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National Security Advisor urges careful use of terms “ethnic cleansing” and “genocide”



U Thaung Tun, National Security Advisor. **PHOTO: MNA**

The National Security Advisor has urged international communities not to use the terms “ethnic cleansing” and “genocide” lightly regarding the issue in northern Rakhine State.

U Thaung Tun, National Security Advisor of Myanmar, made the remark at the United Nations

Security Council in New York recently, after the terms were used in statements made by the UN Secretary-General and the representatives of the member states of the council.

“There is no ethnic cleansing and genocide in Myanmar. Ethnic cleansing and genocide

are serious charges and they should not be used lightly. It would be a sad commentary of our times if we allowed emotions to cloud our view and assert that what is happening in Rakhine is ethnic cleansing without first undertaking a legal review and making a judicial determina-

tion,” said the National Security Advisor.

The current situation was precipitated by the attacks of Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) terrorists on 30 police outposts in the early hours of 25 August that resulted in

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Over 100 teachers to be appointed in Maungtaw and Buthidaung

MORE than 100 new teachers will be working for the Maungtaw basic education department to replace teachers who were working in northern Rakhine State when the terrorist attacks of 25 August occurred. The teachers they replace have been transferred to their home districts.

The new teachers will be undergoing training soon in Mrauk-U and Kyawpyu, according to Maungtaw District Education Department.

“Starting from 4 and 9 October, training for primary assistant teachers will be conducted in Mrauk-U and Kyaukphyu — 57 for Maungtaw and 44 for Buthidaung — to eventually be appointed as school teachers.

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Teachers at a school in Sittway two days before the announcement of the appointment of 101 new teachers for Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MIN THIT**



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, centre, delivers cash assistance and bags of rice to villagers in northern Rakhine State affected by the 25 August terrorist attacks. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, donors deliver aid to villagers in N-Rakhine

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and donors, together with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, are continuing the donation of rice and cash assistance to villagers in northern Rakhine State.

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and donors went to marshaling points yesterday morning at Shweyinaye, Waithali, Bawdikone, Shwe Baho, Kainggyi, Mawyawaddi villages and provided 988 bags of rice and Ks100,000 per village for 27 villages.

Of the donations made to the Ministry of Social Welfare,

Relief and Resettlement, 2,305 households from 27 villages who remain in their own villages after attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists were provided with a cash assistance of Ks10,000 per household and relevant administrative officials accepted the cash assistance. Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and donors then met with officials from General Administration Department in the Maungdaw Township General Administration Department meeting hall to enquire and discuss about the difficulties faced and provided cash assistance to the administrative departments. Amyotha Hluttaw

Deputy Speaker said regional security, administrative, education, agriculture, health, and social matters will be addressed together with the Rakhine State government.

Rakhine State Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Minerals U Kyaw Lwin, Maungdaw District General Administrative Department Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut, Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Ministry head of Rakhine State U Kyaw Min, Deputy Head of Rakhine State education department U Maung Tun Win and officials accompanied the donating group, it is learnt.—Naing Linn Kyi, Thant Zin Win ■

Foreigner barred from launching drone near Shwedagon

A MAN who launched a drone above the Shwedagon Pagoda on Sunday was given a warning by pagoda trustees.

At about 9:30 pm on Sunday, a Lebanese man named Yeghig Janboulion, 22, son of Krikor Janboulion was found

launching a drone from the parking lot of Shwedagon Pagoda.

Upon seeing the drone flying near the Tuesday corner (South East) of the pagoda, a member of the security team shot it down with an anti-drone

device.

The Lebanese man was informed by the trusteeship board that the pagoda was a restricted area for drones.

The drone was handed over to U Win Naing, a member of the pagoda trusteeship. —GNLM ■

Private sector import of capital goods declines by \$90 million

THE import of capital goods by the private sector exceeded US\$2.8 billion over the first six months of this fiscal year, a decrease of over \$90 million matched against the same period of last year, the Commerce Ministry reported.

This time last FY, the private sector imported \$2.88 billion worth of capital goods from partner countries.

The total import of capital goods as of 22 September was valued at more than \$3 billion, including almost \$350 million from the government sector. Despite a decrease in private sector imports of capital goods, imports by the government increased to \$245 million than that of last year.

Myanmar predominantly imports from foreign trade partners luxury products, personal

goods, construction materials, farming equipment, industrial raw materials, household utensils, foodstuffs, electronic devices and medicine.

According to ministry statistics, the country also imported \$3.39 billion worth of intermediate goods and \$2.18 billion worth of consumer goods over the past six months of this FY. —Swe Nyein ■

Statement by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission with regard to the terrorist attacks that occurred in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships of Rakhine State

Statement No. (11/2017)

1. A team from the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission visited Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships from 24 to 29 September 2017 to look into the terrorist attacks that occurred in the townships.
2. During the course of the trip, the team visited five Bangali villages, seven ethnic villages and one Hindu village as well as one Bangali, seven ethnic and two Hindu refugee camps and six monasteries. The team independently interviewed 71 Bangalis, 33 ethnic people, 13 Hindus and also met the authorities concerned and the security personnel.
3. Based on the interviews, it was found out that the ARSA terrorist group recruited young people from the area, intimidated them and trained them in terrorist activities. The group executed people who resisted the recruitment and also killed villagers whom they suspected of giving information to the government and all those who spoke out against them when interviewed by the media and responsible personnel. The ARSA group also went around the villages of the ethnic minority groups terrorizing them and executing the ethnic minorities and Hindus en masse. On top of that the group carried out terrorist attacks on the outposts of police forces carrying out security duties, outposts of Border Guard Forces and ethnic villages.
4. After cessation of conflict with the terrorists, the team from the Commission learnt on 28 September 2017 that about 1,000 Bangalis had gathered at the coastal area near Alal-Tham-Kyaw village to proceed to other side. The team went over to meet the villagers. According to the villagers, friends and villagers who had gone over to the other side made phone contacts with them and told them to come over as the conditions there were much better. The villagers also wished to go over to other side due to lack of security and shortage of food. Although the Commission team explained that the government was providing security, food and shelter, the villagers told the Commission team that arrangements had already been made for transportation and that they would like to go over to the other side of their own volition.
5. In order to ensure peace and tranquility and not to infringe sovereignty and to prevent similar occurrences of violation of human rights in Buthidaung and Maungdaw areas of northern Rakhine State, the Commission would like to recommend that necessary security measures, transportation, healthcare, education and social and economic developments should be provided immediately. In addition, development of tourism industries and fisheries should also be implemented systematically. For the security of the region additional police stations, police outposts and Border Guard Forces outposts should be established as deemed necessary.
6. To alleviate food and clothing shortages, healthcare and social difficulties for Bangalis who had not fled and wished to live peacefully, a headcount should be taken immediately and temporary recommendation papers under the authorization of the regional authorities should be issued to grant access to freedom of movement related to livelihood. It is recommended that provisions and medicines urgently needed should be provided for all living in the region.
7. It is required to systematically scrutinize all returnees to ensure that ARSA terrorists who had committed terrorist attacks should not be on the list when accepting the returnees and to give emphasis on long-term peace and stability in the rehabilitation process.—Myanmar National Human Rights Commission ■

Nationalisation of Unused Confiscated Land in Yangon Region to be discussed

By Ko Moe

Matters concerning the nationalisation of unused confiscated land and buildings in Yangon will be discussed at the Yangon Region Hluttaw meeting to be held on 11 October.

