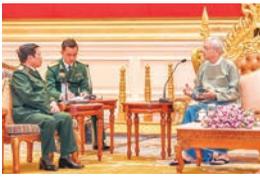


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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Tuesday, 3 October 2017

President calls for increasing budget, investment to achieve 7 per cent growth target of GDP

TO achieve its 7 per cent growth target of GDP in FY 2017-2018, the government must work for increasing national budget and boosting local and foreign investment, said President U Htin Kyaw at the meeting 3/2017 of the Financial Commission in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, the president said in his capacity as the chairman of the commission that World Bank estimated Myanmar's economic growth rate at 7 per cent, IMF at 7.5 per cent and ADB at 8.3 per cent respectively.

Present at the meeting

were President U Htin Kyaw, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice-Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Union Minister U Kyaw Win, secretary of the commission members—Union Attorney General, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and Chief Ministers

of Regions and States.

At the meeting President U Htin Kyaw said, "Today's meeting is to approve the demand for additional grants of the Union, Regions and States for FY 2017-2018, and to send for the approval to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

SEE PAGE-3



President U Htin Kyaw.

Union Minister holds talks with Bangladeshi FM over Northern Rakhine issue

At the invitation of H.E. Mr. Abdul Hassan Mahmood Ali, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, the Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, U Kyaw Tint Swe visited Dhaka, Bangladesh from 1 to 3 October 2017, accompanied by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Kyaw Zeya.

During his visit, the Union Minister called on H.E. Mr. Abdul Hassan Mahmood Ali, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, on 2 October 2017.

The two Ministers exchanged views on how to resolve the issue of residents from the Rakhine State who have recently crossed over to Bangladesh.

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in Picture

Protestors denounce foreign interference, bias media over N-Rakhine issue

Protestors hold placards denouncing some western countries' interference in and international media's bias coverage on Rakhine State issue during the demonstration organized by Myanmar Political Watchers in downtown Yangon, on 2nd October, 2017. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR (NEWS ON PAGE 2)



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Diplomats visit three different areas in N-Rakhine

Diplomats and representatives of UN agencies visited conflict areas in northern Rakhine State, terrorists attacked dozens of police outposts and civilians on 25th August, led to an exodus of local people from all communities.

Divided into three groups, the diplomats and the UN's representatives visited three different areas in Maungtau and Yathedaung townships meeting with people from Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist communities.

During the diplomatic trip, they asked the people from all communities about current challenges for livelihood, education and health.

At the Maungtau District General Administration Department, they also met with relatives of victims of the Rakhine, Mro, Thet and Daing Net ethnic villagers and Hindu villagers who were killed by ARSA terrorists.

The villages they visited yesterday are Anaukpyin Village, Shwelaungtin Village in Yathedaung Township, Narollah Village, Pantawpyin, Shwezar Village, Khondaing Village, Kamaungseik Village, Ngakhuya Village in Maungtau Township.

Following the trip, the diplomats issued a statement, reiterating their condemnation of the ARSA attacks of 25 August and their deep concern about violence and mass displacement.

The statement also called for unimpeded humanitarian access and allowing journalists to all parts of Rakhine again.

"We call once more for un-



Diplomats and UN agencies representatives meet with villagers in northern Rakhine on 2 October. PHOTO: MNA

impeded humanitarian access to northern Rakhine and resumption of life-saving services without discrimination throughout the state. We welcome the media access that has already been allowed but call once more for journalists to be allowed full, unimpeded access to all parts of Rakhine," said the statement.

"As friends of Myanmar we remain ready to work with the Myanmar Government to help Rakhine reach its potential.

The Advisory Commission on Rakhine State has set out recommendations for a stable, peaceful and prosperous future for all communities in the state, irrespective of ethnicity, religion

or citizenship status. We support full implementation of the report," said the statement.

The ambassadors who all took part in the trip to northern Rakhine are from Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Indonesia, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, the United States, the European Union, Germany and Spain and Head of the Swedish Section Office, Deputy Head of Mission of the United Kingdom and Deputy Head of Mission of Finland while representatives from UNRC, UNHCR, WFP, World Bank (Myanmar) and UNODC.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Diplomats and UN agencies representatives meet with villagers in northern Rakhine on 2 October. PHOTO: MNA

Protestors denounce foreign interference, bias media over N-Rakhine issue

By Zaw Gyi

PEOPLE staged a peaceful protest in downtown Yangon yesterday, denouncing some western countries' interference and international media's turning a blind eyes and deaf ears to true situation in northern Rakhine issue.

The demonstration led by Myanmar Political Watchers was held to denounce the attack on the country's sovereignty and for putting pressure while neglecting the truth.

The protestors held placards and shout "Myanmar is seen to be accused internationally in varieties of ways. False accusation of Myanmar conducting genocide put made up



Protestors demonstrating in front of Yangon City Hall near Maha Bandula Park. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT (MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

to the Security Council.

Rakhine State issue is an internal matter and is a

problem caused by illegal immigrants. But it is seen to be described as an international

affair. There are medias that are describing this affair in a biased one sided way," said Daw Khine Khine Hsu, a protestor.

She added that "Those who die in the Rakhine affair include Hindus, Ethnic nationals like Mro and Daingnet are also included. In fact Myanmar is being ethnically cleansed. If international media value human rights, they need to stand on the side of the truth. If they are concerned for humanitarian matter, look at the ethnic Rakhines and Hindus."

U Myo Maung Maung Soe who participated in the demonstration said "Foreign countries should know the news as we heard. Some contain the truth but some have fake news.

We are doing this (demonstration) as our country will be affected adversely if big foreign countries pressure our country based on the covered up news of the international media."

Veteran journalist U Thiha Saw responded to Myanmar News Agency's query saying that local media should also use journalistic techniques to discover the truth and to release them to the world timely in attempts to refute the wrong information of the international media.

"Purposely biased international media are feeding incomplete information on Myanmar's issue and strengthening terrorism," read a letter on the placard. ■

President calls for increasing budget, investment to achieve 7 per cent growth target of GDP

FROM PAGE-1

after approving bill on the revised budget estimate for FY 2017-2018. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw promulgated the Union Budget Law, 2017 on 24th March 2017. Now that FY 2017-2018 has passed the first six months. Revised Budget Estimate had an estimated deficit of K 3989.568 billion, exceeding K 6.227 billion more than the RE budget. Ratio of deficit and GDP was 4.37 per cent in BE and 4.38 per cent in RE. In scrutinizing demands for additional grants, it was found that the excess of deficit was attributed to allowance of demands for additional grants of hydro power plants under construction, which are to be granted only after scrutinizing at different levels. It includes essential matters for fencing Rakhine State Border Lines and for building roads for May Yu range linking routes, approved by the Union Government.”

The President added, “In regions and States as well, it was found that more K 15.344 billion including the tax shares divided by the Union Government will be added to the Budget Estimate funded by the Union Government with a view to implementing the multi-development.

Afterward, Vice-President U Myint Swe, Vice-Chairman of Financial Commission said, “In scrutinizing demands for additional grants for FY 2017-2018, it was found that K 1008.335 billion in ordinary expenditure, K 727.209 billion in lump sum expenditure, K 201.739 billion in bad debt expense/deficit spending, K 552.342 billion in business investment and K 55.112 billion in increased spending for departments and organizations out of Union Budget Fund Program, K 2544.737 bil-



President U Htin Kyaw delivers a speech at the meeting 3/2017 of the Financial Commission in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 October. PHOTO: MNA

lion altogether. In scrutinizing demands for additional grants of Union Level Departments and Organizations for FY 2017-2018, concerning ordinary expenses, more expenses were needed due to changes in income-tax, contribution into national budget, commercial taxes and exchange rates of foreign currency. In regard to lump sum expenses, matters of insufficiency included in the Law on National Planning in FY 2017-2018 and matters to be implemented in present financial year were scrutinized. Union level departments and organizations' Budget Estimate amounted to K 20594.165 billion and Revised Estimate K 22830.727 billion including additional grants. Regarding the earning, BE credits amounted to K 16604.597 billion. Revised earnings were estimated at K 18834.932 billion. According to the revised estimate ratio of Deficit and GDP is 4.38 per cent. Ratio of BE deficit and GDP was slightly more than 4.37 per cent.”

Following that, Vice-President U Henry Van Thio, Vice-Chairman of Financial Commission clarified, “Union Government granted K 1707.580 billion of the BE deficit of Regions and States as a government subvention. And, the Union Government supported K 32.200 billion in all, from Development Fund on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accordance with the law, for the implementation of regional development. For the FY 2017-2018, demands for additional grants of regions and states was K 316.447 billion, with reduced amount after scrutiny K 54.662 billion and additional grant allowance K 261.785 billion. In implementing regional development, region and state governments need to take notice of spending the resources of national revenues, being well convinced of exercising the type of going on demands for additional grants under the current situations of national budget. The Union Government will fulfill the

deficits of regions and states, in accord with the prescriptions of article 230/C of the Constitution. Financial Commission needs to assess and approve the demand for additional grant of regions and states K 261.785 billion for the FY 2017-2018 and K 15.344 billion to be supported further by the Union Government according to Revised Estimate.”

