin Tun Naing of Seikkyi-Khanaungto constituency and Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale constituency discussed

respectively.

Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency discussed, “Restriction over India’s import of Myanmar’s pulses may lead to lifting the national trade deficit and devaluation of Myanmar currency. Simultaneously, it may raise inflation rate and harm national economy. So, if unnecessary problems arise in exporting crops including rice, suitable ways and means should be sought for not harming benefits of farmers and foreign trade sector. Prior to exporting, the State should purchase these

produces at suitable prices by adjusting with international prices. In purchasing as well, hardship for storage should be solved by negotiating with local merchants. For acquisition of better prices for crops and for extending export markets, crops should be stored and refined in modernized machines and better techniques so that our country can overcome pressures from other countries.”

U Khin Maung Thi of Loilem constituency discussed, “The report described that economic development in the agricultural sector for FY 2016-2017 was 0.4

percent, with that in industry sector 8.9 per cent and servicing gaining 8 per cent respectively. As for the average inflation rate, it reached 7 per cent. If it rises, it can cause commodity prices to soar up. So inflation rate should be reduced. So as to be able to export agricultural produces and not to lose export markets, government to government negotiation should be done between the countries. It should be done so as not to happen restriction of pulse exports and closure of bank accounts.”—Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th Regular Session holds its 53rd day meeting

The agreement that allows the Ministry of Education to lease premises owned by the Yangon Yacht Club on Inya Road was one of the issues discussed yesterday’s meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

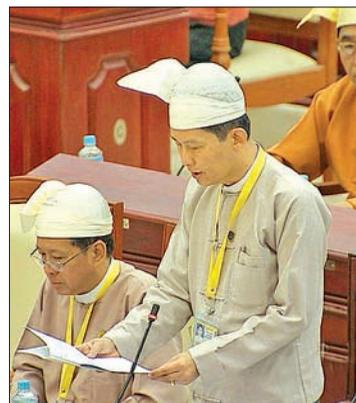
The Union Minister for Education, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, replied to the question raised by U Maung Maung Oo of Insein constituency, Yangon Region as to whether there is any plan to withdraw the lease of the premises owned by the Yacht Club.

“The University Sailing Club’s premises continue to be contracted for a lease of hiring the premises for five more years from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2021 under the approval of the management committee meeting of the Ministry of Education, held on 24th February 2015. It was found that payment for hiring the premises for one year (FY 2016-2017) had been deposited as the national revenue. The Ministry of Education scrutinised the lease contract in the tenure of the incumbent



The Union Minister for Education, Dr Myo Thein Gyi. PHOTO: MNA

government, finding the clause in the contract that the premises must be handed over to the Ministry of Education within 30 days by the lease-holder, provided that it was demanded by the owner for an essential need, if ever. Hence, for students to use the premises owned by University Sailing Club with a view to upgrading sports, consultations were made on 3rd July 2017 with the Ministry of Construction to be empowered to the Ministry as “the authority to expel from



Dr. Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy. PHOTO: MNA

the government-owned building, 1955” for the acquisition of right to transfer.

As the authority was granted under the notification dated on 7th July 2017, a notice was sent to the lease holder to return the premise.

In this case, the process is to be carried out under the authority to expel from the building, so the case is under way by negotiating with Yangon Region Cabinet.”

The Ministry of Education

revoked leases of the premises of the Yacht Club in order for the university students to be able to learn, practise and enjoy sailing.

Dr. Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy, replied to a question raised by Daw Khin Than Nu of Mindon constituency, Magway Region on a new building for the township’s power and electricity office.

“The office of Mindon township electricity and power was opened at the old building roofed and walled by corrugated iron sheets, so it was targeted to be constructed as the reinforced concrete building measuring 36 feet in length and 24 feet in width in the FY 2017-2018. But the construction of gridlines and transformers in extension was prioritised. So it could not be included in the final budget allotment to build the new building to completion”, Dr. Tun Naing said.

Afterward, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education, replied to a question raised by U Zar Ni Min of Shwegu con-

stituency, in Kachin State about new buildings for the university in Bhamo Township.

“The contract to build one two-storey reinforced concrete 100-bed hostel building, two dining buildings and one entrance way to the university, for the University of Technology in Bhamo Township in Kachin State, was commissioned with the budget allotment Ks572 million in the FY 2017-2018, to the Ministry of Construction”, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said.

Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education and Dr Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy replied to the questions raised by U Tin Hla of Danubyu constituency, U Htay Lwin (a) U D Lone of Namhsam constituency, U Tun Wai of Phaungpyin constituency, U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Hlaing constituency and Daw San San Ei of Mohnyin constituency. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Home Ministry pledges to bring terrorists to court



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe. PHOTO: MNA

Members of Parliament urged the Union Government yesterday to expose those involved in terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine and to take special measures in order to ensure the continued existence of ethnic villages as the villagers fled their villages due to terrorist attacks.

When discussing the motion at yesterday’s meeting of

the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe pledged that those who involved in the terrorist attacks would be brought to court under criminal law.

A total of 466 cases have been opened in relation to attacks in Rakhine during 9 October 2016 and 16 August 2017.

Of these, 116 cases have been judged at court while 147 cases are still pending, said Maj-Gen Aung Soe.

Police are investigating 180 cases and have closed 23 cases, he added. Following the series of coordinated attacks last Friday, which were claimed by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, the Anti-Terrorism Central Com-

mittee declared ARSA a terrorist group.

Meanwhile, MP U Hla San of Constituency-1 in Magway Region, criticised the allegedly biased reports and news stories from some international media organisations, accusing them of fuelling the violence in northern Rakhine.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mr. Bill Richardson, Chairman of the Richardson Center and former Governor of New Mexico in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor receives foreign delegations separately

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr. Bill Richardson, Chairman of the Richardson Center and former Governor of New Mexico, the United States of America, and a delegation led by Mrs. Anuradha Gupta, Deputy CEO of Gavi- The Vaccine Alliance and accompanying parliamentarians from Denmark and Sweden separately yesterday at her ministry in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting with Mr Bill Richardson, they cordially

discussed matters relating to the promotion of economic relations, investment and cooperation between Myanmar and the United States of America.

During the meeting with the delegation led by Mrs. Anuradha Gupta, they exchanged views on strengthening cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and the Gavi in the ongoing immunization programme, as well as its future cooperation and assistance in the sector. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Gov't to step up road safety measures



U Henry Van Thio addresses the 3rd meeting of the National Road Safety Council-NRSC. PHOTO: MNA

U Henry Van Thio, Vice-President and Chairman of National Road Safety Council (NRSC) addressed the third meeting of the council at the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw and spoke about basic steps toward improving road safety such as the use of seat belts, abstaining from use of mobile phones and driving more slowly.

“The tasks of implementation of road safety are of great importance for the nation, being the tasks to be carried out specifically for safety of people’s lives. Today’s meeting was being held with a view to upgrading road safety, presenting situations on accomplishments of decisions laid down by the 2nd meeting and presenting processes to be carried out further, submitting restrictions and difficulties encountered by regions and states. Four quick-win preparations for

national road safety — wearing helmets (for motorcyclists) and seat-belts, abstention from using mobile phones while driving, abstention from drinking while driving and taking care not to commit over-speed driving are required to be obeyed”, U Henry Van Thio said.

“In building new roads, special care needs to be taken for road safety and it needs to abide by road designs and standards. In repairing roads as well, responsible departments and organisations need to take care of security matters. Road signs and installation of signal lights are required to follow existing rules and laws. Deep-rooted and wrong road habits on expressways for vehicles to overpass preceding ones need to be corrected to rightfulness. In upgrading the reduction of road accidents, establishment of an organisation for raising

funds for road safety needs to be carried out. Here, I would like to urge the members of NRSC to cooperate after studying carefully the suggestions acquired from workshop on all-inclusive road safety. The NRSC needs to give out accurate figures on accidents so that the public will be convinced of actual situations to keep road discipline.

In schools, lessons on road safety should be started to be included in the syllabus. Common sense should be indoctrinated at younger ages that road safety knowledge is needed for all of us. Provided that every individual keeps road safety disciplines, roads and vehicles are in better conditions, accident will surely decrease.”