In the Yangon Region Hluttaw meeting held yesterday, U Hla Htay, Yangon Region Hluttaw representative of Mingalar Taungnyunt township constituency 1, put forward a motion urging the Yangon Region Cabinet to nationalise properties which did not comply with prescribed rules and laws after scrutinising unused confiscated land and state-owned buildings.

Due to the approval of Yangon Region Hluttaw concerning the motion, it was learnt to be seconded on 11 October.

"Nearly all state-owned buildings and land plots in Yangon Region were monopolised

at very low prices by private businessmen and those closely related with authorities concerned by buying, hiring and receiving grants in dubious ways and means. Some of them were transferred to sub-tenants at high prices", said U Hla Htay. Some land and buildings are still in their original conditions without being used. It has been learnt that there are a lot of unused land plots and buildings in the Yangon Region industrial zone.

"Now is the time for the creation of job opportunities to be implemented. Had these lands and buildings been implemented as planned, national income and job opportunities for our citizens would have been achieved more than expected", U Hla Htay said.

The motion was discussed in support by U Nyi Nyi, representative of Dagon Myothit township (south) constituency 1, Yangon Region, it was learnt.

Over 100 teachers to be appointed in Maungtaw and Buthidaung

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In some villages, village-appointed teachers will be appointed as helpers. While making arrangements to appoint junior Assistant teachers (JATs) in substitution for this academic year, the terrorist events took place." said U Ohn Myint, the head of the Maungtaw District Basic Education Department.

It has been learnt that there are 404 high schools, middle schools and primary schools in Maungtaw District, including 16 state high schools in Maungtaw and 10 state high schools in Buthidaung.

In the previous academic year 2016-2017, female teachers of state middle schools who came to serve in Maungtaw District from other areas were transferred to their locations of origin. Now in their places, teachers living in Maungtaw District were appointed in substitution, it has been learnt.

"In C, D and E level schools, male teachers were appointed. Schools situated in town are designated as A level, with those within reach of homes in a day's time designated B level, those within the reach of homes in week's time designated C level,

and those within the reach of homes in a month's time are designated as D level. Schools situated at the transit camps are designated as E level", U Ohn Myint said.

The head of the Maungtaw Basic Education Department said that 182 schools in Maungtaw and 221 schools in Buthidaung had to be closed following the 25 August terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), a terrorist group. On September 12, 18 schools were reopened in Maungtaw —17 schools in Maungtaw and the Nanthataung philanthropic school — and 20 schools were reopened in Buthidaung, U Ohn Myint said.

Schools will be reopened in three categories—first priority, second priority and third priority. Currently, as a priority programme, 34 schools in Maungtaw and 20 schools in Buthidaung were designated to be opened in September, October and November. In December, January and February, a second priority programme will be launched, with those to be reopened at the last stage designated as third priority, it was learnt.—Naing Lin Kyi ■

National Security Advisor urges careful use of terms "ethnic cleansing" and "genocide"

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the deaths of 12 security officers, one immigration officer, one soldier and a number of innocent civilians. Security forces were obliged to defend themselves, government officials said.

"We feel deeply for the suffering and plight of all affected communities—Rakhine, Muslim, Daingnet, Mro, Thet, Maramagyi and Hindu. They are all victims of violence and terrorism", U Thaung Tun said.

Myanmar is one of the most ethnically diverse countries in the world. It is home to 135 officially recognised ethnic groups, each with its own distinctive culture and adherence to a variety of religions, including Buddhism, Islam, Christianity and Hinduism. Religious groups have been living in harmony throughout the



National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun delivers his address to the UN Security Council at the UN in New York City. PHOTO: MNA

country's history. "The situation that we face today is due to terrorism and is not based on religion," said U Thaung Tun.

"It should be noted that Muslims are not a minority in northern Rakhine. They constitute 95 per cent of the total population. What is little known

is that the vast majority of Muslims did not abandon their hearth and home. While there has been an exodus, more than 50 per cent of the Muslim villages in northern Rakhine remain intact," said the National Security Advisor.—GNLM ■



Hindu families pray for victims of the ARSA terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine. PHOTO: MNA

Hindu families pray for local ethnic nationals, public servants and Hindus killed by terrorists

PRAYERS and donations for local ethnic nationals, public servants and Hindus killed by ARSA extremist terrorists in the Maungtaw region of Rakhine State were given on Monday morning at Sri Thanantana Temple in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay.

At the Hindu event, attendees first recited religious verses in accordance with the Hindu religious tradition to open the event and then prayers in Hindu and Myanmar were made by Pandit Mithral and Parbul Ramasandra, after which the attendees observed a minute of silence.

All Myanmar Hindu Central Board Upper Myanmar Mandalay sub board chairman U N Apa Oo, also known as U Khin Maung Lwin, explained the reasons for holding the event and read a Hindu statement condemning terrorist acts committed by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorists.

Afterwards, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Nyein Thit and National League for Democracy Mandalay District chairman U Kan, also known as U Khin Maung Myint, delivered speeches and presented Ks16,674,700 donated by Hindu

religious groups and Hindus to officials.

Hindu social assistance group secretary U Kyaw Win gave words of thanks and U Khin Maung Lwin delivered closing remarks.

Guests were then presented with commemorative gifts and prayer verses were recited according to Hindu religious tradition. The event was concluded with attendees offered traditional Hindu food.

The donations presented in the event will be personally delivered to Rakhine State today, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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More than 2,000 YBS buses installed with GPS

MORE THAN 2,000 YBS buses have had Global Positioning System (GPS) devices installed under the arrangement of the Yangon Region Transport Authorities (YRTA), according to a report of the Myawady Daily's Yesterday edition.

The government is covering the cost for this programme. The YRTA said it continues to install GPS systems on both old and new public transport buses operating within the city free of charge.

Priority is being given to buses running within the six downtown townships, according to the YRTA.