Then, U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance and secretary of financial commission clarified, “Out of demands for additional grants, expenses essentially needed to pay and expenses which can get national income such as commercial taxes, income tax and contributions to the State were allowed without cutting. Demands for additional grants include remuneration, pension, interests paid, commercial tax, income tax, foreign subsidies, and demands according to difference in foreign exchange rates.”

Finally, President U Htin

Kyaw, Chairman of Financial Commission made a closing address, “Further division of finances from the Union Government are especially for the expenses needed further though original allowances had been granted and for the expenses spent to finish in time for the benefit of the State and People. Whenever demands for additional grants had been made, they will not be granted. It must be performed for budget deficit not to exceed 5 per cent of GDP and for original estimates not to have a large gap more than the ratio of deficit and GDP. Departments and organizations need to collectively help the performances of Hluttaw, while discussing lists of demands for fulfilled grants sent by Union Government after the approval of the financial commission in Hluttaw. It is necessary to take responsibility and accountability for respective demands for additional grants.”—Myanmar News Agency ■

President U Htin Kyaw receives H.E. General Ngo Xuan Lich and party

President U Htin Kyaw received Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Politburo member and Minister of National Defence H.E. General Ngo Xuan Lich and party at diplomat hall in Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday afternoon.

Matters relating to increasing bilateral friendship, increasing cooperation between the

two armed forces, increasing all round bilateral cooperation, establishing friendly relationship and investment in Myanmar were discussed in the meeting.

Present together with the President at the meeting was Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win, Minis-

ter of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister for the President's Office U Min Thu and officials while the guest Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Politburo Committee member and Minister of National Defence and party was accompanied by Viet Nam Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Dr. Luan Thuy Duong.—Myanmar News Agency



President U Htin Kyaw holds talk with Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Politburo member and Minister of National Defence H.E. General Ngo Xuan Lich in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 October 2017. PHOTO: MNA

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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.

Number of florists on wheels increases in Mandalay

MOBILE shops of orchid vase have become popular in Mandalay. Vases of orchid imported from Thailand are sold the whole year through trucks.

A vase of orchid sells for Ks2,000. Apartment residents in urban area come to plant flowers as indoor decoration.

The truck itself serves as a flower shop and stops at different locations. Mobile shops have advantages with better telecommunication and transportation system. Currently, imported orchid vases from Thailand are being sold. -Taintaman■



Man loading vases of orchid to the vehicle. PHOTO: TAINTAMAN

Children invited to take part in lantern cartooning competition in Mandalay

CHILDREN between the age of five and 12 years have been invited to participate in lantern cartooning competition to be held in Mandalay this month, according to a report of the Myawady Daily.

Lantern design exhibition and competition is due to take place on 5 October evening

at the corner of 26th and 92nd streets organized by the Zartiman Readers Club.

This will be the first time the Zartiman Readers Club arranges to hold this kind of event in Mandalay.

Participants have to send their hand-painted cartoon lan-

terns to the club. Subject matters have to include monthly festivals, events and related natural characters based on Myanmar lunar calendar. The local artists and cartoonists will select the best artworks of participants to exhibit in the event.

The main reason of the

competition is to raise youth involvement in art sector, with the club planning to conduct similar contest in coming years, said a member of the Zartiman Readers Club. Currently, many children show their interest on the completion, the member continued.—GNLM■

Zoological gardens to be upgraded

ZOOLOGICAL gardens will be upgraded with the technical assistance from Thailand, according to a report in the City News Daily yesterday.

Currently, The Zoological Park Organization (Thailand) and Htoo Group of Companies (Myanmar) have signed a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to upgrade the zoological gardens in Myanmar between 2017 and 2020.

Yangon Zoological Garden, Yadanarbon Zoological Garden, Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden and Nay Pyi Taw's Safari Wildlife Park will be upgraded with

the permission of the Forestry Department. The experts from Myanmar and Thai will participate in the technical exchange programme concerning housing and exhibiting the animals, public education programmes and providing of medical treatment for the animals. Under the tech-

nical exchange programme, we can keep the animals healthier and stronger as well as provide more recreating services to the public. Moreover, they are planning to upgrade the Myanmar zoological graders according to the international standards.—GNLM■

Chicken breeders face difficulties with rising price of chicken feeds

CHICKEN breeders are facing difficulty with the rising price of chicken feeds although the price of chicken has declined since the previous years, according to Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding Federation.

"Currently, the price of chicken feeds is over Ks 30,000 per 70 kilogram bag. The chicken feed is likely to increase. Moreover, a foreign firm is selling the

chicken at a lower price when compared to the prevailing price in the local market. Therefore, we are facing difficulty to increase the chicken price, said Dr. Nay Thurein, the general secretary of the Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding Federation.

"It is the time now for increase to rise the chicken price. But, the price of chicken is still on the decrease in the local market.

The price of chicken feed is also increasing in the local market. When some of the chicken retailers are selling the chicken at a lower price, people say that those chicken should not be fresh. So, the chicken retailers cannot sell at a reduced discount price," he added.

Although the price of chicken feeds does not decline, the price of the chick which is the

raw product of the chicken farms, has declined to Ks 400 from Ks 700 per chick.

The chicken breeding cost around Ks 2,500, but the chickens are selling for Ks 2,000 per viss in the local chicken breeding market.

Currently, the price of chicken is Ks 5,000 per viss in the Mandalay chicken retail market.—GNLM■

One motorcyclist killed in traffic accident

A man on the motorbike was killed when a light truck hit his motorbike on Mawlamyine road, Ye township, Mon State on 1st October.

According to the investi-

gation, the light truck heading to Ye town from Mawlamyine driven by Myo Aung, hit the motorcycle being driven by Oh Mae with Pwint Phyu on board while the former overtook a mo-

torcycle in front. Oh Mae died at the scene of accident while pwint phyu was taken to Mawlamyine General Hospital for treatment.

Currently, police are

searching the reckless driver who managed to escape from the scene. The reckless driver has been charged under sections 304 a/338 of the Penal Code. - Htut Htut (Ye)■

Number of container trucks increasing year on year

WITH number of container trucks growing year on year, more than 1 million tons of cargo are likely to be transported this year, according to yesterday's edition of Myanmar Alin.

Freight forwarding volume increased over 500,000 tons to nearly 900,000 tons between 2013 and 2016. Next year is also expected to handle 1.2 million

tons of goods while 1.4 million tons of goods are possibly to be sent to Myanmar's ports in 2019.

Number of truck in line with ASEAN standardization has increased up to 37.31 per cent. Myanmar has 71 truck gates. There are 1,675 40-foot-trucks and 700 20-foot-trucks but those trucks which are in line with ASEAN standardiza-

tion of container truck having 40 feet length are still less.

We are not sure whether Yangon ports can handle the growing number of containers trucks, said U Maung Maung, a container truck owner.

Myanmar is carrying out sea trade with 23 piers, 21 of which are situated in Yangon River.—Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■



Water buses mooring at the jetty. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Yangon Water Bus starts to run on 6 October

MYANMAR'S first ever Yangon Water Bus is slated to run with a fleet of 16 vessels on 6 October along Yangon River, according to yesterday's report of Myawady Daily.

The ferry fare is set at Ks500, including insurance. Monks and nuns are free of charge. First route of Yangon Water Bus is Hlaingthaya-Insein-Botahtaung

route, with about six stops.

Those vessels are ordered from Australia and Thailand and 20 vessels are being locally built in line with international standardization.

Launching ceremony of Yangon Water Bus led by Yangon Region government will be held at Botahtaung jetty on 6 October.—GNLM ■

High global crude oil price increases domestic fuel oil price

GLOBAL crude oil price started on upward trend in late June and reached up to US\$58 per barrel in end of September.

Fuel oil prices per gallon in end of September were about Ks3,400 for 92 Octane,

Ks3,600 for 95 Octane, Ks3,400 for diesel and Ks3,450 for premium diesel.

This is a two-year record high in the domestic market.

High fuel oil price hurt those engaged in freight forwarding service and cab fare

also rises.

Domestic fuel oil price is possibly to remain on high price even if global gold price tends to decline as it is purchased at high rate, said a market observer.—Htet Myat ■

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong Professor Peter Mathieson in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 October 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor meets with President and VC of University of Hong Kong

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong Professor Peter Mathieson along with his wife Dr Christina

Mathieson and Vice President and Pro-Vice Chancellor Ian Holliday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw on 02:00 pm.

During the meeting, they discussed about educational cooperation between the Ministry of Education and Hong

Kong University, contribution upon vocational trainings and other educational sectors and suggestions for the improvement of educational teaching system in Myanmar especially for elementary level.—Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor to visit Brunei Darussalam

At the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzadin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will pay a visit to Brunei Darussalam to attend the Golden Jubilee Celebration of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam in the near future.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar's population reaches more than 53 m on 1 October 2017

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population annually produces estimated population of Myanmar on 1 October based on census data in order that the Government and departmental organisations can draw up national policy and projects.

Myanmar population estimate as of 1 October 2017 based on 2014 census of population and households is learnt to be 53.39 million.