Afterward, Union Ministers Lt Gen Kyaw Swe and U Thant Sin Maung, vice-chairpersons also spoke about road safety.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Ethnic people in Mingyi and Tamaranthar villages provided with aid

Authorities delivered aid to villagers in conflict areas in northern Rakhine yesterday, pledging providing security to them.

Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Rakhine State Cabinet’s Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and officials met with Mingyi and Tamaranthar villagers in Maungtaw Township yesterday, giving words of encouragement and providing necessary provisions.

Union Minister and party arrived at Mingyi village to meet local ethnic people, addressing, “Matters on security of local people are being carried out as a priority. Simultaneously provisions are being supported for their living. The main purpose of coming here is to negotiate and perform the task of finding ways for safer security. For the time being, preparations had been made for fulfilling 2-month-provisions. Negotiations will be made with authorities con-

cerned for health.” Afterward, Union Minister and party went to Tamaranthar village to meet local residents, and arrangements were made to give phone numbers to contact if necessary concerning security and health.

In the morning, packs of instant noodle and fried fish were provided to local ethnic people in Mingyi and Tamaranthar villages. In the evening, the party led by U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State and U Soe Aung, permanent secretary of the Ministry of SWRR visited Htarein, Yan Aung Myin, Kyauk Pandu villages, giving words of encouragement and providing provisions and drugs. Moreover, feeble mother and new-born baby from Kyauk Pandu village were brought to Sittway, general hospital by helicopter for medical treatment. The Ministry of SWRR supported monetary aids and necessary social affairs for them will be fulfilled by the ministry.—Myanmar News Agency



Dr Win Myat Aye hands over the aid to ethnic people during his tour of Mingyi and Tamaranthar villages. PHOTO: MNA

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Foods supply for displaced ethnic people in Taung Pyo Let Wae Township, Maungtaw



Villagers receive aid in Taung Pyo Let Wae. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG LWIN

RAKHINE State government distributed and supplied food and provisions to ethnic people who fled recent violence in the area and took refuge in Taung Pyo Let Wae Township in Rakhine State.

U Naing Lin Aung, provisional head of township's General Administration Department, said they are supplying rice, cooking oil, beans and salt.

Thirty sacks of rice, one sack of bean, 50 viss of cooking oil and two sacks of salts were provided yesterday and more aid is being arranged.

On 28 August, the General Administration Department provided food and provisions to government staff in Maungtaw. Buthidaung Township head of GAD and departments of township also provided rice, oil, salts and beans to displaced ethnic people. —Tin Maung Lwin/ Min Htet Aung ■

Circular train popular with tourists

MORE THAN 100 foreign visitors are touring on the Yangon circular railway on a daily basis, according to a report of the Myawady Daily issued on Wednesday.

According to official statistic of the Myanma Railways, as many as 3,483 foreign

commuters took the train this July.

The railway system has accordingly increased security services in collaboration with relevant government departments and police, said U Zaw Lwin, a transport manager from the Myanma Rail-

ways. Railroads improvement projects are being implemented throughout the nation with the assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to provide better and safe transportation services to local commuters, he added.—GNLM ■

Researchers investigate rotavirus to prevent future outbreaks

Local researchers are investigating rotavirus species at the Yangon Children's Hospital to prepare for future Myanmar vaccination programmes, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The research is being led by molecular researchers from the Medical Research Department and the Univer-

sity of Medicine branches in Yangon and Mandalay.

Young children, elderly people and people with compromised immune systems are most at risk for infection by rotavirus. The virus is the leading cause of life diarrhea disease among infants and young children in many countries.

Researchers obtained

stool specimens from children admitted to the hospital for serious diarrhea for rotavirus testing.

Rotavirus was identified in 219 out of 488 stool specimens tested, a prevalence rate of 45 per cent. Rotavirus was found mostly in the children, mostly boys, between six and 11 months of age.—GNLM ■

Housing shortage likely to worsen by 2040

Yangon is projected to grow by 10 million residents by the year 2040 and only 20 per cent will be able to afford to own their homes due to the slow pace of affordable housing construction, according to a report in yesterday's Myawady Daily.

The rest will be renters

or squatters, according to the article.

The 2014 census estimated there are 1.6 million residential units in Yangon Region. Housing experts expect that there will be 2.6 million units by 2040, resulting in a shortfall of more than 1

million units. The Rural Area and Housing Development Department plans to develop 900,000 units of property within 15 years by 2031. About 4.8 million residential units are required by 2040 to keep up with demographic trends.—GNLM ■

Contraband worth Ks37 million seized along Myanmar highways

VEHICLE inspections along the Mandalay-Muse Pyi Htuangsu Road recorded 354 transport vehicles carrying items for export and 396 for import, from 1-29 August.

Forty-five transport vehicles carried export items and 136 carried import items along the Yangon-Myawady Road during the same period.

Inspectors discovered illegal goods worth Ks37 million at Mayan Chaung checkpoint, including 450 grams of heroin.—MNA ■



Heroin brought hidden under dried tea leaf. PHOTO: MPF

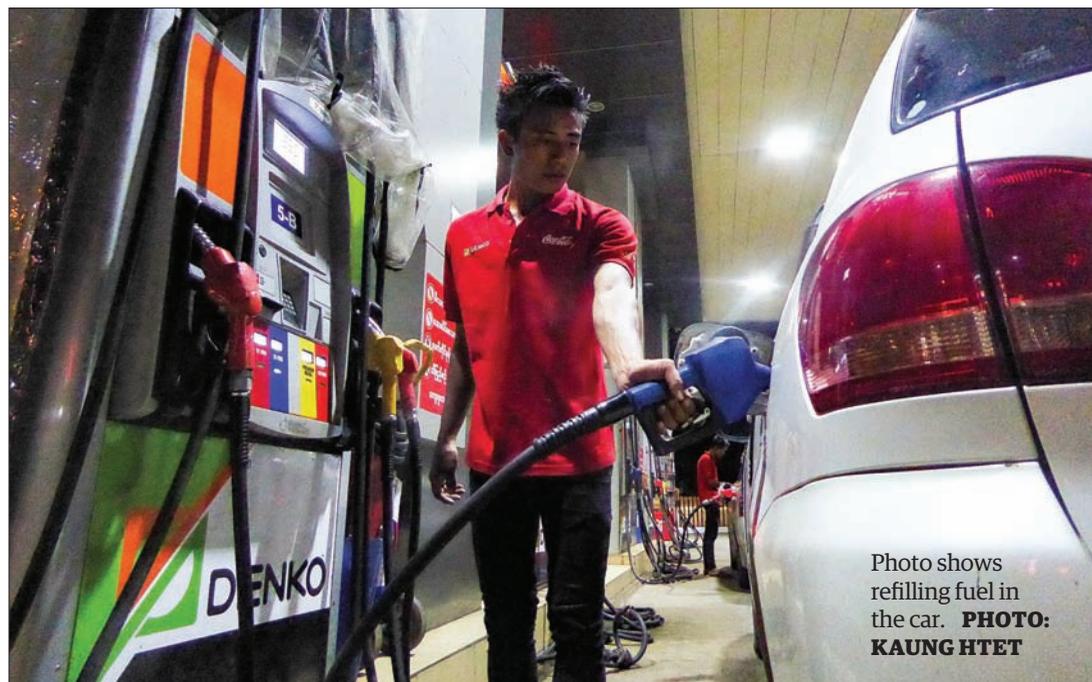


Photo shows refilling fuel in the car. **PHOTO: KAUNG HTET**

Yangon fuel oil sales remain constant

PETROL and diesel sales remain steady and fuel oil prices are about Ks670 for a liter of diesel, Ks675 for Octane 92, Ks720 for Octane 95 and Ks690 for premium diesel, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Between 13 and 19 August, about 53,212 tons of petrol was imported into Myanmar over sea routes. Imports of diesel increased by 27,220 tons while petrol decreased by 70 tons. During that week, 1,054 tons of petrol

and 2,120 tons of diesel were imported through Tachilek gate 549 tons, through Myeik land point of entry, 4,060 tons of diesel through Muse checkpoint, and 500 tons of diesel through Lwejel gate. —Ko Htet ■

Consumer Price Index increases two per cent

The Consumer Price Index in July 2017 reached 132.86 which is two per cent points more than the same period last year, according to Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

During July 2017, Rakhine State recorded the highest CPI rate increase of 5.3 per cent compared to similar period of

last year.