The aim of the installation of GPS systems on buses is to track bus routes, check locations and distances between individual buses and see images from inside the bus. Thanks to this system,



Authorities to install GPS devices in YBS buses. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

transport authorities can easily check and monitor the status of the images, location and route times of the buses.

U Myo Myint, managing director of Bandoola Transport Co, said the GPS units are being installed on five buses per

day, adding that nearly 150 buses operating under his company have already had GPS units installed.—GNLM ■

Complaints on 110 Yangon restaurants against failure to place duty stamps on receipts

THE Internal Revenue Department received complaint letters from customers against at least 110 restaurants who failed to affix duty stamps on their sale vouchers this year, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

According to the policy, customers have to pay a

5 per cent tax of the restaurant bill. In 2014, The Internal Revenue Department began a programme requiring restaurants to buy stamps from the department, which are then affixed to restaurant receipts to prove to customers that they are paying tax.

The department started to

investigate restaurant in 2015 and has received complaints against 117 that failed to attach the duty stamps on their sale vouchers this year.

The Internal Revenue Department stated that if those restaurants fail to attach the duty stamps another time, the department will take action

against the restaurant owners under section 23 (E) of the commercial tax law. The Internal Revenue Department earned fines amounting to over Ks133 million from 507 restaurants in fiscal 2016-2017. Last year it imposed fines on 253 restaurants and collected Ks70.8 million in fines.— GNLM ■

YCDC to supply water to Dala, Seikkyi Kanaungto townships

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) is arranging to distribute water to Dala and Seikkyi Kanaungto townships this summer, according to a report in the Myawady Daily. The two townships usually face water shortages in summer. The YCDC is arranging to distribute addi-

tional water supplies.

Over the past few years, the YCDC has dug wells in the townships, but the water was not sufficient for the local consumption needs.

Currently, the YCDC is only able to supply water to around 40 per cent of the Yangon pop-

ulation, and as a result they are building new reservoirs to provide water to about 80 per cent of Yangon's population by 2040.

The YCDC provides 185 million gallons of water from the Hlawga, Nga Moe Yeik, and Puu Gyi reservoirs, and around 16

million gallons from groundwater. Meanwhile, the committee is working to reduce water wastage. The YCDC plans to install water meters to reduce water wastage and also plans to install piped water systems in Dala and Seikkyi Kanaungto townships.— GNLM ■

More training courses for seafarer jobs to begin in 2018

THE Independent Federation of Myanmar Seafarers (IFOMS) will open more training courses for seafarers in 2018, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

Some of the local seafarers are rejected from foreign shipping companies because they have less experience and weaknesses in skills.

The training will be

opened with fair training fees, while some training will be provided free of charges.

Experienced, expert seafarers will teach the training courses.

There are over 100,000 seafarers currently in Myanmar, but only 20,000 seafarers have received job at foreign shipping companies.— GNLM ■



Collection of rice from a threshing machine in Kangyidauk, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

Myanmar-India border trade decreased by \$15 million this FY

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and India via land borders amounted to more than US\$32.7 million in the first half of this fiscal year, according to the latest statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The current trade value is over \$15 million less than that of the same period of last fiscal year's total of \$48.122 million.

Of the total, Myanmar's ex-

ports to India reached about \$26 million and its imports from the second largest neighbour were about \$6.8 million as of September 22. The trade between the two countries through the Tamu border gate showed a decline in both exports and imports, while bilateral trade from the Reed border trade station showed a slight increase of \$3.3 million.

Myanmar chiefly exports

agricultural products, marine products, and forestry products to the Indian market. Imports from India include medicine and medical equipment, consumer goods, electronic appliances, and other commodities.

Myanmar-India trade is conducted through the Tamu and Reed border points of entry as well as shipping.—Khine Khant ■

Myanmar earns over \$16m from export of rice, broken rice by sea

MYANMAR sold 26,825 tons of white rice and parboiled rice worth US\$8.1 million to foreign countries by sea in the third week of September, an increase of 5,579 tons matched against the previous week, according to trade authorities.

The country also exported 34,835 tons of broken rice to foreign trade partners within the same week and earned \$8.5 million. The export volume of broken rice is 27,145 tons more than that of previous week. Broken

rice are fractured grains of rice usually sold at a cheaper price.

Between 16 and 22 September, Myanmar's border export of rice to China and Bangladesh totalled 21,189 tons including 59 tons of gluten rice, earning US\$7.3 million. The country sent more than 21,000 tons of rice to neighbouring China from Muse, Lwejel and Chinshwehaw border points of entry whereas Bangladesh imported 155 tons of rice through Sittway border trade camp. When compared

to the previous week before 22 September, the export volume of rice decreased by 2,656 tons.

China also imported \$392,000 worth of broken rice weighing 1,374 tons via border gates within the same week, a decrease of over 100 tons than that of previous week. Myanmar's rice importers via sea routes include European countries, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Senegal, Japan, South Africa, Russia, Japan, China, Afghanistan and Madagascar.—Shwe Khine ■

Singapore company offers to buy organic crops

A Singapore company offered to buy organic crops cultivated in Myanmar, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

To buy the organic crops, a team from Singapore is conducting studies of the organic crops and is surveying farming operations and farmers, said

U Kyaw Thu, the secretary of the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP).

"If Myanmar plans to export the organic crops, the organic crops have to be cultivated using greenhouse farming techniques year-round. Therefore, we are calculating

the investment for the greenhouse farming and profit of the organic crops", said U Kyaw Thu. Currently, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and, MFVP are providing agricultural training courses to local farmers in order to receive the internationally recognised GAP certificates.—Zwe ■

More than 64,000 tons of diesel imported by sea on 17-23 September

MYANMAR imported over 64,000 tons of diesel worth more than US\$31.9 million from its trade partners by sea in the third week of last month, an increase of over 27,800 tons compared with previous week.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, over \$844,800 worth of diesel weighing 1,600 tons entered the country through Myeik, Myanmar-Thailand border trade camp from 17 through 23 September. The country re-exported over 3,900 tons of diesel to China via Muse and Lwejel border points.

The markets in Yangon, Mandalay and Mawlamyine have regular demand but prices of fuel are slightly higher than before, sources said.

According to private fuel stations in the commercial capital, the retail price of diesel on 29 September was Ks154,000 per barrel.

The retail sellers in Mandalay sold a gallon of diesel for Ks156,000 per barrel.

According to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, diesel consumption in the country was 464.866 million gallons in 2010-11 FY.

It decreased to 416.395 million gallons in 2011-12 FY, 316.749 million gallons in 2012-13 FY and 372.493 million gallons in 2013-14 FY.