State and region population estimate as of 1 October 2017 published by Population Department is learnt to be as follow. Kachin State, male (951,238) female (878,611) total 1,829,849; Kayah State, male (154,330) female (155,883) total (310,213); Kayin State, male (779,398), female (813,655), total (1,593,053); Chin State, male (243,326) female (265,033) total (508,359); Sagaing Region, male

(2,590,664) female (2,900,506) total (5,491,170), Taninthayi Region, male (724,536) female (735,417) total (1,459,953); Bago Region, male (2,336,464) female (2,582,357) total (4,918,821); Magway Region, male (1,814,230) female (2,127,009) total (3,941,239); Mandalay Region, male (3,021,814) female (3,367,577) total (6,389,391), Mon State, male (955,744) female (1,055,683) total (2,011,427); Rakhine State, male (1,572,956) female (1,727,083) total (3,300,039); Yangon Region, male (3,769,778) female (4,166,859) total (7,936,637); Shan State, male (3,087,257) female (3,101,432) total (6,188,689); Ayeyawady Region, male (3,045,040) female (3,226,030) total (6,271,070); Nay Pyi Taw Council area, male (601,072), female (636,966) total (1,238,038); total in Myanmar is male (25,647,847) female (27,740,101) grand total (53,387,948).—Myanmar News Agency

Authorities meet 10000 Muslims from Buthidaung at border as villagers plan to go to Bangladesh

MUSLIMS from the villages in Buthidaung Township gathered at the border area to emigrate from Myanmar to Bangladesh on various reasons. Starting from 26 September, they left their region, claiming that they found it difficult to earn their living there and they felt insecure for remaining to live in their villages because they were now living in the sparsely populated area as most of their relatives had presently been in Bangladesh. And they said that their fellow Muslims of same extraction in Bangladesh made a contact to join them, and they left their villages for Bangladesh.

Upon receipt of the information that Muslims who would emigrate from Buthidaung to Bangladesh arrived between Thinbawhla and Tharyargone

villages, administrative committee members and security forces who are working for rule of law in Maungtau District went there to meet the Bengalis at 11 am on 1 October.

After having known about their claim, the district administrator explained to them that every individual from both sides living in the area with difficulties for their livelihood has been being provided with 4 items of rice, cooking oil, salt and pea, regardless of race and religion.

And he added that authorities are making efforts for peace and stability of the region for the whole populace to be able to live in peace, and authorities concerned would cooperate with them if they found it difficult for living.

They replied that they have



Border guard police talk to Muslims gathering at the border. **PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

been well convinced of the situations of the authorities' efforts but they would like to go there, of their own accord.

It has been learnt that 168 Muslims from Gutarpyin village in Buthidaung township reached nearby Ywathitkay on 26 September, with 255 Muslims from Shwehtar and Zinkharma villages, 281 Muslims from

Taungchaung and Pauktaw villages, 200 Muslims from Theintaungpyin and Karli villages, 35 Muslims from Duohtema village arriving at the beach nearby Layyinkwin village on 27 September. On 28 September, 895 Muslims from Taungchaung, Zinkharma, Boli and Ngwe Taung villages arrived at the beach nearby Layyink-

win village, with 530 Muslims from Gutarpyin village arriving between Panyaungpingyi and border fence.

Now, more some 10000 Muslims are arriving at the western grove between Letphweky and Kwunthipin villages, to emigrate to the neighboring country, according to local authorities.—Myanmar News Agency

Rice delivered to villagers in northern Rakhine

U Aye Tha Aung, the Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw and donors accompanied by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement went to ethnic national and Hindu villagers remaining in their villages and donated rice bags and cash assistance yesterday.

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and donors went to Laungdon,

Kyeinchaung, Yan Aung Myin (Na Ta La), Thatkinenya, Yenaug Ngathar, Tamantha, Minkhamaung, Aungthabyay and Indula (Bandula) village tracts and donated 1,208 rice bags and cash assistance of Ks 100,000 per village.

Similarly, head of Department of Rakhine State, Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Ministry U Kyaw Min and



Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung provides rice and cash assistance to ethnic villagers in northern Rakhine. **PHOTO: MNA**



Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung provides rice and cash assistance to displaced people in a village in northern Rakhine. **PHOTO: MNA**

officials also provided ethnic nationals with Ks. 10,000 per household to 1,972 households in 47 villages totaling Ks 19.72 million donated by donors.

While providing the donations, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung enquired about difficulties faced by ethnic nationals remaining in villages and encouraged them while Maungtau District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Tun explained about status of setting and implementing long term se-

curity, education, economy and health programs with regards to resettling villages.

Next, Rakhine Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Minerals U Kyaw Lwin explained about providing good transportation in order for ethnic nationals to live securely, making arrangements to conduct agricultural works and urge the ethnic nationals to live together in harmony.

U Maung Tun Win, Deputy Head of Rakhine State educa-

tion department then urged the parents to support and encourage their sons and daughters in education and explained about teachers being called in to continue school education as the region stabilizes.

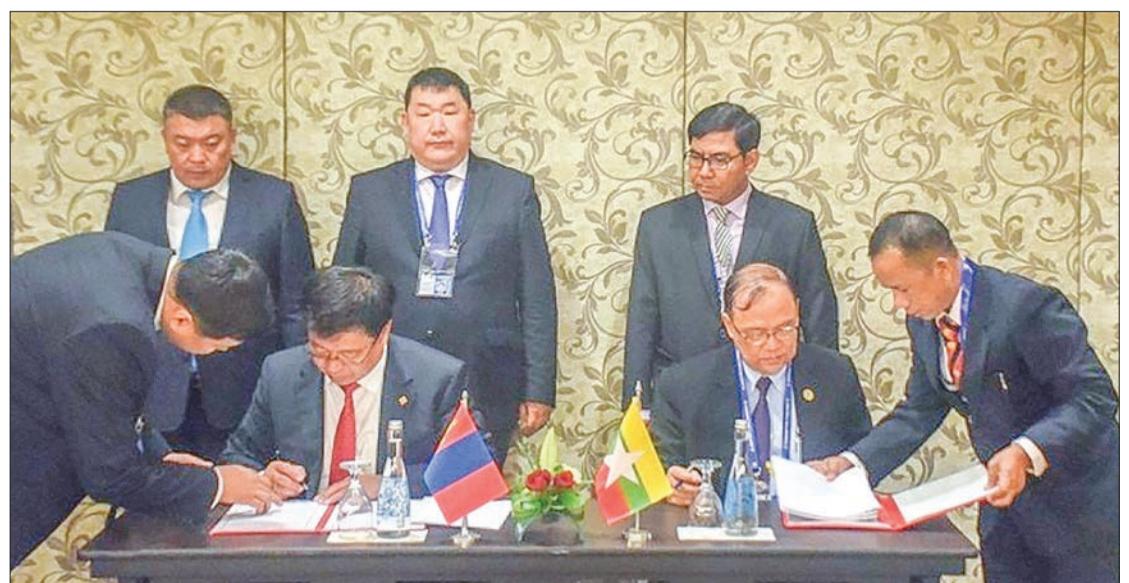
Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and donors will continue to donate rice bags and cash assistances on 3 October to remaining villages where villagers remains without fleeing it is learnt. — Naing Linn Kyi, Thant Zin Win ■

Available @

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင်ဝယ်ယူဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

- Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)
- Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)
- Market Place by City Mart (Junction City)
- 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)
- City Mart (Junction 8)
- City Mart (St. John)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegonedine



Ulaanbaatar /MONTSAME/ Mongolia has signed agreements on air communication with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Cambodia. **PHOTO: MNA**

Mongolia signs air communication agreements with Myanmar and Cambodia

THE agreements were signed on the sidelines of the 4th ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting which took place on September 26-28 in Indonesia.

The Acting Minister met with Thant Sin Maung, Min-

ister of Transport of Communications of Myanmar and expressed satisfaction at the development of bilateral relationship.

The Agreement on Air Communication comes after

the signing of Mutual Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders in 2013 and Agreement on Cooperation in Tourism in 2015. —Mongolian News Agency ■

Eradication of External Destructive Elements with Our Unity of Strength

Khin Maung Oo

THERE used to be colonization and invasions in the world from the very advent of human history till the end of 20th century. Imperialism which controls or influences other countries with its increasing power of military strength came to an end after the Second World War. In the post-cold war period, the United Nations, international organizations and the Great Powers made efforts for more imperialist wars not to emerge in our planet.

After aligned countries' defeat against imperialist wars of countries in the polar region of the world, surrenders of the polar countries led to the end of the Second World War and made countries under colonial rule liberate. In fact, most of the global countries

were under the colonial rule of Polar Countries and the Aligned Ones since the earlier time, thence they gained their Independence through the concerted efforts of their people at the cost of their lives.

At the Post-Second World War, imperialism disappeared, but the UN, international organizations and the Great Powers got involved in dealing with violations of human rights and terrorist attacks, based on power adjustment of the great powers—leftists and rightists and internal conflicts and unrest of small countries. At the present time, the said small nations are nearly losing freedom to govern their countries themselves, that is, their sovereignty, on account of co-existing with super powers and their followers desirous of intervening in other countries' internal

affairs.