Inflation in July 2017 was 4.91 per cent while year-on-year inflation is 2.30 per cent, according to the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Inflation rate had been evaluated based on 2006 survey data and later, the base year tuned to 2012. The Central Statistical Organisation conducted Household Income

and Expenditure Survey in 82 townships in Nov 2012.

The inflation rate in between 2011 and 2016 has increased significantly. To reduce inflation, authorities concerned are making efforts based on the policies of finance, currency, trade and foreign currency control, according to the second five-year National Development plan.—Ko Htet ■

Central gold market to formalize precious metals trade in Myanmar

May Thet Hnin

LOCAL gold traders intend to develop a central market for precious metals and minerals, according to U Kyaw Win, general secretary of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

“At present, transactions are made in traditional way and based on mutual trust,” he said. “Establishment of central market is needed to scale up commercial businesses.”

Myanmar’s gold trade is largely unregulated and lacks linkages with the financial sector, which exposes traders to fraud. Traders hope that building a central gold market will

ensure stability of foreign exchange and reduce money laundering, price manipulation and counterfeiting. Systematizing the gold market would enable more traders to participate without fear of being cheated.

Officials from the Central Bank of Myanmar, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Commerce Ministry, Ministry of Home Affairs, Planning and Finance Ministry, Myanmar Gold Development Public Company, Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association and the Jewellery Public Company and Minerals

Development Bank Limited are working together on the plan. “The government will provide 70 acres to develop this plan. We appreciate that many associations and related ministries participate in this plan”, said U Kyaw Win.

Union Minister U Kyaw Win for Planning and Finance said at a monthly meeting with the entrepreneurs that “the ministry will cooperate with the related market to create an export market with value added products”.

This central market scheme was submitted to the government in FY2012-2013 and was delayed at the policy formulation stage. ■

Myanmar entrepreneurs discussed SME development

Businessmen met with Vice President U Myint Swe, chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee and Myanmar Entrepreneurs, on Sunday to discuss strategies to accelerate economic growth.

Joint General Secretary of UMFCFI Dr. Aung Thein suggested that business information and research should be disseminated through various small and medium business centers.

Dr. Aung Thein said that their plans should adopt a 30- to 40-year timeline.

The gathering discussed

tax waivers for certain kinds of machinery and other imports to support entrepreneurs.

The group also discussed a range of other business sectors including livestock, bamboo, rubber and pulses and beans. Geographies addressed by the group included Ayeyawady and Rakhine. Of registered 120,000 enterprises in Myanmar, 98 per cent are SMEs, according to the Central Statistical Organization. Of 21.9 million Myanmar workers, 83 per cent are engaged in unregistered businesses.

—May Thet Hnin ■

Low yield of durian push the price high

DURIAN yields in Kya-in-Seikkyi Township, Kayin State have been harmed by heavy rains this monsoon, resulting in fewer of the pungent fruits

at higher prices.

In the last week of August, durian prices increased to Ks 4000 for one fruit. —Myo Min Oo (IPRD) ■

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင်ဝယ်ယူဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

- Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)
- Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)
- City Mart (Aung San Stadium)
- City Mart (47th street)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)

- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegonedine

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe visits patients wounded in terrorist attacks

THE Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe and officials visited Sittway General Hospital yesterday and encouraged patients who were wounded by the extremist terrorist attacks in Maungtau.

During the visit, the Union Minister met with health officials and stressed the importance of promoting health knowledge to the patients.

“As the number of patients increases, more physicians who are needed in the hospital and will be filled as soon as possible.

It is assumed that public health-care is weak, the outpatients are increasing in the hospital and when the public healthcare is well enough, the workload of the hospital and patients in the hospital will reduce. The needs for the investigating diseases will also be fulfilled”, Dr. Myint Htwe said.

The Union Minister also discussed matters of psychological promoting and honouring of the staff currently working in Buthidaung and Maungtau townships. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe and officials comfort a villager receiving treatment at hospital. PHOTO: MNA



Thura U Shwe Mann holds talk with Mr. Ben Brooks, a policy executive for Uber Company. PHOTO: MNA

Thura U Shwe Mann receives Uber executives

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann received Mr. Ben Brooks, a policy executive for Uber Co., at the Hluttaw

Building (I-1), Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, Uber's ride share system and e-governance matters were discussed. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Final day of review for 21st Century Panglong

The final day of review and preparatory discussions for the Union Peace Conference -21st Century Panglong was held at the meeting hall of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NPRC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Present at the meeting were 15 Hluttaw conference representatives, 15 government conference representatives and 15 Tatmadaw con-

ference representatives and officials.

During the meeting, detailed matters relating to each chapter included in the political discussion framework were discussed.

Lt-General Tin Maung Win delivered the closing speech as the group discussion of UPC-21st Century Panglong was concluded. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Eid Day on 2 September

THE Government issued a notification on Tuesday that as Eid Day (Bakri Eid) falls on 2 September (Saturday), the day is declared as a public holiday in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, according to Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act. —GNLM

Acknowledging Notification To Use Correct Indicator Lights In Case Of Overtaking The Car Ahead

1. According to the 1989 regulations of the motorized vehicle, in the section “Lights fixed at the vehicle and indicating with the hand of the driver” it is prescribed to switch on right indicator light to indicate the car behind to overtake.
2. In spite of the fact that switching on the right indicator light to indicate the car behind can overtake, the drivers especially truck drivers while driving on express highway use left indicator light to indicate the car behind for overtaking. Those errors are leading to the undesirable accidents on the road.
3. All the vehicle drivers must simultaneously change to the correct indicating in all streets and roads both inside and outside the town and all highways starting from 6 am of 1.9.2017 as the educating, inspection and checking have been done extensively throughout the country so as to switch to the correct system smoothly.
4. As there might be some misunderstanding just before the change of practice, every driver is suggested to take great care before overtaking by checking all surrounding situation.
5. It is suggested all the drivers shall cooperate in the movement of the changing to correct indicating practice in overtaking (ie. indicating right light) which will start on 1.9.2017 in all streets, roads and express highways of Myanmar. —MNA

Terrorist attacks in N-Rakhine State denounced

People denounced ARSA extremist terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine State in front of Yangon City Hall yesterday evening.

Hundreds of people gathered in downtown Yangon, protesting against the final report of Mr Kofi Annan Chairman of Advisory Commission on Rakhine State and atrocious attacks of ARSA extremist terrorists, holding the placards written in words of denunciation. After holding talk on terrorism, a statement with seven facts was released. —Zaw Gyi ■



People gathered in front of City Hall in Yangon to protest against the ARSA extremist attacks in northern Rakhine. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

North Korea launch increases focus on risky US shutdown option

WASHINGTON — North Korea's firing of a ballistic missile over Japan could increase pressure on Washington to consider shooting down future test launches, although there is no guarantee of success and US officials are wary of a dangerous escalation with Pyongyang.

More attention is likely to focus on the prospects for intercepting a missile in flight after North Korea on Tuesday conducted one of its boldest missile tests in years, one government official said.

Such a decision would not be taken lightly given tensions over North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes.

And while President Donald Trump has repeatedly vowed that "all options are on the table", there has been no sign of any quick policy shift in Washington toward direct US military action.

But Pyongyang's launch of an intermediate-range Hwasong-12 missile over Japan's northern Hokkaido island underscored how Trump's tough rhetoric, pursuit of sanctions and occasional shows of military force around the Korean peninsula have done little to deter North

Korea's leader.

"Kim Jong Un has chosen to thumb his nose at the Americans and Japanese by conducting this test," said David Shear, former US assistant secretary of defence for East Asia.

US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis has already pledged that the military would shoot down any missile it deemed a danger to US or allied territory.

What is unclear is whether Washington would be prepared to use its multi-layered missile defence systems to intercept a missile like the one that overflew Japan but never directly threatened its territory.

Doing so would essentially be a US show of force rather than an act of self-defence.

"I would think that in government deliberations that would likely be one of the options out on the table," Shear said.

Some analysts say there is a danger that North Korea would see it as an act of war and retaliate militarily with potentially devastating consequences for South Korea and Japan.