The diesel consumption went up to over 600 million gallons in 2014-15 FY and 807.619 million gallons in 2015-16 FY.—Nyein Chan

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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More than 120 nests of endangered sarus cranes found in Ayeyawady Delta

Nearly 130 nests of endangered sarus cranes have been found in the Ayeyawady Delta, according to Wildlife Conservation Society (Myanmar).

"This achievement comes from the cooperation of the local people," said U Thet Zaw Naing, of WCS, referring the dramatically increase in number of nests found last year and this year. The conservationists recorded 37 nests in 2016 in the same area and 128 in 2017.

Ornithologists from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) who are cooperating with the Forestry Department of Maubin University to protect

endangered cranes discovered a large group of sarus cranes, which are considered nearly extinct, in wetlands in the Ayeyawady delta.

Groups of this species of crane have been found in Maubin, Pantanaw, Eainme and Wakema townships in the Ayeyawady delta. Previously thirty-seven sarus crane groups were recorded in Ayeyawady delta.

The population of Sarus cranes has declined not only in Myanmar but also around the world. Only 500 of these rare birds can now be found in Myanmar.—Nyi Two



Thai fishing boat with 13 Myanmar fishermen capsizes

A Thai fishing boat with 13 Myanmar fishermen onboard overturned in southern Thailand on Monday.

The fishing boat was registered under the Thai name Klanchai and had 13 Myanmar fishermen and two Thai nationals onboard when it overturned due to bad weather while the men were casting their fishing nets.

There was only one injury, a minor leg injury, and all were safely rescued by a Thai Coast Guard vessel. All crewmembers of the boat, both Myanmar and Thai, were being given timely treatment, according to the social networking site of Chonyuen Wisutthipat.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)



Volunteers provide assistance to the fishermen. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

YCDC collects garbage with use of over 80 three-wheeled garbage trucks

The Yangon City Development Committee provides sanitation services to city dwellers with the use of three-wheel garbage trucks. Yangon, a commercial city with a population of over seven million, daily produces about three tons of rubbish, including industrial waste.

According to a report of the Myawady Daily, the YCDC uses more than 80 three-wheeled garbage collection vehicles, including 35 trucks for the Yangon East District, 35

for Yangon North District and 15 for Yangon South District.

U Than Htay, assistant head of the YCDC's Pollution Control and Cleansing Department, said that the department has granted only its staff who have a driver's licence and have completed a two-week training course offered by the YCDC to operate these kinds of garbage trucks.

The YCDC purchases necessary equipment and machinery based on the annual budget.—GNLM

East Timor president swears in first minority government

DILI — East Timor President Francisco “Lu Olo” Guterres swore in the remaining members of the new cabinet on Tuesday and urged the first minority government since independence to focus on improving living conditions and avoiding political upheaval.

The new administration led by Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri faces pressure to lift flagging oil production in the nation of 1.3 million people, where unemployment and poverty remain rife.

Alkatiri, who was East Timor's first prime minister after independence in 2002, stood down

in 2006 following a wave of unrest sparked by the sacking of 600 soldiers. His Fretilin party won the most votes in July's election but failed to get an outright majority. Guterres said in a speech at parliament that the country expected good governance without waste.

"The improvement of well being in our land isn't achieved with political upheaval. It's achieved with work, with the participation of everyone and with dedication," said Guterres.

Dwindling output from existing oil and gas fields, compounded by weaker commodities prices,

have hit the government's budget and crimped its ambition to develop manufacturing as an engine for economic growth.

The former Portuguese colony was invaded by neighbouring Indonesia in 1975. An often violent 24-year resistance movement took East Timor to independence in 2002 and many of its key figures still feature prominently in running the country. Alkatiri, who is a Muslim in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation, spent several decades living in exile in Mozambique during East Timor's struggle for independence.

Nobel Peace Prize winner and former prime minister and president, Jose Ramos-Horta, was also sworn into the cabinet last month in a new post as Minister of State and Counsellor for National Security. Hernani Filomena Coelho da Silva has been appointed to the important post of oil minister. He was foreign minister in the previous administration.

Australia and East Timor reached a breakthrough agreement last month on a maritime border, ending a decade-old row that has stalled a \$40 billion offshore gas project. The dispute

has led the owners of the Greater Sunrise fields — Woodside Petroleum, ConocoPhillips, Royal Dutch Shell and Japan's Osaka Gas — to shelve the project.

Fretilin, which won 23 seats in the election, will join with the Democratic Party to control 30 seats in the 65-seat parliament.

Fretilin, or the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor, had been in a de facto coalition since 2015 with the National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction, a party founded by former independence fighter Xanana Gusmao. — Reuters ■

Defence disputes nerve agent used to kill North Korean leader's half-brother

KUALA LUMPUR — Lawyers for two women accused of murdering the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said on Tuesday low enzyme levels in his blood may have been caused by liver disease or hormone pills rather than a lethal nerve agent.

Indonesian Siti Aisyah, 25, and Doan Thi Huong, 28, a Vietnamese, are charged with murdering Kim Jong Nam by smearing his face with VX, a chemical poison banned by the United Nations, at Kuala Lumpur airport on 13 February.

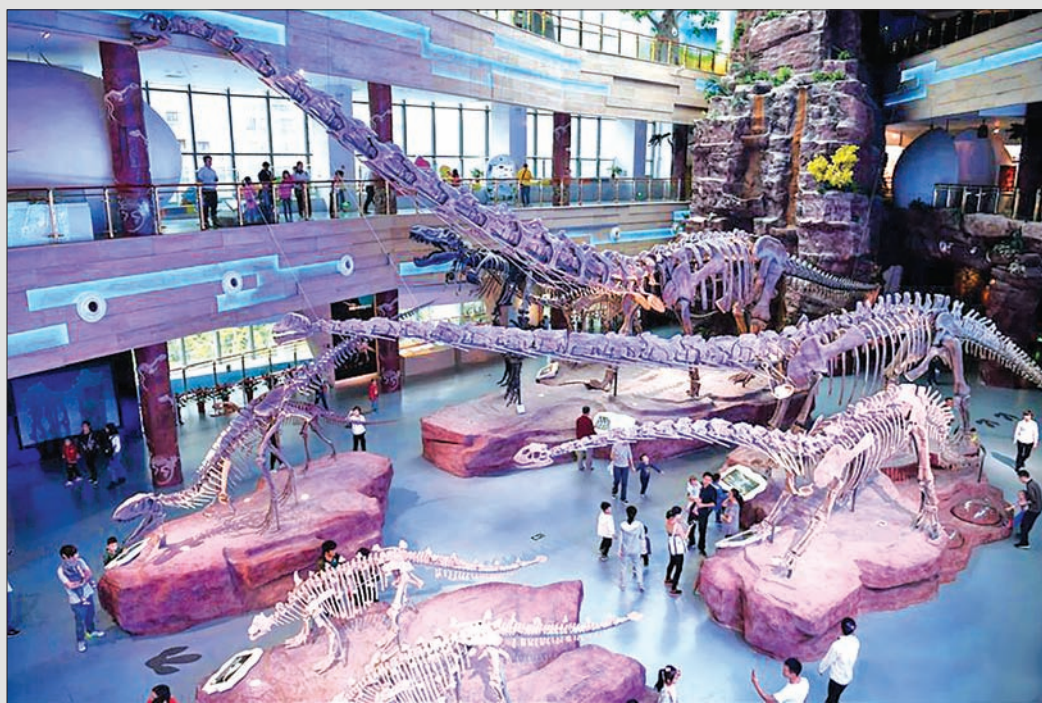
The women have pleaded not guilty, saying they thought they were involved in some sort

of prank for a reality TV show. They face the death penalty if convicted.