At the Post-Cold War, there are allusive colonization and interventions emerging in our planet, based on weakness of some countries. It can be vividly seen from dialectical assessment of the events of split countries, and this will be a good example for us to take lessons. After the end of the Second World War, colonization which can consume a country's Independence can be said to have ceased. Yet, we must take notice that there are still capitalism and imperialism which can totally destroy a country.

Colonialism and imperialism are really the same in essence. Capitalists are powerful, wealthy and proud. They never designate anyone as friend or foe, regarding them depending upon their personal benefits, as per their nature. They are not above making friends with

foes if it will be fruitful for them, or vice versa. They tend to change their minds and get upset easily.

Having lived under colonial rule for over one hundred years, Myanmar acquired its Independence through concerted efforts of all the nationals living in the country. Throughout 70 years after gaining the Independence, we are still suffering from evil effects of colonial heritage. Now, external interventions and political instigations are being found, based on Myanmar's internal affairs. To sum it up, we firmly believe that the acquired Independence and sovereignty will survive for ever only if the nation will be strengthened, and simultaneously we can eradicate all the foreign interventions we are now experiencing through the unity of strength. ■

THE world has long been deceived by the fabricated news and bias analysis on the issue of conflicts in Rakhine. The International community is constantly told the stories which demonize the law enforcers and humanize terror-minded groups. Those fabricated and one-sided stories got more traction as they involved more drama than facts. On the other hand, fact-laden and truthful information has not got the due attention that they deserve.

However, truth can't be hidden forever and truth must prevail.

Well-planned attacks by Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) Extremist Terrorist with the support of the terror-minded Bengali community in Northern Rakhine state give a clear message about their terror-intent and overt pursuit of violence against the endeavours of Myanmar Government and the international community to solve the conflicts in peaceful ways.

Terror-minded groups' intent has become clearer as their planned attacks coincide the launch of report and recommendations by Advisory Commission on Rakhine State led by Mr Kofi Annan and following the announcement of Myanmar Government's commitment to implement the Commission's recommendation on conflict prevention, humanitarian assistance, reconciliation, institution building and development.

International mainstream media's misinformation and disinformation on the issue in Rakhine implicates international community in several ways. Fabricated media did not allow the international community to differentiate

The world deserves to know the truth about terrorist attacks in Rakhine

By Thidar

PhD. candidate in Department of International Relations

the villains from victims and terrorist's propaganda blind international community from seeing the masterminds behind all the conflicts and terror acts. Accordingly, global policy and investments were misplaced on villains fertilizing terror-breeding grounds. Most importantly, the humanitarian and human rights values, which Myanmar shares with international community, are critically undermined as they are abused by terror-minded groups to smoke screen their activities.

Who are villains and who are victims?

International community needs to reassess the information they consume from formal and social media and question who is who in the conflicts, what is the bigger picture and which organizations are behind ARSA Extremist Terrorists.

Recent incidents and ensuing

media reports are more revealing of their bias stands. Known Media outlets report exaggerated Bengali exodus to their home country while they fail to report on the trauma and miseries of ethnic Rakhine and Hindu families who were displaced by terrorists' attacks and threats.

Underreported are the ARSA Extremist Terrorists' cruel slaughters of innocent ethnic Rakhine and Hindu civilians in the area. ARSA Extremist Terrorists' brutal attacks left lasting trauma to peace loving ethnic Rakhine and Hindu community. Trembling voices of ethnic Rakhine and Hindu individuals recounting ARSA Extremist Terrorists' killings of their loved ones in front of their own eyes are nightmares to anyone hearing the stories.

ARSA Extremist Terrorists' indiscriminate razing of tens of thousands of dwellings drives their own groups to the other side of the border. Some mod-

erates Bengali are also threatened to make false testimony to media pointing fingers to law enforcers and security personnel for those destructions. For terror-minded groups telling 'lies' and fishing for international sympathy has never been a big deal.

ARSA Extremist Terrorists' cruelty does not end there. They left landmines in affected areas leaving hundreds of innocent civilians entrapped with drying foods staffs. Continuing attacks of ARSA Extremist Terrorists since August 25 has forced local Rakhine and Hindu community to flee their homeland in search of refuge in bigger towns of Rakhine.

One can guess the extent of ordeal suffers by innocent Rakhine and Hindu community, their genuine feelings of insecurity from terror threats by observing their timid response and decline to offers of assistance from international agencies.

This also shows peoples' declining confidence in the global community and their growing doubt on the sincerity of humanitarian actors towards Myanmar people.

Terrorists' manipulation of media did not give chance for the international community to understand the true stories of the incidents and thus seeing the villains as victims and blaming law enforcers for unfounded human right abuse. What is gradually revealed by the continuing incidents and war of words on social and formal media is a big plot of terrorists' shift of theatre to Asia, for which Myanmar security forces have long been suspecting.

SEE PAGE 9

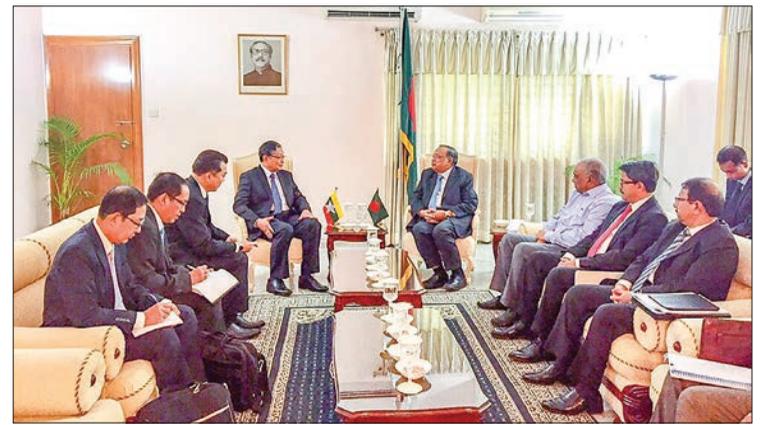
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomes Viet Nam Minister of National Defence



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with Viet Nam Minister of National Defence H.E. General Ngo Xuan Lich in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 October 2017. PHOTO: MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomed Viet Nam Minister of National Defence H.E. General Ngo Xuan Lich in front of Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday with a ceremonial guard of honour.

Afterwards Viet Nam Minister of National Defence and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services had a meeting where matters relating to increasing co-operation between the two armed forces, exchanging intelligence news for regional security, preventing and defending against international terrorism, exchanging experiences on border region management through meetings, increasing cooperation between the defence ministries and increasing the momentum of cooperation in communication sector between the two militaries were discussed and views exchanged. — Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe holds talks with Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Mr Abdul Hassan Mahmood Ali. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister holds talks with Bangladeshi FM over Northern Rakhine issue

FROM PAGE-1

The meeting was attended by H.E. Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, Minister of Home Affairs and Senior Officials from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs of Bangladesh.

The Union Minister also reiterated the commitment made by Myanmar's State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 19 September 2017, that Myanmar is ready to begin the verification and repatriation of refugees. It was recalled that in accordance with the agreed criteria set out in the Joint Statement between Foreign Ministers of Myanmar and Bangladesh on 28 April 1992, a total of 236,495 people of 46,993 households had been repatriated from Bangladesh to Myanmar from September 1992 until July 2005.

The Union Minister also referred to the agreement made at the Senior Officials Meeting between Myanmar and Bangladesh held in Yangon on 14 January 2000, in which both sides agreed that, in the case of the repatriation of split families and their left behind family members, this process could be carried out on the presentation of legal documents certified by the Government of Bangladesh. The Union Minister expressed his firm conviction that issues arising between two neighbours can be resolved bilaterally, in an amicable manner, taking into consideration the national interests of both countries.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh reiterated

the desire of Bangladesh to maintain the traditional friendship between the two neighbouring countries and expressed its position that ARSA is regarded as a common enemy of both Myanmar and Bangladesh and stressed its policy of Zero Tolerance against terrorism.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Union Minister invited H.E. Abdul Hassan Mahmood Ali to visit Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, with a view to taking forward arrangements with regard to the security of the border, and the verification of those refugees who wish to return to Myanmar according to the criteria agreed to in the Joint Statement of April 1992. The invitation to visit Myanmar was accepted by the Bangladesh Foreign Minister.

Following the meeting, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh hosted a luncheon for the Union Minister, which was also attended by the Bangladesh Home Affairs Minister. The Union Minister, on behalf of the Union Minister for Home Affairs of Myanmar, Lieutenant General Kyaw Swe, handed over a renewed letter of invitation to the Bangladesh Home Affairs Minister to visit Myanmar at an early date for further discussion. The Home Affairs Minister expressed his agreement to visit Myanmar at an early date, and will give the finalised dates when the Prime Minister of Bangladesh returns from the United States.

The discussions were held in a friendly and candid manner.— Myanmar New Agency ■

The world deserves to know the truth about terrorist attacks in Rakhine

FROM PAGE 8

The International community should be asking whether it is prudent to putting pressure on Myanmar government and blaming security forces of the country based on the manipulated media reports.