China, North Korea's neighbor and main trading partner, would also likely oppose such a direct US military response.

Experts say there is no guarantee that US missile defence systems, including Aegis ballistic missile defense ships in the region and Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) systems based in Guam and South Korea, would hit their target, despite recent successful tests.

A failed attempt would be an embarrassment to the United States and could embolden North Korea, which this year has already conducted two tests of an intercontinental ballistic missile believed capable of hitting the US mainland. The United States has spent \$40 billion over 18 years on research and development into missile defense systems but they have never been put into operation under wartime conditions.

Mattis this month expressed confidence the US military could intercept a missile fired by North Korea if it was headed to Guam, after North Korea said it was developing a plan to launch four intermediate range missiles to land near the US territory.

If North Korea fired at the United States, the situation could quickly escalate to war, Mattis said.

Not everyone is



A missile is launched during a long and medium-range ballistic rocket launch drill in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 30 August, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

convinced the US military can defend against North Korea's growing missile capability.

Some experts caution that US missile defences are now geared to shooting down one, or perhaps a small number, of incoming missiles. If North Korea's technology and production keep advancing, US defences could be overwhelmed.

"If a shutdown fails, it would be embarrassing, though not terribly surprising," said Michael Elleman, a missile expert at the 38 North think tank in Washington.

"Missile defence does not provide a shield that protects against missiles.

Rather, it is like air defense; it is designed to minimize the damage an adversary can inflict," he said.

One US official said the military would be especially cautious about shooting down a North Korean missile that did not pose a direct threat because of the risk of civilian casualties if it were intercepted over Japan or South Korea, as well as difficulty in determining how Pyongyang might retaliate. The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

US military and intelligence officials warn North Korea could unleash a devastating barrage of missiles and artillery on Seoul and US bases in South Korea

in response to any military attack. Targeting of a North Korean missile in flight that did not endanger the United States or its allies could also raise legal questions. UN Security Council resolutions that ban Pyongyang's ballistic missile programs do not explicitly authorize such actions.

Japan also faces questions over the legality of shooting down missiles in its airspace but not aimed at Japan. Under legislation passed in 2015, Tokyo can exercise a limited right of collective self-defence, or militarily aiding an ally under attack, if it judges the threat to Japan as "existential".—Reuters ■

Ahead of Indian leader's visit, China says huge potential for cooperation

BEIJING — Asian giants China and India have great potential for cooperation, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Wednesday, seeking to cast the neighbors' difficult ties in a positive light ahead of a visit next week by India's prime minister.

The two agreed this week to de-escalate a more than two-month-old stand-off on their disputed border, just in time for Sunday's kick-off of a summit of the BRICS grouping of nations, which also includes Brazil, Russia and South Africa. It was normal for the two giant neighbours to have differences,



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi holds a news briefing ahead of the 9th BRICS Summit, in Beijing, China on 30 August, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Wang told a news briefing ahead of the summit in the southeastern city of Xiamen that India's Narendra Modi is to attend.

"What's important is that we put these problems in the appropriate place, and appropriately handle and control them in the spirit of mutual re-

spect and based on the consensus of both countries' leaders," he said.

"There is huge potential for cooperation between China and India," Wang added, without giving details. The stand-off in the Himalayan region began when India sent troops to stop China building a road in the remote, uninhabited territory of Doklam, claimed by both China and Bhutan. China has said its forces will continue to patrol in Doklam, known in Chinese as Donglang, and Wang added that he hoped India had learned a lesson from the incident.—Reuters ■

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Dated: 31st August 2017

Accomplish national development in the midst of challenges

Khin Maung Oo

PRESENTLY, our country is facing myriads of challenges. While dealing with these challenges, it gives us satisfaction to see prospects for economic development. In fact, the development was attributed to the increasing amounts of foreign investments into the country, compared to those of previous years.

The Private Sector Development Committee held its 9th meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs the other day at the UMFCCI, with a view to easing difficulties and fulfilling the needs of Myanmar entrepreneurs.

The Union Government has been prioritizing peace and stability of the country, simultaneously exerting its efforts for national economic development in respective sectors. Looking

at investments made by Myanmar citizens, it reached K 1275 billion in the present financial year, which was a huge jump from that of last year's —K 109 billion. In the present financial year, foreign investments reached US \$ 3500 million, again a huge jump compared to that of the previous year of US \$ 400 million.

Regarding the investments from home and abroad, Yangon Region received 80 percent of total investments, while only the least amount went to other regions. It is true that every investor has the right to invest in a region which has the highest potential for success. However, it would be better for the country if investments went to Regions and States proportionally so that development would be evenly spread out all over the country.

In developing the national econ-

omy, internal peace and stability is vital. Therefore, only if we can manage to face the challenges for regional peace and stability hand in hand with each other, will local and foreign investments be spread out evenly over the whole country. As we are seeing imminent prospects of investments, we need to lay emphasis on the emergence of nationwide peace and stability.

Though it was said that Myanmar has received a considerable amount of investments in the economic sector, there are still challenges being faced. Since the early period, although the task of establishing a stock and share market was implemented, effective success was not achieved until now. The export market for Myanmar pulses and beans which are produced abundantly in the country has not yet

been stable at the present time. So, we must exert our efforts for foreign direct investments to come into the country.

FDIs are normally invested in such a way that they need to make the foundation firm. They cannot withdraw their investments easily all of a sudden. The FDI is the only reliable source of foreign exchange for a developing nation. Investments in the sectors of transportation, infrastructures, industries and financial services and exploration of oil and gas and minerals are of great benefit for the country and our people.

To sum it up, we need to cooperate with the State for national peace and stability as both are important for the acquisition of more FDIs, at the time when we are seeing nascent progress of the national economy. ■

“Light, where Darkness was”

အမှောင်ခွင်း၍ အလင်းဆောင်အံ့

Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja,
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt



ON 26 August 1947, Translation Society Myanmar was founded under the auspices of the Prime Minister of Myanmar His Excellency U Nu. Myanmar started translation very long ago in its history. Sanskrit, Pali, Pyu, Mon and other Myanmar Ethnic languages and literatures were, and have been translated into Myanmar. Evidences are plentiful in Myanmar archaeology, epigraphy and history among most outstanding are Myazedi Stone Inscription [also known as Yuzakuma Stone Inscription and Ku Pyauk Kyi Stone Inscription] with four faces, each bearing Pali, Pyu, Mon and Myanmar translation of the same subject. This four side stone pillar with unidentical translation of the subject has now been engraved in the UNESCO list of world memory. Another one is the bell inscription of King Bayint Naung's Bell which bears Pali, Mon and Myanmar translations of his works and achievements in military, economic, political religious and socio cultural fields. The Bell is now

displayed in a brick house on the precincts of Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan. The Singu Min Bell, the Thayawaddy Min Bell on the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon. Pahtodawgyi Pagoda Bell at old Capital Amarapura, and King Mindon's 729 inscribed marble Slabs in the precincts of Maha Loka Marazein Pagoda in Mandalay and the great hermit U Khau Ti's inscribed stone slabs on commentaries and sab commentaries of Buddhist Tipitakas in the precincts of Sanda Muni Pagoda in Mandalay are well known at home and abroad.

In Myanmar literacy history, works of translation are too plentiful to get an exact account. Monks, Nuns, Layman of high erudition never stopped translation into Myanmar many pieces of literary merit of other languages. Thus Myanmar literature is enriched by translations of them. In the British Colonial Period, translation of English into Myanmar was begun in the years preceding that Period. We may safely say that since the reign of King Alaungpaya, the founder of Konbaung dynasty [1752-1885 A.D.] translation of English [as well as other European languages such as Italian, French and German] was in full swing thanks to the interpreters employed at the court. In the movement of New Myanmar literature in modern times, popularly known as Khit San Sarpay which originated in the publication of the World of Books Gandaloka ဂန္ဓလောက

was the shining evidence of the outburst of translations by learned translators. The cover of this Magazine Gandaloka carried the motto မြေအုတ်များပြိုလေရာ၊ ကျောက်အုတ်များနှင့် တည်ဆောက်အံ့ Bricks are fallen down. But we shall build with hewn stones. English as the medium of instruction in education of those days had the effect of a double edged razer blade it cuts both ways. English opened up the eyes and horizon of Myanmar educated people to know and learn current affairs of the world and thus bred patriotism among Myanmar people to liberate their country from foreign rule.