Nor'ashikin Othman, a chemical pathologist with Kuala Lumpur Hospital, told the court outside Kuala Lumpur blood samples taken from the victim showed low levels of cholinesterase — an enzyme needed in muscle control — which "could be caused by exposure to poison such as insecticide or a nerve agent" such as VX or Sarin. But she agreed with the defence that low enzyme levels could also have been due to other causes such as liver disease or the taking of female hormones by a man.

— Reuters ■

Youngsters spend National Day holiday in museums, bookstores



People visit the provincial geological museum in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province on 3 October, 2017. During the National Day holiday, many youngsters spent their times in museums or bookstores in Hefei. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



Indian army troopers stand guard near the site of a gunfight inside India's Border Security Force (BSF) camp in Srinagar, summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir on 3 October, 2017. An Indian border guard and two militants were killed, while as three others and a policeman were wounded Tuesday in a predawn militant attack on India's Border Security Force (BSF) camp in restive Indian-controlled Kashmir, police said. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Four killed as militants attack airport security camp in Indian-controlled Kashmir

SRINAGAR — Indian police on Tuesday killed three suspected militants in army uniforms after they infiltrated a security camp beside the main airport in the disputed region of Kashmir, officials said, an assault claimed by an Islamist group.

One Indian security official was killed and three wounded in a gun fight that followed. Islamist group Jaish-e-Mohammad has taken responsibility for the attack, Kashmir police chief Muneer Khan said.

Under cover of darkness, the

militants cut a fence to enter the camp in the early hours of Tuesday, he added.

The security camp of India's Border Security Force shares a boundary wall with the airport in Srinagar, the summer capital of Kashmir. Its main gate was about 500 metres (0.3 miles) from the airport.

Airport flight operations were briefly disrupted.

Militants have targeted police camps in Kashmir in recent months.

Eight Indian police officials

were killed when Jaish-e-Mohammad militants attacked a security camp in southern Kashmir in August.

India accuses Pakistan of training and arming militants and helping them infiltrate across the Line of Control that divides Kashmir. Pakistan denies those allegations.

The South Asian neighbours have fought two of their three wars since independence in 1947 over Muslim-majority Kashmir, which both claim in full but each rules in part. — Reuters ■

Stop Hatred, Atrocity and Terrorism

Khin Maung Oo

IT was at US LST 10:30 pm on October 1 (Myanmar LST 12 noon on October 2), 2017. There happened in Las Vegas, a renowned city for its casinos and nightclubs of United States of America, a shooting against innocent people into the crowd from the 32nd floor room of the “Mandalay Bay” Resort and Casino. The horrific act of violence claimed 59 lives, injuring over 400 people, it was learnt. The death toll reached at least 60 and more than 500 were injured in the shooting. But, surely it is the horrible one. It was an incident which is to be recorded as

the deadliest mass shootings since 1991 in the history of USA.

It was a mass shooting without any reasons or hatred or target from high above the Las Vegas Strip.

According to the news released, the mass shooter named Stephen Pad-dock was also killed in the suicide.

In Myanmar’s outlook and tradition, it must be noted to be too atrocious to be thought of it in their minds.

This must be assumed to be attributed to a great gap in social and economic status and easy access to holding weapons, the weakness of the law. And, individual intellect and

character may play an important role. Generally speaking, a person in his normality has no reason to harm anyone with whom the former has no connection.

In a human’s life, living is the most important. Who has the right to decide survival of others else, of his own accord.

Had a person decided without law, who cease to exist or who is to survive, the said situation will be the dangerous one for the human society.

There were numerous victims due to the terrorist attacks, who decided themselves without any laws across the world. The victims had no

protections of the law. They had no rights to argue. Accordingly, merciless killings without reasons need to be controlled, without satisfying themselves just by shouting human rights out aloud.

The whole global community should try themselves to stop committing a homicide or massacre out of groundless hatred or extremism.

We felt great sorrow for the victims who were brutally killed in a mass shooting which took place in Las Vegas, United States of America, calling for our global countries to find out terrorist attacks and simultaneously to stop terrorism. ■

Urban expansion opens doors for Myanmar's construction sector

Oxford Business Group

A projected housing shortage in Myanmar is driving the construction of affordable units in Yangon, with the government looking to assist development through new partnerships, project funding, legislative change and mortgage market support.

In August the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association signed a memorandum of understanding with Singaporean engineering consulting agency Surbana Jurong to help develop a prototype for affordable housing design.

Under the agreement, Surbana Jurong will provide the association with technology, design advice and engineering solutions that minimise construction time while maintaining safety and functionality of low-cost apartments.

Also in August, Myanmar’s Department of Urban and Housing Development announced plans to build 180,000 residential units in Yangon by 2040 to help meet expected demand for affordable housing.

At around 8000 units per year, this represents 20% of the projected long-term demand in the commercial capital, with the remaining 80% to be provided by the private sector and by local and regional governments, according to U Nway Hmu, deputy director of the Department of Urban and Housing Development.

The Ministry of Construction estimates that Myanmar will need 4.8m more housing units by 2040 – 1m in Yangon alone – as the country’s population



A construction site being seen in Yangon. **PHOTO - PHOE KHWAR**

is projected to swell from 51.5m in 2014 to 70.6m in 2040.

Government funding supports affordable housing development

To help fill this gap, the central government has allocated some MMK46bn (\$33.8m) for FY 2016/17 to build low-cost housing, including MMK20bn (\$14.7m) allocated to the Mahabandoola rental housing project.

Managed by the Yangon regional government and being built by around 20 contractors, the Mahabandoola initiative will supply 1200 apartments measuring 55 sq metres, with rent set at MMK30,000 (\$22) per month.

Due to high demand for such apartments, only individuals who do not already own property will be eligible

for tenancy, and from there candidates for flats will be chosen by public lottery. The Yangon regional government says it has received more than 35,000 applications for the 1200 units.