Recent incidents in Rakhine also disclosed some disturbing facts about the world. Well-wishers' humanitarian support materials and foodstuff seized in the terrorists' camps could disappoint tax-payers in well-wishing friends of Myanmar. This indicates international community's investments to alleviate human sufferings were unconsciously misplaced serving for opposing purpose of terrors. These revelations

for international community are expensive as they are gained at heavy costs of lives and livelihoods of vulnerable ethnic Rakhine and Hindu people, those in public service, police and security personnel in Myanmar.

Global fight for terrorism needs strong and united Myanmar as a partner of the international community.

Therefore, long misguided policy towards Myanmar needs to be re-evaluated and recalibrated for a collective fight against ARSA Extremist Terrorists and global terror groups. More should be invested to support the country's efforts to clear out the terrorists, to prevent the tendencies of cleavages of ethno-religious

groups and to build long term development of all social classes.

International community needs to pay careful attention to their media consumption differentiating facts from fictions. So that, their policies towards Myanmar can be sound, your investments can give strength to peace-lovers and shared values of humanitarian and human rights can be saved from jeopardy and from the hands of terror groups. ■

About the Author Thidar is a PhD. candidate in Department of International Relations, in the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Australian National University.

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

Discovery of ARSA extremist terrorists' hidden IEDs

SECURITY personnel conducting law enforcement measures in Yathedaung and Maungtaw townships in Rakhine State discovered ARSA extremist terrorists' hidden IEDs.

About 11:40 a.m. on 30 September, security personnel conducting law enforcement measures found a suspicious blue color plastic container in a bush about 300 meters west of Ahtetnanya Village, Yathedaung Township. Upon

inspection, two IEDs made from a 9 inch long 4 inch diameter pipe and 9 inch long 2 ½ inch diameter was found in the container.

Similarly, on the morning of 1 October, security personnel conducting law enforcement measures dug suspicious loose earth in the compound of a burnt house in Myazin Village, Maungtaw Township and found two yellow color plastic containers containing IEDs hidden

underneath rice husks.

In the two plastic containers were two 6 inch long 4 inch diameter IEDs and ten 9 inch long 2 inch diameter IEDs totaling 12 IEDs, four remote controls with the word RE on it and a coil of wire about 125 ft. long. ARSA extremist terrorists were conducting mine attacks and there were 13 attacks before 25 August and 75 attacks after 25 August. — Myanmar News Agency



File photos show IEDs which were found in Myazin Village, Maungtaw Township. PHOTO: MNA

WFP and ICRC provide humanitarian aids

A convoy of 10 vehicles carrying 2160 bags of beans weighing 108 tons from WFP, Sittwe arrived at Rakhine State Police Force at 9:25 am on September 30, delivering them to WFP warehouse in Ywagyi south ward in Sittwe at 10:45 am the same day.

Similarly, at 2:30 pm, motor boats carrying WFP provisions and subsidies left Sittwe port for Minpya and Mrauk-U at 2:30 pm, arriving at Aungmye Bengali village in Minpya township, at 7:30 am on October 1. There, 136 rice bags, 8 pea bags, 35 packs of cooking oil, 1 salt bag and 36 nutritious powder bags were given to Jarkey, 100-house-

hold-leader, with at 11:20 am 354 rice bags, 23 bean bags, 54 packs of cooking oil, 3 bags of salt, 20 packs of nutritious powder given to Maung Maung Zaw (a) Par du shar, 100-household-leader. At 4:10pm the team arrived at Thayetoat Muslim village, giving out 284 rice bags, 19 pea bags, 44 packs of cooking oil, 3 bags of salt and 67 packs of nutritious powder to Numar, leader of 100 households.

Similarly, commodities from ICRC warehouse nearby Shwemangan Kyaytaw village in Sittwe were carried in 6 motor vehicles to support displaced people in Maungtaw region. Ve-

hicles arrived at Shwe Min Gan port at 4:20 pm. Out of 6 vehicles, goods on 4 cars were carried by vessel with security forces on board leaving for Buthidaung port, it was learnt.

After the events of ARSA extremist terrorists' attacks, provision of humanitarian aids was being carried out in northern Rakhine State under Red Cross Movement. It has been learnt that displaced Rakhine nationals, Muslims, Hindus, Mro and Daingnet are being supported. After August 25 terrorist attacks, humanitarian aids commenced to have been provided as of 27th August.—MNA

Sugar import wanted banned by sugar mill owners and sugarcane growers

LOCAL sugar manufacturing needs to boost to fulfill local consumption, which has tripled in a decade, according to a report in the City News Daily yesterday.

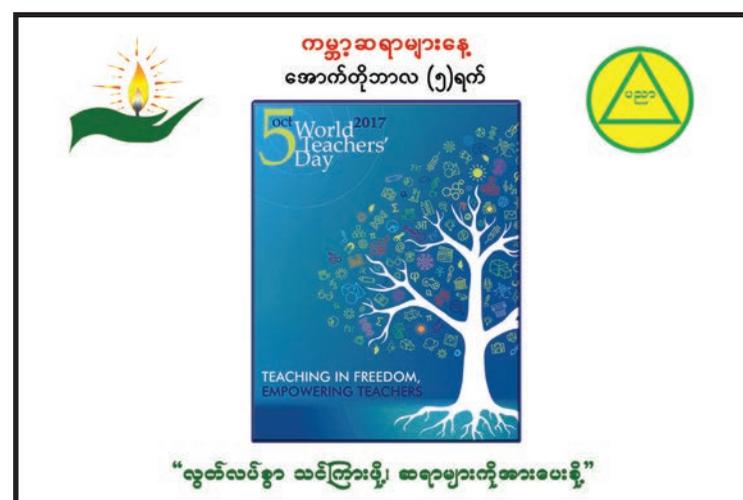
This year, the individual sugar consumption is over 14 kilogram. Therefore, local sugar manufacturing needs to increase to meet the local demand. Although sugar is used by all small, medium and large foodstuff enterprises in making sweets, juices, cakes, biscuits, coffee mix and also raw industrials, the manufacturing has not

increased proportionately to the demand with only 150,000 tons more produced during the past decade. As a result, Myanmar had to import the sugar from abroad because of the mismatch between demand and supply. It has adversely affected the local sugarcane growers and the sugar mill proprietors. Therefore, these businessmen want the government to ban the sugar import and to encourage higher production of sugar locally.

Currently, there are over 500,000 acres put under cultiva-

tion of sugar in Myanmar. If the local sugar mill run to the full capacity, we can manufacture 1,000,000 tons of sugar annually, we cannot only meet demand the local demand but also export the sugar.

In fiscal 2006-2007, Myanmar manufactured over 230,000 tons of sugar from both the state-owned and private-owned. In fiscal 2016-2017, Myanmar manufactured over 370,000 tons of sugar with only a surplus of about 150,000 in even a decade.—GNLM



Deepavali National Holiday to fall on 18 October

The Union Government announced yesterday that the Hindu festival of Deepavali, which is also known as

Dewali, falls on 18th October and is a public holiday under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

All Myanmar Hindu Central Board issue statement

ALL Myanmar Hindu Central Board issued a statement on 1 October expressing deep sorrow for ethnic nationals and Hindus killed by ARSA extremist terrorists in Rakhine region and urges to make arrangements to provide security and restore the livelihood of the remaining family members.

The statement said ethnic Rakhine nationals, public servants and some Hindus were killed and wounded by recent ARSA extremist terrorists' atrocities in Rakhine State, Maungtaw region.

The worst incident was the cruel mass killing of Hindu villagers of an entire village and the forced abduction of some Hindus to another country.

ARSA extremist group is strongly condemned for this action and the Hindus in Myanmar share the sorrow of the families of those killed.

The board also stated its willingness to work together with the government in rehabilitating the lives of the remaining families of the massacred victims and to heal the physical and mental scars of remaining families who had seen their family members killed

Some international organizations and media that ignored this terrorist act are also categorically denounced.

Some international media using a new word "Rohingya Hindu" for Hindus is also noted. There is no such word in the history of Hindus in Myanmar and the 10 races shown in Hindu Central Council regulation. This is a new word invented by some people to confuse other countries and that word is requested not to be used.

Hindus who lived peacefully with all religions in Myanmar do not view this act as being done by one religion to another religion. It is viewed as death and misery caused to innocent peoples by terrorism and brothers and sisters of all religions are urged to continue living with loving kindness and without hatred.

Hindus in Myanmar are urged to conduct similar prayer meetings as this present one in their respective towns, cities, temples and groups. All are also urged to say the truth with courage when interviewed by foreign media while remaining loyal and faithful to the country they are living in. As such, in holding the traditional Hindu Deepavali or Diwali festival this year, all are urged to hold it according to their respective tradition by praying and not indulge in exuberant festivities said the statement.—Myanmar News Agency

Russian security service says dismantles Islamic State sleeper cell

MOSCOW — Russia's FSB security service said on Monday it had detained members of what it said was an Islamic State sleeper cell in the Moscow region that had been planning to launch a series of high-profile attacks on the country's transport system.

A video of the detentions showed masked FSB agents detaining men in a residential apartment where they could be seen finding and confiscating grenades, pistols and explosives.