At the same time English as an effective tool of anglicization of Myanmar people in making Myanmar people “black English men” to serve English colonial Government.

Happy result of these new movements of translation was the widespread of translation societies, of which most prominent and politically motivated was နဂါးနီ ဘာသာပြန်အသင်းနှင့်ဂျာနယ် Red Dragon Translation Society and its politically motivated journal နဂါးနီစာစဉ် Nagani Journal. Young patriots known as Thakhin were contributors of this journal and active members of this society of which Thakhin Nu, Thakhin Aung San, Thakhin Ba Thaug, Dagon Taya, U Thein Han [Zawgyi], U Wun (Min Thu Wun), P Mo Nin, Theikpan Maung Wa, U Thant, Dagon Khin Khin Lay, Shwe U Daung, U Htin Gyi, U Htin Fatt, Tet

Toe, Daw Khin Myo Chit, Dr. Htin Aung, U Myo Min and Journalist Ma Ma Lay were prominent in the forefront.

After Premier U Nu founded Translation Society with the motto အမှောင်ခွင်း၍ အလင်းဆောင်အံ့ first at the building in the compound of historic Sorrento Villa opposite to the headquarters of Myanmar Radio and Television on Prome Road. Almost every month literary activities took place there-talk, discussion, competition in translation, prize and awards giving and cultural performance.

Later the headquarters was moved to the present place. Besides Writers and Journalists Association was founded and its office was also at the headquarters of Sarpay Beikman. These two annually commemorate the annual Writers Day on the 1st waxing moon of the month of Nattaw [December] and Puja ceremony of paying homage to doyen writers at the YCDC Town Hall downtown Yangon. Writers' and Journalists' Associations were founded across the country. At their invitations, noted writers and journalists give talks on literature, arts, music and current affairs.

Sarpay Beikman, translation society and Writers and Journalists Association have foreign contacts. There are exchanges of writers, journalists and translators with neighbor countries and far and near countries.

SEE PAGE 9



Two home made bombs for setting homes on fire. **PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE**



ARSA extremist terrorists burn down homes in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE**



Banker built by ARSA extremist terrorists inside a village. **PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

Seven more civilians killed in Rakhine

FROM PAGE-1

“Terrorists were estimated to be about one hundred. As children were accompanying them, they seemed to live in nearby villages. I was greatly annoyed with being bullied by them. I would not leave our locations. On our way to

the place, there were many people left at their places, as there were not any vehicles such as cars and boats,” he added.

Since then, more than 18,000 Muslims from Rakhine State, have fled the violence in north-west Myanmar, while thousands

more are stuck at the Bangladesh border or scrambling to reach it.

In addition, the government has evacuated thousands of Rakhine Buddhists further south to Sittway.

The United Nations, while condemning the militant attacks,

has asked the Union government to protect civilian lives without discrimination and appealed to Bangladesh to admit those fleeing the military counteroffensive.

At least 109 people have been killed in the attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists, most of them

terrorists but also members of the security forces and civilians.

The violence marks a dramatic escalation of a conflict that has simmered since October, when a similar coordinated attacks on security posts . —Myanmar News Agency ■

Independent journalists visit conflict areas in Maungtaw

A group of independent journalists including local and foreign media yesterday talked to people, who fled their villages after terrorist attacks, sheltering at schools in Maungtaw.

During their tour, they witnessed preparations for burning down homes and improvise explosive devices planted by ARSA extremist terrorists in Maungtaw. They will tour around the conflict areas from 30th August to 1st September.

The group includes 18 journalists from Kyodo News,



Journalists talk to people fled from Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

TV Asahi, Nippon TV, The Irrawaddy, Asahi Shimbun, Fuji TV, Nikkei Shimbun, Skynet Media, VOA, News Watch, Mizzima and the Voice. This the fourth visit of the independent journalists to northern Rakh-

ine following their third visit in July 2017.

The first trip made from 19 to 22 December in 2016 and the second from 28th March to 1st April in 2017.—Myanmar News Agency ■

India relaxes restrictions on pulses import from Myanmar

Indian Embassy in Yangon announced yesterday relaxation of the limitation on beans import from Myanmar in attempts to address the concerns related to to cases in which contracts had been entered into by making advance payments. “In view of the special relationship between India and Myanmar, the Government of India has now intimated a relaxation of the provisions of Para 1.05 of the Foreign Trade Policy in order to provide for registration of such import

contracts of Toor Dal (Pigeon Pea) for which advance payments had been made prior to 5th August, 2017, and for which contract papers and proforma invoices authenticated by the Government of Myanmar and copies of SWIFT documents authenticated by the bank concerned are available,” said the statement released by the embassy.

The announcement came after discussions between the Embassy of India and Myanmar authorities.—GNLM

“Light, where Darkness was”

FROM PAGE 8

For many years U Myo Thant [Maung Hsu Shin] was the prime mover of the activities of Sarpay Beikman. There was a quarterly Sarpay Beikman magazine which is now a monthly magazine Thuta Padetha.

The writer is proud to say

that he, as a student at the Yangon University was an observer and later participant in the activities of Sarpay Beikman. Later he was chosen as member of the central Executive Committee of Writers and Journalists Association and permanent member of Sarpay Beikman. In these capacities, he had served

until his very old age of 80 years in the activities of both Sarpay Beikman and Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association—literary talks, Seminars, Discussion, Exchange program at home and abroad.

Today he attended this auspicious ceremony of 70th Anniversary of Sarpay Beikman

graced by the presence of the Union Minister for Information H.E Dr. Pe Myint.

Today in this 21st century of Globalization Age need new generation of good and efficient translators.

It is not an easy job to train good and efficient translators. Dictionary alone cannot produce good efficient translators. Language and literature are very fluid.

They abruptly change according to time, place and circumstances. Translator must move with current changes picking up and paying special attention to usage, jargons jokes of the time translators must be able to read between lines. So on this occasion of Sarpay Beikman 70th anniversary, the writer makes a clarion call for the training of a new generation of Translators. ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office



Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Mongolia's President Khaltmaagiin Battulga. PHOTO: REUTERS

Russian, Mongolian Presidents agree to hold detailed talks on WEF sidelines

BUDAPEST — Russian President Vladimir Putin and Mongolian President Khaltmaagiin Battulga have agreed to hold detailed talks on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Vladivostok.

In the course of a working meeting here on Monday, Putin congratulated Battulga on the occasion of the Mongolian team's successful performance at the World Judo Championship.

"I'm glad to get to know you personally," Putin said. "We know you as a politician and a good athlete. I'd like to congratulate you on the Mongolian judokas' very good performance here at the World Championship."

He said he planned to have a more detailed discussion of

the Russian-Mongolian relations with Battulga at the forum in Vladivostok where the latter man planned to come.

Putin added that Russian-Mongolian trade was demonstrating fair dynamics this year, saying: "While we evidenced a 20% slump last year, there was 34% growth in January-June 2017 alone."

He called attention to progress made in along the political vector of bilateral relations, as much as in the economy and cultural ties. Specifically, he pointed out the active operations of Russian-Mongolian joint-venture companies and a growing volume of cargo haulage across the Russian-Mongolian border.

Khaltmaagiin Battulga said

on his part he was especially pleased to meet with Putin in the brims of the judo championship. "Since both of us take interest in the theme and love it, it's really great I think we're meeting in the course of an event like this one. I think it will lay down fair prerequisites for the future."

He voiced the hope Putin and he would have more detailed talks in Vladivostok, adding that he planned to promote trade with Russia.

"I hope to promote relations with our northern neighbor with due account of the current reality," Battulga said.

He also stated a growth of bilateral trade, saying that it mostly reflected an increase of trade between cross-border

regions. In the light of it, he suggested that special attention should be given to cross-border cooperation in view of the fact the Russian-Mongolian border is more than 4,000 km long.

Battulga stressed his particular interest in the sphere of investment. He recalled in this connection Mongolian-Russian joint-venture Ulaanbaatar Railways, which the sides co-owned on parity grounds.

"Agreed," Putin answered.