Sales of 991 more Mahabandoola units opened this month in the townships of Dagon Seikan and Hlaing Thar Yar, with prices ranging from MMK9m (\$6600) for top-floor units to MMK12m (\$8800) for ground-floor units, U Nway Hmu told media in August.

The state is also supporting uptake through subsidised mortgage loans supplied by the Construction and Housing Development Bank – a quasi-government institution founded in 2013 for this purpose.

Potential buyers must have a

monthly income of at least MMK500,000 (\$370) and – if chosen by public lottery – will have access to loans worth up to 70% of property value, which buyers must pay back over 10 years at a rate of 13% interest.

Legislative changes aimed at attracting foreign investment

The government’s commitment to solving the housing shortage is also evident in recent legislation. The Myanmar Investment Law – passed by Parliament in October 2016 and approved by the Cabinet soon after – identified the construction of affordable housing as being among 10 priority areas in which foreigners are permitted to invest, with the Ministry of Planning and Finance issuing implementation rules for the law in March.

An earlier bill with a similar goal was the Condominium Law approved by Parliament and made effective as of January 2016. The legislation has allowed foreign ownership of property – limited to 40% of the floor space of a given condominium – for the first time. However, as no housing projects have yet been registered under this law, it has not been seen in practice.

One obstacle to encouraging overseas investment in the current environment is the fact that prices in the mid- and high-end markets – where investment returns are greatest – have fallen considerably from the all-time highs seen in 2013. According to Colliers data, prices dropped by 41% for mid-tier condominiums and by 22% for luxury units over the 2014-16 period. ■

Statement by H.E. U Thaung Tun, National Security Advisor to the Union Government of Myanmar at the meeting on the situation in Myanmar in the United Nations Security Council

28 September 2017



National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun. PHOTO: MNA

Mr. President,

I thank you for the opportunity to address the Security Council with regard to the turmoil that has recently befallen Myanmar's Rakhine State and the ensuing humanitarian situation.

I have listened carefully to the statements made by the distinguished Secretary-General and the representatives of the member states of the Council.

The common thread that runs through the commentaries is the allusion that "something is rotten in the state of Rakhine." Assertions in the media that a campaign of terror has been unleashed in Northern Rakhine and that unspeakable crimes have been committed against innocent people have only served to heighten the concern of the international community. While such assertions might appear reasonable at first glance to a lay observer, expert observers with knowledge of the history of Rakhine and Myanmar and exposure to the propaganda tactics of terrorists will see such comments for what they really are – subjective and emotionally charged account.

Nevertheless, we understand the concern of the international community and take serious note of it.

Mr. President,

I would like to take this opportunity to apprise you of the situation obtaining on the ground and of our efforts to end the violence, assist all innocent civilians affected by the turmoil and plans to find a lasting solution to the daunting challenges we face.

First, we recognize that there is a serious situation that needs to be addressed.

But we also need to recognize that the recent round of violence was triggered by the attacks launched by so-called ARSA terrorist.

We are committed to a sustainable solution that will lead to peace, stability, development and the return of displaced communities to their homes.

We feel deeply for the suffering and plight of all affected communities – Rakhine, Muslim, Daingnet, Mro, Thet, Maramagyi and Hindu. They are all victims of violence and terrorism.

Terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. It has no place in our civilized world. I am sure you will agree with me when I say that we cannot condone terrorism in any form and manifestation.

The government of Myanmar has strongly condemned the acts of terror committed by ARSA in northern Rakhine. The highest Islamic organization in Myanmar, the "All Myanmar Islamic Religious Organization" as well as the "Interfaith Dialogue Group of Myanmar" have expressed their solidarity with the government and issued statements condemning the acts of terror committed by ARSA. They stressed that no religion can condone violence that result in the loss of life and property. They expressed their support for the government's efforts to address the situation in Rakhine and its endeavors to promote national reconciliation and peace in the entire country.

In this regard, we welcome the statements of the UNSG and of many countries represented here in this table condemning the attack of terrorism.

The government will work to ensure that the fight against terrorism will not distract us from our commitment to bring peace, harmony and development to Rakhine State. It is striving to restore normalcy. There have been no armed clashes and clearance operations since September 5.

Second, I wish to stress that

there is no ethnic cleansing and no genocide in Myanmar.

Ethnic cleansing and genocide are serious charges and they should not be used lightly. It would be a sad commentary of our times if we allowed emotions to cloud our view and assert that what is happening in Rakhine is ethnic cleansing without first undertaking a legal review and making a judicial determination. I can assure you that the leaders of Myanmar, who have been struggling so long for freedom and human rights, will never espouse policy of genocide or ethnic cleansing and the government will do everything to prevent it.

As clearly stated by the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her address to the diplomatic corps in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 September, we condemn all human rights violation and violence. We are committed to the restoration of peace, stability and rule of law throughout the country. Security forces have been instructed to adhere strictly to the Code of Conduct in carrying out security operations, to exercise all due restraint, and to take full measures to avoid collateral damage and the harming of innocent civilians.

Myanmar is one of the most ethnically diverse countries in the world. It is home to 135 officially recognized ethnic groups, each with its own distinctive culture and adherence to a variety of religions, including Buddhism, Islam, Christianity and Hinduism. Religious groups have been living in harmony throughout our history.

The situation that we face today is due to terrorism and is not based on religion.

It should be noted that Muslims are not a minority in northern Rakhine. They constitute 95% of the total population. What is little known is that the vast majority of Muslims did not abandon their hearth and home. While there have been an exodus, more than 50% of the Muslim villages in northern Rakhine remain intact and are living in peace with the neighbours; Buddhists and Hindus.

Representatives of the diplomatic corps in Yangon, accompanied by the media, will visit northern Rakhine on Monday. They will have the opportunity to

witness firsthand the situation on the ground.

I am happy to affirm that the government of Myanmar has invited the Secretary General and the Under Secretary General to visit Myanmar. We hope to welcome them in the near future to enhance cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations.

Third, the government of Myanmar is fully aware of its primary responsibility to address the humanitarian situation.

We have been providing assistance to all displaced people without discrimination. We are collaborating with the Red Cross Movement and donor countries to provide assistance expeditiously in accordance with humanitarian principles. The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) has agreed to work with us to deliver humanitarian assistance to all displaced persons.

Fourth, we are concerned by reports that thousands of people have crossed into Bangladesh. We would like to fathom reasons for the exodus. We will talk to those who have fled as well as to those who have opted to remain in their villages.

Recently, some hundreds of Muslim villagers left their homes and headed towards the border notwithstanding the efforts of the regional authorities to persuade them to return to their villages. The villagers voiced their concerns regarding the availability of humanitarian assistance in a sustained manner as well as fears that they are becoming a minority in their own area.