The FSB said in a statement on its website that the detentions had occurred on 30 September and that the cell included Russian citizens from the North Caucasus region who it said were committed to trying to set up a global Islamic caliphate and were directed by foreign militants.

It said the cell had been planning to set off explosives in crowded public places and to target transport infrastructure.

The FSB said it had detained all of the cell's members, but did not say how many people it had taken into custody. The question of opening criminal cases against them was being decided, it added.

Islamic State, banned in Russia, has threatened to take revenge for Russian air strikes in Syria by shedding blood on Russian soil, and a bomb attack on the St Petersburg metro in April killed 14 people.—Reuters ■



Las Vegas Metro police and medic workers stage in the intersection of Tropicana Avenue and Las Vegas Boulevard South after a mass shooting at a music festival on the Las Vegas Strip in Las Vegas, Nevada, US on 1 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

At least 50 dead, more than 400 hurt in Las Vegas shooting

LAS VEGAS, Nevada — A gunman killed at least 50 people and wounded more than 400 at a country music festival on the Las Vegas Strip on Sunday, raining down rapid fire from the 32nd floor of a hotel for several minutes before he was shot dead by police.

The death toll, which police emphasized was preliminary and tentative, would make the attack the deadliest mass shooting in US history, eclipsing last year's massacre of 49 people at an Orlando night club.

Thousands of panicked people fled the scene, in some cases trampling one another

as law enforcement officers scrambled to locate and kill the gunman. Shocked concertgoers, some with blood on their clothes, wandered the streets after the attack.

The suspect was a local Las Vegas man who acted alone and was not believed to be connected to any militant group, Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo told reporters.

"We have no idea what his belief system was," Lombardo said. "Right now, we believe he was the sole aggressor and the scene is static."

Authorities were seeking a woman they named as Marilou

Danley, the suspected gunman's roommate. Lombardo described her as Asian, 4 foot 11 inches (1.5 m) tall, 111 pounds (50 kg). He gave no details of whether she was suspected of involvement in the attack but described her as an "associate".

Police had located two cars that belonged to the suspect and also believed they had located the woman.

Lombardo said rumors of other shootings or explosives such as car bombs in the area were false. Video taken of the attack showed panicked crowds fleeing as sustained rapid gunfire ripped through the area.

Las Vegas's casinos, nightclubs and shopping draw some 3.5 million visitors from around the world each year and the area was packed with visitors when the shooting broke out shortly after 10 pm (0400 GMT).

Mike McGarry, a 53-year-old financial adviser from Philadelphia, said he was at the concert when he heard hundreds of shots ring out.

"It was crazy—I laid on top of the kids. They're 20. I'm 53. I lived a good life," McGarry said. The back of his shirt bore footmarks, after people ran over him in the panicked crowd.—Reuters ■

Palmyra statue damaged by Islamic State goes on display in Damascus

DAMASCUS — A 2,000-year old statue badly damaged by Islamic State in Palmyra went on display on Sunday in Damascus after being restored.

The Lion of Al-Lat statue was one of several ancient monuments damaged by Islamic State at Palmyra, the ancient city in central Syria which the jihadists have twice seized from government control during the

six-year-long war.

The 15-tonne statue was damaged by Islamic State in 2015 during its first spell in control of Palmyra. It was moved to Damascus for restoration when Syrian government forces recovered the city with Russian military support in March, 2016.

"It is an exceptional statue, there are no more such statues in Palmyra," said Bartosz

Markowski, the Polish archaeologist who spent around two months restoring it. Around half the restored statue was original, he said.

"It was an internationally known symbol of Palmyra, it was standing in front of the museum. Every tourist visiting Palmyra and the museum had a photo with it," he said. The restoration was funded by the UN cultural agency

UNESCO.

The statue, which is 345 centimetres (11 feet) high, was discovered at the temple of Al-Lat in Palmyra in 1977 by Polish archaeologists. The statue will be on display at the National Museum of Damascus for the foreseeable future but may eventually be returned to its place in Palmyra, Mahmoud Hammoud, the director of Syrian antiquities, said. Is-

lamic State also destroyed Palmyra's famous Triumphal Arch during its first spell in control of the city. Islamic State overran Palmyra for a second time in December, 2016. It destroyed parts of the Tetracylon, a monument marking a bend in the ancient colonnade, and the facade of the second-century Roman Theatre before it was driven from the city in March this year.—Reuters ■

Russian working on third generation of Ratnik combat gear

MOSCOW — The third generation of the Ratnik combat gear may appear by 2022, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Ground Forces Col Gen Oleg Salyukov said in an interview published on Friday.

“We are completing the scientific research on creating the future layout of the Ratnik-3 combat gear. The implementation of the project will allow to increase the performance of a soldier by 1.5 times in completing various tasks,” he said in an interview with the *Krasnaya Zvezda* paper.

According to Salyukov, the total weight of the gear will be reduced by 30%.

The Ratnik kit comprises five integrated systems that include life support, command and communication, engaging, protection and energy saving subsystems. It is designed to be used round-the-clock in all weather conditions.

The Ratnik comprises a total of 59 items including various bulletproof vests and protective helmets, a combat one-piece garment, a headset with active protection, protective glasses,



The third generation of the Ratnik combat gear may appear by 2022. PHOTO: TASS

a grenade launcher, assault rifles, sniper rifles, munition, a combat knife, round-the-clock reconnaissance devices and unified optical and thermal imaging sights.

Salyukov was earlier quoted by the media as saying that

the Ratnik-3 kit being developed by TsNIITochMash will comprise an exoskeleton suite. A target designation system will be mounted on the helmet's faceshield, while the bulletproof vest will be able to stop several bullets. “[The kit will] use exo-

skeleton mechanisms, a display system to show information on faceshield or protective glasses and microclimate control and health monitoring devices,” Salyukov was quoted as saying by the *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* daily in October 2016.—Tass ■

German parties reject far-right's candidate for parliamentary post

BERLIN — Almost all of Germany's main parties said they would reject the far-right AfD movement's choice for parliamentary vice-president, highlighting its political isolation despite its strong showing in elections.

The anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) party swept into the Bundestag lower house of parliament with 12.6 per cent of the vote last month, making it the first far-right organization to win seats there since the 1950s — and the third largest parliamentary group.

All blocs represented in the Bundestag are entitled to have their own vice president of the parliament, who chairs sessions, sets the agenda and call MPs to order where necessary.

But the candidates need to be approved by a simple majority of all sitting lawmakers.

Four out of five of AfD's rival blocs in parliament spoke out against the AfD's choice of Albrecht Glaser — a 75-year-old who has called Islam a political ideology not a religion, and said it is impossible to differentiate between Muslims and Islamists.

The objections just over a week after a national election showed the difficulties AfD may face in pushing its agenda — ranging from immigration and an insistence that Islam does not belong to Germany to the problems it sees in the euro zone.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative bloc has so far not taken a public position

on the AfD's choice. Michael Grosse-Broemer, the head of its parliamentary group, declined to comment on Monday.

But Dietmar Bartsch, head of the radical Left's parliamentary group, and Cem Ozdemir, head of the Greens', told newspaper *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* they would not vote Glaser into the position.

“Whoever questions the freedom of religion has disqualified themselves,” Ozdemir said.

Representatives of the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD), Greens and pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) also expressed doubts about the AfD's choice of Glaser.

Alexander Gauland, head of the AfD's parliamentary group, told Reuters on Monday his party was sticking to its choice of

candidate. “We all share Mr Glaser's opinion so it's completely clear,” he said.

Gauland provoked outrage by saying during the election campaign that Germans should be proud of their World War Two soldiers.

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker told mass-selling *Bild* newspaper that Gauland was not conscious enough of the feelings of other European countries who suffered under Nazi rule.

“I won't accuse the whole AfD or its voters of being total Nazis — that would be simplistic — but if you're head of a group in Germany's Bundestag you need to consider how Germany's neighbours feel. And Gauland doesn't do that,” he said.—Reuters ■

US Navy says training aircraft carrying two reported missing

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE — The US Navy said on Sunday it was investigating reports of a jet crash in Tennessee and that one of its training aircraft had not returned to its air station.

A Navy training facility in Meridian, Mississippi, received reports of a jet crash near Tellico Plains, Tennessee, in the Cherokee National Forest early Sunday evening, the Navy said in a statement.

The crashed jet may have been T-45 from Training Air Wing ONE based out of NAS (Naval Air Station) in Meridian, Mississippi, the statement from the chief of Naval air training public affairs unit said.

“At this time, we know the wing had a T-45C Goshawk training in the vicinity of Tellico Plains that has not yet returned to the air station,” it said.

Two pilots were aboard the aircraft — an instructor and a student. Their status is unknown.—Reuters ■

Marseille attack suspect had shown Tunisian passport to police — prosecutor

PARIS — The man suspected of carrying out Sunday's attack in the French city of Marseille, killing two people, had presented a Tunisian passport when last stopped by police in Lyon just two days earlier, said the Paris public prosecutor Francois Molins.

Molins told a news conference that the suspect's details came up on criminal databases and that he went by seven different identities — none of which were on French anti-terrorist check lists.