Vladivostok hosts the 3rd World Economic Forum on September 6-7 this year. TASS is the general information partner of the event, the official photo host and the moderator on the floor of investment projects presentation.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Democracy "barely alive" in Venezuela, UN rights chief says

GENEVA — Democracy is "barely alive" in Venezuela, where President Nicolas Maduro has repressed months of protests and consolidated power, the United Nations human rights chief said on Wednesday.

UN High Commissioner Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, whose office presented a report on Wednesday documenting extensive human rights violations committed by Venezuelan security forces, was asked whether the country was now a dictatorship.—Reuters ■

South Korea names top envoys to US, China, Japan

SEOUL — South Korea has appointed a former diplomat and presidential economic adviser as its ambassador to the United States and also named top diplomats to China and Japan, the presidential Blue House said on Wednesday.

Cho Yoon-je, an international trade expert who had previously served as South Korea's ambassador to Britain, will become South Korea's new envoy to the United States, the Blue House said in a statement.—Reuters ■

US court lifts restraining orders affecting Congo Eurobond

ABIDJAN — A US court ruled to lift two restraining notices that had blocked a coupon payment on Congo Republic's \$363 million Eurobond amid a \$1 billion legal dispute between the government and a construction firm, according to a court filing seen on Wednesday. A payment on the bond maturing in 2029 was frozen in June after Commissions Import Export SA filed two restraining orders to the bond's trustee the Delaware Trust Company. Congolese authorities had transferred the payment a day before.

It was not immediately clear if the coupon payments have now resumed.—Reuters ■

Freedom of the press under attack from Trump — UN rights boss

GENEVA — The United Nations' top human rights official said on Wednesday that derogatory remarks by US President Donald Trump about journalists could amount to incitement and embolden followers to attack certain communities.

Trump, speaking in Arizona last week, defended his response to a white supremacist-organised rally in Virginia and criticised news organisations for their coverage of the violence in the Virginia college town of Charlottesville, calling journalists

"truly dishonest people".

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein said: "It's really quite amazing when you think that freedom of the press, not only sort of a cornerstone of the US Constitution but very much

something that the United States defended over the years is now itself under attack from the President. "It's sort of a stunning turnaround. And ultimately the sequence is a dangerous one," he told a news conference.—Reuters ■

‘Gates of Hell’: Iraqi army says fighting near Tal Afar worse than Mosul

BAGHDAD — Iraqi forces battling to retake the small town of al-'Ayadiya where militants fleeing Tal Afar have entrenched themselves, saying on Tuesday the fighting is “multiple times worse” than the battle for Mosul’s old city.

Hundreds of battle-hardened fighters were positioned inside most houses and high buildings inside the town, making it difficult for government forces to make any progress, army officers told Reuters.

Iraqi government troops captured the town of Mosul from Islamic State in June, but only after eight months of grinding urban warfare.

But one Iraqi officer, Colonel Kareem al-Lami, described breaching the militants’ first line of defense in al-'Ayadiya as like opening “the gates of hell”.

Iraqi forces have in recent days recaptured almost all of the northwestern city of Tal Afar, long a stronghold of Islamic State. They have been waiting to take al-'Ayadiya, just 11 km (7

miles) northwest of the city, before declaring complete victory.

Tough resistance from the militants in al-'Ayadiya has forced the Iraqi forces to increase the number of air strikes, as well as bring in reinforcements from the federal police to boost units from the army, air force, Federal Police, the elite US-trained Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) and some units from the Shi'ite Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF).

Up to 2,000 battle-hardened militants were believed to be defending Tal Afar against around 50,000 government troops last week.

Military intelligence indicated that many militants fled Tal Afar to mount a staunch defense in al-'Ayadiya. Many motorcycles carrying the Islamic State insignia were seen abandoned at the side of the road outside al-'Ayadiya.

Though the exact numbers of militants on the ground in al-'Ayadiya was still unclear, al-Lami, the Iraqi Army colo-



Members of Iraqi Army fire mortar shells during the war between Iraqi army and Shi'ite Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) against the Islamic State militants in al-Ayadiya, northwest of Tal Afar, Iraq on 28 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

nel, estimated they were in their “hundreds.”

“Daesh (Islamic State) fighters in their hundreds are taking positions inside almost every single house in the town,” he said.

Sniper shots, mortars, heavy machine guns and anti-armored projectiles were fired from every single house, he added.

“We thought the battle for Mosul’s Old City was tough, but this one proved to be multiple

times worst,” al-Lami said. “We are facing tough fighters who have nothing to lose and are ready to die.”

Two army officers told Reuters that no significant advances had yet been made in al-'Ayadiya. They said they were waiting for artillery and air strikes to undermine the militants power.

The extra Federal Police troops that were called in said late on Tuesday that they had

controlled 50 percent of the town, deploying snipers on the high buildings and intensified shelling the militants headquarters with rockets, a federal police spokesman said in a statement.

Tal Afar became the next target of the US-backed war on the jihadist group following the recapture of Mosul, where it had declared its “caliphate” over parts of Iraq and Syria in 2014. —Reuters ■

Islamic State claims attack on house of Afghan lawmaker

JALALABAD — Militant group Islamic State on Wednesday claimed responsibility for a suicide attack on the home of a powerful member of parliament in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad that killed two security guards and both attackers.

The assault targeted the house of Zahir Qadir, deputy speaker of parliament and a

member of a prominent political family long opposed to both the Taliban and Islamic State, which is based largely in eastern Nangarhar province.

Officials said the guards were killed when one attacker detonated a suicide vest. The other attacker was shot dead immediately.

In a statement on its Amaq

news agency, Islamic State said two of its fighters had attacked the house. Qadir achieved notoriety two years ago when militia fighters loyal to him beheaded four Islamic State militants and displayed their severed heads on the side of a road in Nangarhar in retaliation for the beheading of four militia members. —Reuters ■

Sudan president pardons, frees rights activist — family

KHARTOUM — Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has pardoned and released a prominent human rights activists who had been jailed since last year on spying and other charges, his family said.

The release of Mudawi Ibrahim Adam came after a visit by US President Donald Trump’s aid administrator to Sudan and before an October deadline when the administration will decide whether to permanently lift 20-year-old sanctions.

“He is home after a presidential amnesty and he seems in good health,” his wife Sabah told Reuters late on Tuesday.

International rights groups had often called for the release of Ibrahim Adam, who they said had faced the death penalty on false charges since his arrest in December.

USAID chief Mark Green had met with Sudanese authorities this week as part of a fact-finding mission to assess whether Khartoum was meeting conditions to lift sanctions on Sudan. Just before leaving office, former US President Barack Obama temporarily eased penalties against Sudan, suspending a trade embargo, unfreezing assets and removing sanctions.

In July, the Trump administration postponed for three months a decision on whether to remove the restrictions full-time - allowing it until 12 October to make a decision. US officials have said limited steps to ease sanctions are meant to recognise progress in Sudan, particularly moves to reduce internal conflict and increase cooperation with Washington in the war against terrorism. —Reuters ■

Jordan border crossing with Iraq to reopen in major boost to ties

AMMAN — Jordan will open its main border crossing with Iraq on Wednesday for the first time since 2015, now that Iraqi forces have gained control of the main highway to Baghdad from Islamic State militants, both governments said.

Iraqi troops pulled out of the Tureibil post, on the 180 km

(110 mile) border, in summer 2014 after the militants secured nearly all the official crossings of the western frontier as they swept through a third of the country. Commercial traffic continued for a year after until Iraq launched an offensive in July 2015 to reclaim the predominantly Sunni Anbar provin-

ce and deprive the militants of funds raised from truck drivers forced to pay a tax on cargo coming in from Jordan.

Tureibil would open on Wednesday after the road was secured “from attacks and criminal gangs,” the Iraqi and Jordanian governments said in a joint statement. —Reuters ■

British PM May lands in Japan to talk N Korea, trade with Abe

TOKYO — British Prime Minister Theresa May arrived in Japan on Wednesday for a three-day visit during which she is expected to stress her unity with Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe over North Korea and discuss the future of bilateral economic and trade ties.

May went to Kyoto from Osaka International Airport to experience a tea ceremony hosted by Abe and hold talks over dinner in the ancient capital, according to the Japanese government.