It is learnt that the villagers have been threatened over the telephone and that they have been persuaded by their fellow men who are already in Bangladesh to join them. Moreover, the villagers remain fearful of retaliation by the ARSA following the revelation that a large number of Hindu villagers have been massacred and buried in mass graves.

The authorities have reassured the villagers that they would be provided assistance and security. However, some have chosen to cross over to Bangladesh.

There has been a growing clamour for repatriation of ref-

ugees who have fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh. I would like to stress here Myanmar is prepared to start the verification process at any time. Our two neighbors have had the experience of such a repatriation process in 1993.

We are working to enhance relations with Bangladesh. I have met with the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh here in New York last week. The Minister of the Office of the State Counsellor will visit Dhaka this weekend to further discuss matters of mutual concern and to find ways and means to move ahead. We have also invited the Minister of Home Affairs of Bangladesh. We will welcome him any time that he is able to come to Myanmar and hope to take forward our cooperation on border security matters.

Our stated willingness to discuss the issue of repatriation gives the lie to the assertion that there is a policy of ethnic cleansing on our part.

Mr. President,

The new government in Myanmar inherited a challenging situation in Rakhine State and has had to deal with the consequences of actions by other actors.

The current crisis is due to the acts of terror perpetrated by ARSA. To address the situation, the government launched a number of initiatives including the Rakhine Advisory Commission chaired by Dr. Kofi Annan. The recommendation of the Kofi Annan Commission represents a viable roadmap to forge forward.

An implementation committee for the recommendations has already been formed and work is in progress. Two meetings have already been held. We must give this committee time and space.

At this critical juncture in the life of our young democracy, it is imperative that the international community join hands with us to ensure that democracy takes firm root and that we will succeed in carrying out our responsibility to establish peace, stability, and development in Rakhine and in the whole of Myanmar. That is only way we can solve the Rakhine conundrum.

The Security Council must refrain from taking measures that exacerbate rather than alleviate the situation. It can and must do no less.

Thank you.

WORLD
BRIEFS

The names of Rainer Weiss, Barry C Barish and Kip S Thorne are displayed on the screen during the announcement of the winners of the Nobel Prize in Physics 2017, in Stockholm, Sweden on 3 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Kremlin tells supporters of detained critic Navalny to shun illegal protests

MOSCOW — The Kremlin on Tuesday warned supporters of detained opposition leader Alexei Navalny not to hold unsanctioned rallies, saying the organisers of such events would be prosecuted.

A Russian court sentenced Navalny to his third jail term this year on Monday, disrupting plans by the long-time Kremlin critic to campaign before Russia's presidential election in 2018.

His 20-day jail term means he will miss a campaign rally planned in President Vladimir Putin's hometown of St Petersburg on 7 October - the Russian leader's birthday.—Reuters ■

Gravitational wave pioneers win 2017 Nobel Physics Prize

STOCKHOLM — US scientists Rainer Weiss, Barry Barish and Kip Thorne won the 2017 Nobel Prize for Physics for their pioneering role in the detection of gravitational waves, prize organizers said on Tuesday.

Ripples in the fabric of space-time first predicted a century ago by Albert Einstein, gravitational waves sparked a revolution in astrophysics when their first detection was announced early last year.

The teams involved in the discovery quickly emerged as

favourites for Tuesday's prize.

"This is something completely new and different, opening up unseen worlds," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in a statement announcing the winners of the 9 million Swedish crown (\$1.1 million) award.

"A wealth of discoveries awaits those who succeed in capturing the waves and interpreting their message."

Triggered when super-dense black holes merge, the waves were detected using

laser beams at the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO).

"The signal was extremely weak when it reached Earth, but is already promising a revolution in astrophysics," the Academy said. Physics is the second of this year's crop of Nobel Prizes and comes after Americans Jeffrey Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael Young were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine on Monday.

The prizes for achievements in science, literature and

peace were first awarded in 1901 in accordance with the will of Swedish business tycoon Alfred Nobel, who bequeathed much of the fortune he generated from his discovery of dynamite.

Among the science prizes, physics has often taken centre stage with laureates including scientific super stars such as Einstein, Niels Bohr and Marie Curie, one of only two women to win a Nobel Prize for Physics.

Weiss won half the prize with Barish and Thorne sharing the other half.—Reuters ■

Turkey's Erdogan says high interest rates fuel inflation, prevent investment

ANKARA— Turkey has not been able to lower inflation because of high interest rates which were at levels that discouraged investment, President Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday, reiterating his unorthodox view on the link between rates and inflation.

"We still have not been able to lower inflation and this is due to interest rates," He said in a speech to deputies from his ruling AK Party after data showing inflation remained in double digits in September.—Reuters ■

Serbia accuses world of double standards over Catalonia and Kosovo

BELGRADE— Serbia's foreign minister accused world powers on Tuesday of using double standards by refusing to accept the Catalan independence referendum while largely welcoming a separate Kosovo.

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008 — an announcement accepted by Washington and most EU states but rejected by Belgrade and its allies.

Almost a decade later on Sunday, voters in Catalonia backed independence from Spain

in a referendum declared unconstitutional by the Madrid government. A day later Germany called the vote worrying, as other states fretted about their own separatist-minded communities.

"I am bothered by the double standards of the international community," foreign minister Ivica Dacic told the RTS public broadcaster.

"The EU will never say it made an error with the recognition of Kosovo, but that decision will backfire. The Pandora's box was opened," Dacic said.

Serbia's position on Kosovo has been one of the main stumbling blocks in its own bid to join the European Union. Brussels has said it needs to improve relations with the authorities in Pristina and stop trying to block their efforts to join international bodies. On Monday, Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic called senior ministers and security chiefs for talks after European Commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas said comparisons between Spain and Serbia could not be made as Kosovo

had happened in "a very specific context".

"How it can be that the referendum is invalid in Catalonia and in Kosovo it (independence) could be done without one," Vucic said on Monday after meeting Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos in Belgrade.

Kosovo seceded almost a decade after NATO intervened with air strikes to drive out Serbian forces and halt the killing and expulsion of ethnic Albanian civilians during a two-year counter-insurgency war.—Reuters ■

Singaporean stocks close 0.49 pct lower

SINGAPORE — Singaporean stocks closed lower on Tuesday, with the benchmark Straits Times Index (STI) dropping 0.49 per cent or 16.02 points to close at 3,246.08.

A total of 2.05 billion shares changed hands with a turnover of 1.01 billion Singapore dollars (about 738.27 million US dollars). Losers outnumbered gainers by 231 to 208.