He added that one such identity named him as “Ahmed H”, born in 1987 in Tunisia, and that French authorities were trying to identify the authenticity of the Tunisian passport and his real name.

A soldier shot the suspect dead after he had stabbed two women to death at Marseille main train station on Sunday, in what officials described as a “likely terrorist act”—Reuters ■



US aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan docks for a port call in Hong Kong on 2 October, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

US aircraft carrier makes port call in HK

HONG KONG — The US aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan made a port call on Hong Kong on Monday, with its commander saying the Navy is committed to defend US allies amid heightened tension on the Korean Peninsula.

“The United States president has been very clear about his resolve to use every (leverage) available to us to convince North Korea to alter its

dangerous and aggressive behavior,” Rear Adm. Marc Dalton told the press onboard the 97,000-ton Nimitz class warship.

Tension in the region rose after North Korea recently fired two ballistic missiles across Japan’s territory and launched a nuclear test.

“This strike group is committed to defend ourselves and our allies. The US commitment to defend

our allies including Japan and the Republic of Korea is ironclad,” Dalton said.

The commander declined to reveal on the strike group’s next move, but it will reportedly join a military drill with South Korea.

The strike group, accompanied with Carrier Air Wing 5 and Destroyer Squadron 15, is expected to stay in Hong Kong for four to five days to conduct

military and cultural exchanges.

Another US aircraft carrier, Stennis, was refused permission by China to make a port call in Hong Kong last year. At that time, tension was high in the South China Sea where China’s expansive territorial claims have embroiled it in disputes with other claimants, such as the Philippines and Viet Nam.—Kyodo News ■

Nissan to recall 1.2 mil. vehicles over mishandled safety checks

YOKOHAMA — Nissan Motor Co will recall 1.2 million vehicles that did not go through proper safety inspections before being registered and sold, the company said on Monday.

The move is expected to cost Nissan around 25 billion yen (\$220 million), Chief Executive Officer Hiroto Saikawa said.

The massive recalls come after the Japanese carmaker revealed Friday that it had halted registration of new cars as it came to light that inspectors were not certified to carry out last-stage checks. It will also reinspect 34,000 cars held in stock at factories and dealerships.

Saikawa called the widespread failure “unacceptable” and said the company — which together with alliance partners Renault SA and Mitsubishi Motors Corp became the world’s top-selling carmaker in the January-June period — would need to work to win back the trust of customers.

The issue came to light after an on-site probe by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism last month revealed that inspectors were uncertified at six domestic plants. A total of 21 models were affected, including the Note, Skyline and Leaf electric car.—Kyodo News ■



Nissan Motor Co President Hiroto Saikawa attends a press conference in Yokohama, near Tokyo, on 2 October, 2017, on improper safety inspections by the automaker that have prompted a massive recall. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC HA LONG VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC HA LONG VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Myanmar Port Authority “Notice of High Tide”

Exceptionally high spring from 20.2 feet to 21.2 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of October 5th to October 10th 2017.

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 to Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum to inform the high tide to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

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US box office — Tom Cruise's 'American Made' dead even with 'It,' 'Kingsman 2'

LOS ANGELES (Variety.com) — Three films are essentially tied at the top of the weekend box office, as of Sunday morning.

Warner Bros and New Line's "It" appears to be back on top with \$17.3 million (£12.9 million) from 3,917 locations. But Universal's "American Made" and Fox's "Kingsman: The Golden Circle" are trailing just behind with \$17 million each. Since the numbers are so close, some studios are waiting until later in the day to make the official call. Meaning this one likely won't be settled until Monday morning.

What's certain is that Sony's remake of "Flatliners" is coming in below expectations. After getting killed by critics (0% on Rotten Tomatoes) the horror flick is opening to \$6.7 million from 2,552 locations.

"American Made" stars Tom Cruise as a commercial airline pilot who's recruited by the CIA to fly reconnaissance missions over South America. A \$17 million



Tom Cruise.
PHOTO: REUTERS

opening is modest for movie starring Cruise, but the studio is hoping for a long runway based on positive reviews and word of mouth. The movie has been earning money overseas for the past few weekends, giving it \$64.7 million in international grosses so far. 55% of the domestic audience is male, and 56% is over the age of 30. "There were people out there who had us at a little less. It's not a disappointment — it's an overachievement," said Universal's distribution chief Nick Carpou, who also addressed

opening the film against so many others with R MPAA ratings. "I think that the rating of the film is secondary to the content of the film," he said. "To me, it feels like a fall release."

If "It" returns to the top spot after taking second place to "Kingsman" last weekend, it would be a feat. The horror movie smashed records for the month of September when it opened, and went on to become the highest grossing horror movie of all time. After this weekend, "It's" domestic total stands at \$291.2 million.

"The Lego Ninjago Movie," from Warner Bros., looks to land in fourth ahead of "Flatliners" with \$12 million from 4,047 locations. Fox Searchlight's "Battle of the Sexes" expanded to 1,213 where it's earning \$3.4 million. The rest of the top ten is "American Assassin" (\$3.3 million, 3,020 locations); "Home Again" (\$1.8 million, 2,370); "Til Death Do Us Part" (\$1.5 million, 562 locations); and "Mother!" (\$1.5 million, 1,840). —Reuters



Model Barbara Palvin presents a creation as she walks on a giant catwalk on the Champs Elysees avenue during a public event organized by French cosmetics group L'Oreal as part of Paris Fashion Week, France on 1 October, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Paris' Champs Elysees gets star turn as a catwalk

PARIS — The Champs Elysees avenue in Paris got a makeover on Sunday as a giant outdoor catwalk, as celebrities and models took to the runway in the first show of its kind by L'Oreal, the French cosmetics firm.

Movie stars such as Jane Fonda and Helen Mirren — who twirled a cane as she strutted down the specially-erected run-

way on the tree-lined boulevard — rubbed shoulders with models, some of whom sported elaborate hairstyles and dramatic make-up.

Various fashion houses provided outfits for the show, which drew crowds of tourists and onlookers. It coincided with Paris Fashion Week, which runs until 3 October. —Reuters

US rapper sings gay anthem to Australian rugby fans amid same-sex marriage vote

SYDNEY — American rap artist Macklemore performed a gay anthem at a rugby league final in Sydney on Sunday, thanks to the sport's bosses rejecting pressure from opponents of same-sex marriage as Australia votes on liberalising its marriage laws.

Macklemore sang "Same Love" to more than 80,000 fans of a sport traditionally associated with macho values, as the North Queensland Cowboys took on the Melbourne Storm in the National Rugby League Grand Final.

Fans respectfully waved electric candles as rainbow coloured smoke rose above the stage during the performance.

NRL bosses resisted pressure last week to stop the song despite a petition signed by just over 18,000 people calling for the performance to be banned.

Instead, the song promoting gay rights rose to number

one on the Australian iTunes chart where it remained ahead of the match on Sunday.

Macklemore pledged on Friday to donate proceeds from the Australian sales of the song to help the campaign to legalise same-sex marriage.

After becoming the third major American celebrity to weigh in on the debate, the singer from Seattle, Washington, said music had the power to help people talk about the issue.

"I want to donate my portion of the proceeds from Same Love that I get off of that record here in Australia to voting YES," Macklemore said in a Channel Nine interview posted on his twitter feed on Saturday.

Australians began voting last month in a non-binding poll, conducted by post, to inform the Government on whether to become the 25th nation to permit same-sex marriage. The results of the

poll will be declared on 15 November.

Oscar-winning actor Morgan Freeman said he was surprised Australia didn't have marriage equality yet, in an interview with NewsLtd's online service news.com.au published on Saturday.

US pop star Meghan Trainor entered the fray in August after her image was used without her permission to urge Australians to vote against legalising same-sex marriage.

"I support marriage equality. Someone in Australia is illegally using my picture for a campaign against marriage equality. So wrong. Not okay," Trainor tweeted.

The debate has divided the nation of 24 million people along religious and generational lines and at times has threatened to turn nasty, prompting parliament to strengthen laws preventing hate-speech. —Reuters



Singer-actor Jennifer Lopez. PHOTO: PTI

Jennifer Lopez had singlehood fears

LONDON — Singer-actor Jennifer Lopez said she feared she would end up lonely after her divorce from musician husband Marc Anthony.

The 48-year-old musician although said the tough time encouraged her to buy a house in the Hamptons so that her children — nine-year-old fraternal twins Max and Emme — would always find their back to her, reported Hello! magazine.

"After I got divorced and it was a hard time, I said to myself, 'I'm gonna do that. I'm gonna be like that lady Diane Keaton in

'Something's Gotta Give', just in case I never get married again and I stay alone forever.' Silly idea. "You can make anything happen if you want it but I was like, 'If I don't, I'll be happy in my beautiful house in the Hamptons and then I'll have amazing kids who come visit me all the time and who love coming home because they love this house because we spent all these summers in this house when they were young.' So I wanted to create a new dream. And so the house symbolises a lot for me," Lopez said.—PTI

Russian Arctic exhibition opens in central Moscow's park

MOSCOW — The Russian Arctic exhibition will open on 29 September, at the exhibition hall of the Zaryadye Park in central Moscow. The exhibition is above international standards in its innovative content, First Deputy Minister of Culture Vladimir Aristarkhov told reporters on Thursday.