While the outcome of the unofficial dinner talks will not be made public, Abe and May are expected to affirm their coordination in addressing the security threat from North Korea following the North's launch on Tuesday of a ballistic missile over Japan into the Pacific Ocean.

They are also likely to discuss how their countries' trade relationship might evolve once Britain completes its exit from the European Union.

Japan and the European Union sealed a broad



British Prime Minister Theresa May arrives at Osaka International Airport, western Japan, on 30 August, 2017, for a three-day visit, during which she is expected to hold talks with her Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe regarding security cooperation and the fight against terrorism among other issues. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

agreement last month on a free trade deal that analysts said served as a signal to skeptics about the benefits of staying in the bloc. Abe and May are set to hold formal talks

in Tokyo on Thursday. They are expected to announce after those talks joint statements pledging cooperation in the fields of security and the economy.

The Japanese government announced Wednesday that May will attend a meeting of Japan's National Security Council to be held Thursday afternoon ahead of the bilateral talks.

Such an invitation has previously been extended just once, to then Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott in 2014. Abe and May agreed in April this year to advance with joint defence exercises and defence equipment research.

Ahead of the NSC meeting, May is scheduled to inspect the Maritime Self-Defence Force's helicopter carrier Izumo at Yokosuka base in Kanagawa Prefecture, southwest of Tokyo.

The visit is May's first to Japan since she took office in July last year.

May is also set to meet with Emperor Akihito before leaving Japan on Friday.—Kyodo News ■

Transgender members in US military may serve until study completed —Mattis

WASHINGTON — US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis said on Tuesday current policy regarding transgender personnel serving in the military would remain in place until he advises President Donald Trump on how to implement his directive on a transgender ban.

Mattis said in a statement he would set up a panel of experts serving in the Departments of Defence and Homeland Security to provide recommendations on implementing the ban.

He said he would advise the president after the panel reports its recommendations, and “in the interim, current policy with respect to currently serving members will remain in place.”

Trump signed a memorandum on Friday directing the US military not to accept transgender men and women as recruits and halting the use of government funds for sex-reassignment surgeries for active personnel unless the process is already under way.

A White House official who briefed reporters

about the memo on Friday declined to specify whether transgender men and women who are currently active in the military could continue to serve based on such criteria.

The memo called on Mattis to submit a plan to Trump by 12 February, on how to implement the changes. Mattis said he expects to issue other guidance “including any necessary interim adjustments to procedures, to ensure the continued combat readiness of the force until our final policy on this subject is issued.”

Trump's directive created uncertainty for thousands of transgender service members, many of whom came out after the Pentagon said in 2016 it would allow transgender people to serve openly.

The decision appealed to some in Trump's conservative political base while drawing criticism from advocates of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights.

Civil rights groups filed two new lawsuits on Monday challenging Trump's ban.—Reuters ■

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LawPlus Myanmar Ltd.

Phone: +95 9 43064833, Email: khinkhinzaw@lawplusltd.com

Dated: 31st August 2017

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Dated: 31st August 2017

Stars, virtual reality and migrants to dominate Venice film fest

VENICE — A refugee documentary by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, a horror film starring Jennifer Lawrence and George Clooney's latest directorial effort are all tipped as must-sees at the Venice film fest set to open on the Lido island on Wednesday.

Top Hollywood talent and auteur directors will be vying for the Golden Lion at the world's oldest film festival which, after a period in the doldrums, is again considered a launching pad for the industry's award season, after it premiered Academy winners in its last four editions.

Space drama "Gravity", clergy sex-abuse film "Spotlight" and last year's musical "La La Land" secured Oscars after featuring in Venice. Those wins have helped attract talent to this year's festival, said artistic director Alberto Barbera.

"Finally all the majors, the big Hollywood studios, realised that coming to Venice ... it really changes the perspective of a film," Barbera told Reuters on the eve of the festival, which runs till 9 September. "It's much easier to get the films that we want."

The festival's 74th edition opens with Alexander Payne's "Downsizing", a satire starring



A woman (R) is helped to try on earphones and a headset used for virtual reality at the Venice Virtual Reality a competition during 74th Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy on 29 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Matt Damon about a couple who decide to shrink themselves to four inches tall.

The rich selection of US and international movies also includes Darren Aronofsky's "Mother!", starring Lawrence and Javier Bardem; Guillermo Del Toro's "The Shape of Water"; and Stephen Frears' "Victoria

and Abdul", with Judi Dench as the 19th century queen, which screens in the out-of-competition section.

"There are a lot of movies with strong Oscar potential," said Ariston Anderson, a film critic at the Hollywood Reporter. She lamented the fact that only one female director featured

in the main competition, but complimented the organisers for being the first major cinema event to feature a virtual reality competition.

"It sends a strong message for a platform like Venice to have a competition for VR, that this is a new art form, we are going to judge it, we're going to accept it

and see what comes out of it," she said.

Concrete slabs were positioned at entrances to control vehicle traffic, and arrivals were screened at the festival venue as security was beefed up following violent attacks across Europe.

Current affairs also feature in the lineup with the Ai Weiwei's hotly anticipated "Human Flow", the Chinese artist's first film and "a daring documentary", Barbera said, adding that bringing the film to Venice was a political statement as well.

"It's not just a festival, we are a festival which deals with the problems of the contemporary world."

One of the highlights this year is Clooney's return to Venice with "Suburbicon", a dark comedy starring Damon and Julianne Moore. Clooney, who tied the knot in a huge celebrity wedding in Venice in 2014, has since made Italy his second home. "Venice loves Clooney, Clooney loves Venice ... Jennifer Lawrence is obviously a huge fashion icon, she makes a presence wherever she goes, but I don't think anybody commands a room like Clooney does in Venice," Anderson said. —Reuters ■

Kardashians pledge \$500,000 as celebs rally for Harvey storm relief

LOS ANGELES — Kim Kardashian and her family on Tuesday donated a collective \$500,000 to storm Harvey relief efforts, joining celebrities like Jennifer Lopez, Dwayne Johnson, NFL player JJ Watt and comedian Kevin Hart who have pledged funds to help the tens of thousands affected by the devastation in Texas.

Kardashian, her sisters Khloe and Kourtney and mom Kris Jenner made the pledges on Twitter, directing their funds to the Red Cross and Salvation Army.

"Houston we are praying for you! My mom, sisters & I will be donating \$500,000," the TV reality star tweeted.

Tropical Storm Harvey, which hit land as a hurricane over the weekend, has brought catastrophic flooding to Texas, killing at least 11 people and paralyzing Houston. City officials on Tuesday prepared to shelter up to 19,000 people, with



Kim Kardashian arrives at the 2016 MTV Video Music Awards in New York, US on 28 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

thousands more expected to flee the area.

"Ride Along" star Hart set the celebrity ball rolling on Monday with a \$50,000 donation and social media challenge that called on stars to match him. Johnson, Lopez and rapper DJ Khaled each have pledged \$25,000.

Houston Texans NFL player Watt launched his own online effort on Sunday with a \$100,000

donation and a video plea.

The fund quickly reached \$1 million, and Watt tweeted on Tuesday his goal was now \$4 million.

Houston's most famous export, Beyonce, who has recently moved from New York to Los Angeles, has said she is working on a plan to help her hometown recover.

"Texas You are in my prayers," the singer posted on her Instagram page.

In statement to the Houston Chronicle on Monday, Beyonce added that she was working closely with her team and her Houston pastor "to implement a plan to help as many as we can."

British band Coldplay, who canceled a planned show in Houston on Friday because of the impending hurricane, wrote a new song for the city called "Houston #1," which they performed at a concert in Miami on Monday. —Reuters ■



Musician John Legend. PHOTO: PTI

I was often afraid to take risks: John Legend

NEW YORK — Musician John Legend has said he wishes he would have been a little bolder when he was younger.

The 38-year-old singer said he was a shy child and was trying to find his feet in the world, reported Cosmopolitan magazine.

"I was often afraid to take risks, socially, because I was young and a little more shy and

still figuring out who I wanted to be. Sometimes I look back and think, 'I should have just been bolder and more confident,'" Legend said. When asked what piece of advice he would offer to his younger self, the "All of me" hitmaker said he would ask him to take risks. "I would tell myself, 'Love yourself and don't be afraid to take risks,'" he said. —PTI ■

Iconic castle roof statues recreated in quake-hit Kumamoto

KUMAMOTO (Japan) — The southwestern Japan city of Kumamoto on Wednesday unveiled new statues for the roof of its iconic castle to replace those damaged by last year's major earthquakes.

Four new statues of the "Shachihoko" — a mythical half-fish creature — to be placed atop the main towers of Kumamoto Castle, are being displayed at a nearby visitor center.

The nonprofit Nippon Foundation provided the reconstruction cost of about 25 million yen (\$228,000) for the statues, which

stand 120 centimetres tall for the larger tower and 90 cm tall for the smaller tower. Two local roof tile craftsmen were engaged in the recreation. With large, bulbous eyes and wide fins, the statues are regarded as guardians of the castle, where massive repair work is under way to repair serious damage resulting from the quakes in April 2016.

The larger statues will be on display at the visitor center until next February and the smaller until August 2019, before being reinstalled in their original location.—Kyodo News ■



Kosuke Fujimoto (2nd from R) and his son Shugo look at four new Shachihoko statues being displayed in Kumamoto, southwestern Japan on 30 August, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Sushi chain to offer low-carbohydrate dish using white radish

OSAKA — Revolving sushi chain Kurasushi will offer a low-carbohydrate sushi-like dish using Japanese white radish in place of orthodox vinegared rice, its operator said on Tuesday.

Osaka-based Kura Corp. hopes to attract consumers who are limiting their intake of rice and other carbohydrates as the new dish has up to 88 per cent less carbohydrates than orthodox sushi. The new dish will be available at its restaurants

nationwide from Thursday and will be offered with a choice of four toppings, including shrimp and Albacore tuna, and priced at 108 yen each.

Sushi with half the amount of rice will also be available at the same price, the operator said.

"We hope (the dish) will be savored deliciously with vegetables, without (the consumer) worrying about sugar content," said an official of the sushi chain.—Kyodo News ■



A woman holds up a plate of a low-carbohydrate sushi-like dish using Japanese white radish in place of orthodox vinegared rice in Osaka on 29 August, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Thailand offers course for women who marry foreigners

BANGKOK — Thailand is offering a free course to help Thai women cope with the highs and lows of interracial marriage and avoid potential scams or falling victim to human trafficking when moving abroad.

As Thai society becomes more accepting of interracial marriages, some women view them as a way to better their economic status, the social development ministry says.

"Our course will teach women how to conduct themselves, about the laws of their destination country, and how to prepare before going," said senior ministry

official Patcharee Arayakul. "This is to reduce the risks of women being scammed or being a victim of human trafficking," added Patcharee, who is the director of the ministry's division of gender equality.

Although there is no recent data on such marriages, a 2004 government study showed more than 15,000 women from one of the poorest regions, northeastern Isan, had married foreign men, and sent a monthly total of 122 million baht to their families. The course covers "legal rights, how to seek help through relevant Thai authorities,

as well as exploring issues of culture shock," said Dusadee Ayuwat, an associate professor at Khon Kaen University who helped to design it. The practical advice was very useful, said one woman who attended the day-long course, paid for by the ministry. "I was more interested in the legal aspects rather than the culture shock," said the woman, who declined to be named. The course could be useful for some Thai women, said Ploynisa Duangdararungrueng, a former spa manager who is married to German national Ralf Wacker. "Thai

women, especially those from the northeast region, are soft-spoken and submissive," she said. "They must learn to respect themselves and their culture." Her husband said the course could prepare women for the reality of life in the West. "For a lot of women, life in the West is like a fairy tale, but in reality it can feel extremely isolating moving to a small town," said Wacker who urged Thailand to offer a similar course for Western spouses. "If the Western man does not understand the family dynamics, this can cause a lot of problems." — Reuters ■



Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(31-8-2017 07:00am -1-9-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Herbal Medicine By Thurein (Aloe Vera)
07:49	Am	Amazing: Sayargyi Nyein Chan Aung
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	We'll Leave after 12 Passengers are on Board
08:42	Am	Yatana Theinga City and Shwe Bon Yatanamingalar Palace
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Products of Myanmar - Craft Blacksmithing
09:52	Am	Cultural Show: Theatrical Make Up
10:03	Am	News

10:27 Am Continuation In Rural Tradition

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Travelogue: To the coastal region (Myeik - Kawthoung) (Part-1)
07:55	Pm	Now in Yangon
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-2) Myanmar Chinthe (Myanmar Lion)
08:40	Pm	Visiting A Serene Village in The Northwest of Myanmar
08:55	Pm	Black Gold (P - II)
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)		

Myanmar selects team for Asian Cup qualification

Kyaw Zin Lin

In preparation for the Asian Cup qualification, Myanmar has selected 21 players, including several players who participated in the 29th SEA Games, according to the official website of the Myanmar Football Federation yesterday.

Well-known national team players Thann Paing, Aung Thu, Kyaw Ko Ko, Hlaing Bo Bo, Sann Satt Naing were included in the roster of the Myanmar football team.

The 2019 AFC Asian Cup qualification is the qualification process organised by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to determine the participating teams for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup, the 17th edition of the international men's football championship of Asia. For the first time, the Asian Cup final tournament will be contested by 24 teams, having been expanded from the 16-team format that had been used since 2004.



Myanmar national football team seen at an international football match. PHOTO MFF

The qualification process will involve four rounds, where the first two doubled as the 2018 FIFA World Cup quali-

cation for Asian teams.

Myanmar will play against Kyrgyzstan on 5 September in one of the qualification match-

es. Myanmar will be headed by team Manager U Thann Toe Aung and Head Coach Gerd Zeise. ■

AFF U18 Championship to start next week

Kyaw Zin Lin

The Asian Football Federation U-18 Youth Championship football matches that will be hosted in Yangon will begin on Tuesday.

The 2017 AFF U-18 Youth Championship is the 14th edition of the AFF U-19 Youth Championship, organised by the ASEAN Football Federation. This will be the second time Myanmar will host the AFF U-18 championships.

Myanmar drew out of the group stage last year. Eleven out of the 12 member associations of the ASEAN Football Federation took part in the tournament featuring two groups of five and six teams.

Myanmar is in Group B together with Vietnam, Brunei, Indonesia and the Philippines. Myanmar will play against Indonesia on 5 September; Brunei on 9 September; the Philippines on 11 September and Vietnam on 13 September. The matches will be played at Thuwanna and Aung San stadiums in Yangon. ■

Hazard set for first action of season in qualifier

BRUSSELS — Eden Hazard could be included in Belgium's line-up for Thursday's World Cup qualifier against Gibraltar even though he has yet to play this season, said coach Roberto Martinez on Tuesday.

The Chelsea midfielder was a surprise selection for the Group H qualifiers against Gibraltar this week and Greece next Tuesday after surgery on his ankle, injured on international duty in June.

His club manager, Antonio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as "a mistake" but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubeke and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.



Chelsea's Eden Hazard. PHOTO: REUTERS

"He's got two training sessions in his legs now and there has been no adverse reaction

to the injury. We are evaluating the situation further on Wednesday and we'll make a decision

on Thursday. "Eden says he is feeling good but we must take into account the fact he has not played for a while.

"The match against Gibraltar seems to me an ideal opportunity for him to play. But we must take it step-by-step and if he plays 90 minutes against Gibraltar, then he won't play against Greece," Martinez said.

Belgium host Gibraltar in Liege and then go to Athens to meet Greece. Victory in the two games could see ensure top spot for Belgium in their group and secure a place at next year's finals in Russia.

They lead the standings with 16 out of a possible 18 points, four ahead of second-placed Greece. —Reuters ■

FA charges Newcastle striker Mitrovic over violent conduct

LONDON — The English Football Association has charged Newcastle United striker Aleksandar Mitrovic for an alleged act of violent conduct during last Saturday's 3-0 Premier League win over West Ham United, the governing body said on Tuesday.

Serbia international Mitrovic was involved in an incident with West Ham midfielder Manuel Lanzini while challenging for the ball in the 80th minute of the game at St James' Park.

The incident was not seen by match officials but was caught on camera and the footage was reviewed by a panel of three former elite referees. The 22-year-old was charged after a unanimous decision was reached and has until 30 August to respond. —Reuters ■