"The exhibition is made at the highest level of multimedia," he said, adding Russia has a well-known parity in exploration of the Arctic. "This is an achievement of many generations of our explorers, scientists, beginning from the Pomors, the explorers of the newest time and the heroes of the Soviet Northern Sea Route. Today, our contemporaries continue developing and

studying the Russian Arctic."

The exposition opens by an exact copy of the tent, in which for 270 days was drifting the Ivan Papanin's expedition, which featured also Petr Shirshov, Evgeny Fedorov and Ernst Krenkel. Inside the tent, the visitors will see what the explorers used: the kerosene stove, the equipment and outfit. Among the exhibits are a telegraph apparatus with Morse code, which the explorers used. "Conquering of the Arctic continues nowadays, and thus the exhibition displays a modern tent, inside which the guests will see the technical means, outfit and equipment of the polar explorers who worked at the Borneo ice base," the park's curator Viktoria Pavlenko said.—Tass

Medieval Festival featuring spirit of Middle Ages held in NYC



Performers participate in a parade during the Medieval Festival at Fort Tryon Park in New York City, the United States, on 1 October, 2017. The annual Medieval Festival which features the customs and spirit of the Middle Ages was held here on Sunday. PHOTO: XINHUA

Christian newspaper wields manga, games to attract youth

TOKYO — Smartphone games, manga comics and "cosplay" events might seem incompatible with the solemn practice of religion, but a Christian newspaper in Japan is deploying such secular entertainment in an attempt to draw new followers to the faith.

Christ Newspaper, or Kirisuto Shimbun in Japanese, is aiming to attract young followers through modern media in an industry with a fading readership.

The long-standing religious paper, under new president Shinji Matsutani, 40, launched in July a thrice-monthly tabloid version with more photos and illustrations than its previous

conventional weeklies, as well as an online edition.

The 71-year-old paper, which was founded by late Christian social reformer Toyohiko Kagawa and covers all sects of Christianity, carries a serial comic strip whose main character is a schoolgirl named "Pyuri-tan," Japanese wordplay for the term Puritans after the English protestant sect.

The manga features cute personifications of different Christian groups such as Catholics and Anglicans, allowing readers to learn about them while having fun. It has even been adapted into a smartphone game app.

Aside from the newspaper

that serves about 10,000 readers in Japan's Christian community, the publisher also sells card games featuring characters from the Bible, sponsors comic fairs, a novel competition themed on Christianity, as well as a photo session for cosplayers at an actual church.

These efforts reflect Matsutani's frustration with the "high psychological hurdles" set by the existing community that keeps away non-Christians interested in the religion. In Japan, Christians account for only around 1 per cent of the total population of some 120 million, far lower than about 30 per cent across the globe. Many people hold Buddhist and Shinto values, and the practice of visiting temples and shrines is largely ingrained in Japanese traditional culture.

"Although Christian churches in Japan say they are eager to actively engage in missionary work and attract youth, they often remain closed to outsiders and scare away newcomers as members too fervently ask them to become followers," Matsutani said. "With the aging of members, churches will die out if they do business as usual. We'd like to counter that trend," said the president, a Christian who was raised in a religiously devout family. He pointed out many Japanese are familiar with Christianity, being

exposed to education at mission schools and Western culture under heavy Christian influence, but view organized religious groups as weird or dangerous, especially after the deadly 1995 sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway system by the AUM Shinrikyo cult.

"Potentially, many Japanese have contact with Christianity and I believe it is important to expand a 'fan' base in hopes of eventually increasing followers and clergy in the country," Matsutani said.

Non-Christians' general interest in the religion has grown, he said, with the popularity of manga and animation series "Saint Oniisan" (Saint Young Men), a slice-of-life comedy in which Jesus Christ and Gautama Buddha share a Tokyo apartment, and the recent boom of visiting "spiritual power spots," or sacred places to get energized.

"We'd like to increase 'entrances' to Christianity as we believe there is real demand from those generally interested in the religion. Hopefully, they will consider going to church as an option," said Matsutani, who became the company's president in May and concurrently serves as the newspaper's editor in chief.

Since 2011, the publisher has been sponsoring "Pray Festival," an annual event resembling a comic market across Japan,

where Christianity-themed manga, books and goods are put on sale.

The upcoming festival on 9 October in Okayama Prefecture, western Japan, will host a group discussion with a couple — a Buddhist priest wife who is also a "rakugo" storyteller and her acrobat Christian husband.

Some conservatives have criticized the tactic employed by the newspaper, saying using manga and other pop cultural devices could be "blasphemy" and react negatively to collaborating with people from other religions.

But Matsutani believes openness is the proper remedy. "The lower the psychologically hurdles, the better," he said. "As a way of survival, churches should be open to others in local communities."

He even suggested religious institutions welcome players of the popular mobile game "Pokemon Go," who might come across them in their search for monsters.

Looking ahead, the company plans to launch a board game themed on the Protestant Reformation on 31 October, the 500th anniversary of the movement initiated by German priest and scholar Martin Luther in 1517 to condemn the corruption of the Roman Catholic Church. — Kyodo News ■



Shinji Matsutani, 40, president of Kirisuto Shimbun Co, the publisher of the Christ Newspaper, shows new tabloid versions of the paper at the company in Tokyo's Shinjuku Ward on 12 September, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Myanmar and Thailand national football teams in Mandalay



Myanmar's Goal Keeper San Satt Naing under training. PHOTO: MFF

Kyaw Zin Lin

MYANMAR national football players are being trained in Mandalay in preparation for the friendly match between Myanmar and Thailand that will play on Thursday 6:30 pm at Manda-

lar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. Myanmar national team's Head Coach Gerd Zeise is leading training program and will manage the team for the friendly match. Myanmar star players Kyi Lin from Yangon United FC who has recovered

from his injury recently and Myo Ko Tun from Yadanabon FC, one of Myanmar shining player is likely to take part in upcoming friendly match against Thailand on Thursday according to Myanmar Football Federation.

Thailand national football team arrived in Mandalay yesterday afternoon.

As Thailand is one of the best football teams in ASEAN, there will be anticipation for an entertaining game in Mandalay. ■

AFC Grade 'A' Football Coaching Course launches in Myanmar

Kyaw Zin Lin

THE opening ceremony of AFC Grade 'A' Coaching Certificate Course was conducted yesterday at Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) meeting hall in Yangon, Myanmar.

U Bhone Naing Zaw, CEO of Myanmar Football Federation, U Ko Ko Thein, General Secretary of MFF and officials attended the ceremony.

The AFC Grade 'A' Coaching course is for coaches who hold both the 'C' and 'B' Coaching Certificates. Selection of participants is based only on the recommendation of the instructors. The duration of the course is 27 days, with a minimum of 148 hours. The course is designed to educate coaches in tactical and advanced technical requirements of teams and team management. Teachings of the physiological and psychological needs of the players are part of the module, and are important to enhance the coaches' understanding of the game at this level. Students are examined on the practical and theoretical aspects of the game, and are required to submit and present a dissertation. ■

Guardiola says Barcelona should have called off match over vote violence

MADRID — Former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola expressed dismay on Monday at the violence that marred Catalonia's independence vote, which he said should have led the club to postpone their match against Las Palmas. Barcelona beat Las Palmas 3-0 in an empty Nou Camp stadium on Sunday afternoon, after club president Josep Maria Bartomeu decided to play behind closed doors in protest at widespread police violence against voters.

"Barcelona against Las Palmas should never have been played, not at all," Catalonia-born Guardiola, now manager of Premier League high-fliers Manchester City, told Catalan radio station RAC1. "In Catalonia

they have injured a lot of people, people who only went to schools to vote," said Guardiola, who also captained Barcelona during a stellar playing career. "The images are not deceptive.

There were people who went to vote and they were violently attacked." Catalan officials said 840 people had been injured while trying to cast their ballots. The handling of the referendum by authorities in Madrid, who had declared it illegal, has left Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy facing Spain's biggest constitutional crisis in decades.—Reuters ■



Manager Jose Mourinho. PHOTO: REUTERS

United injuries are opportunities for others — Mourinho

LONDON — Manchester United's injuries gives team mates the opportunity to prove their worth and flourish for the starting side, the Premier League club's manager Jose Mourinho has said.

Frenchman Paul Pogba is the latest to join United's long-term injury list with a hamstring problem but the club have won five consecutive games without the playmaker, including Saturday's 4-0 league win over bottom-side Crystal Palace. United have been dominant over the last five games, scoring 17 goals and conceding just two, and Mourinho is focused on the

players on the pitch rather than those absent from it.

"When we moan all the time about injuries it looks like we don't trust the other people and we have to. We never miss the players that are injured, that's our way of seeing," Mourinho told British media. "They are injured, we don't think about them.

It's an opportunity for others, is a moment for others to step up and to get the chance, so I think that's good." Pogba scored two goals and provided two assists in four league appearances before sustaining the injury and his midfield partner Nemanja Matić is confident that the 24-year-old will regain his form once he recovers.—Reuters ■