The STI index closed up 1.31 per cent or 42.19 points to close at 3,262.10 Monday.—Xinhua ■

Israel sees Assad winning Syria war, urges more US involvement

JERUSALEM— Israel's defence minister said on Tuesday President Bashar al-Assad was winning Syria's civil war and urged the United States to weigh in as Damascus's Iranian and Hezbollah allies gain ground.

Avigdor Lieberman's comments marked a reversal for Israel, where top officials had from the outset of fighting in 2011 until mid-2015 regularly predicted Assad would lose control of his country and be toppled.

"I see a long international queue lining up to woo Assad, include Western nations, including moderate Sunnis. Suddenly everyone wants to get close to Assad," Lieberman told Israel's Walla news site in an interview.

In late 2015, Russia helped Assad turn the tide with a military intervention that put Moscow's forces in the field alongside Israel's most potent foes — Iran and the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah — opposite Syrian rebels.

The United States has focused its Syria operations on fighting rebel jihadis like Islamic State — dismaying Israel, which has tried to persuade both Washington and Moscow that Iran's expanding clout is

the greater threat.

In its decades under Assad family rule, Syria has been an enemy of Israel, with their armies clashing in 1948, 1967, 1973 and 1982. While largely keeping out of the Syrian civil war, Israel has tried to sway the world powers involved in the conflict and cautioned it could strike militarily to prevent Iran and Hezbollah entrenching further on its northern front.

"We hope the United States will be more active in the Syrian arena and the Middle East in general," Lieberman said. "We are faced with Russians, Iranians, and also the Turks and Hezbollah, and this is no simple matter to deal with, on a daily basis."

Lieberman did not elaborate on what actions he sought from the Donald Trump administration, which Israel has been lobbying for reassurances that Iranian and Hezbollah forces will not be allowed to deploy near its border or set up bases within Syria.

"The United States has quite a few challenges of its own, but as a trend - the more the United States will be active, the better it will be for the State of Israel," Lieberman said. —Reuters ■



Russian airstrikes wipe out 300 IS militants on Euphrates eastern bank

MOSCOW — Russia's Aerospace Forces destroyed 304 militants of the Islamic State terrorist group on the eastern bank of the Euphrates River over the past two days, Defence Ministry Spokesman Igor Konashenkov said on Tuesday.

"Over the past two days, the aircraft of Russia's Aerospace Forces continued destroying the Islamic State group on the eastern bank of the Euphrates River. The confirmed terrorists casualties in this area were 304 killed and more than 170 wounded. Seven field commanders of different levels were killed, including a native of Kazakh-

stan, Abu Islyam al-Kazaki, who coordinated the operation of the Islamic State's storming forces in the Euphrates valley," Konashenkov said.

The airstrike also destroyed a training center of the IS foreign mercenaries, including nearly 40 militants from the North Caucasus and also a mobile sniper group of terrorists, he added.

Three terrorists' command posts, nine strongholds, eight tanks, three artillery systems, 17 off-road vehicles with large-caliber weapons (ZU-23 anti-aircraft mounts, B-10 recoilless rifles, DShK heavy machine guns), four ammunition depots were also

destroyed.

The successful operation of the Russian Aerospace Forces enables Syrian forces to continue liberating the territory along the Euphrates River from the IS militants, the general said.

Russia's Aerospace Forces have been providing support for the Syrian government forces in Syria in the war on terror since 30 September, 2015.

As of 22 September, since the start of the operation Russian aircraft have carried out more than 30,000 sorties in Syria, delivering 92,000 strikes and destroying nearly 58,000 terrorist groupings.—Tass ■

IS claims police station suicide bombings in Damascus

DAMASCUS — The Islamic State (IS) group has claimed responsibility for the bombings targeting a police station in the capital Damascus on Monday, pro-government al-Watan online daily reported on Tuesday.

According to the report, IS said three of its militants blew themselves up, two inside the police department in the central Midan neighborhood, and one outside the facility. As many as 17 were killed by the bombings targeting the police station in Midan.

Footage broadcast by the Ekhbariah TV showed smoke

in the area as well as ambulances and firefighters with medics carrying the wounded on the stretchers.

Damascus has enjoyed relative peace in recent months, but explosions still rock from time to time, while Midan in the city has been the target of several bombings during the country's over-six-year war. The same police station in the neighbourhood was targeted last December when a suicide seven-year-old girl blew up inside the station. The blast appeared to be remotely detonated by al-Qaeda-linked groups.—Xinhua

Iraq's Kurdistan region plans presidential, parliamentary votes on 1 November

ERBIL, Iraq — Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region plans to hold presidential and parliamentary elections on 1 November, the Erbil-based Rudaw TV said on Tuesday, as the Kurdish leadership cements its case for independence.

A referendum held on 25 September in the country's Kurdish-held northern regions delivered an overwhelming 'yes' for independence, raising fears in Iraq and abroad of ethnic strains and a weakening of a US-backed campaign against Islamic State.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday Turkey would impose further sanctions on northern Iraq over the vote. Powerful neighbours Ankara and

Tehran fear it could fuel Kurdish separatism within their own borders. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), however, has not declared independence and the elections are for the parliament and presidency of the region, not for an independent state. Baghdad retaliated to the referendum with an international flights ban on Kurdish airports, while Iran and Turkey launched joint military drills with Iraqi troops at their borders with Iraqi Kurdistan.

The Shi'ite Arab-led Iraqi government has rejected a KRG offer to discuss independence. It demanded Kurdish leaders cancel the result of the referendum or face continued sanctions, in-

ternational isolation and possible military intervention.

Masoud Barzani, the heir of a dynasty who have led a Kurdish struggle for independence for over a century, has held the KRG presidency since its establishment in 2005, two years after the US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein.

His tenure was extended beyond his second term, in 2013, as fresh turmoil engulfed the region and Islamic State overran, in 2014, about a third of Iraq, threatening the Kurdish region. It was unclear whether Barzani would or could stand in the November poll as Kurdish law says a president cannot stay in office for more than two terms. —Reuters ■

Russian diplomat calls to continue talks with US Under Secretary of State

MOSCOW — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said he believed that talks with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon on bilateral relations between Russia and the United States would continue in the future.

In an interview with Russia's Izvestia daily, Ryabkov said that both sides expressed interest in this format of talks and although the date for the next meeting had not been set yet, it would be held as soon as possible.

"Such meetings are definitely held for the benefit," the Russian diplomat said. "We keep moving up on the present-day agenda, but the progress is very slow, and this is why we



Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov. **PHOTO: TASS**

need to exert extra efforts. We will continue holding meetings in this format."

"Both sides express intentions of using this format for overcoming the existing most difficult stage in relations between Russia and the United States," the Russian diplomat stated. "We need to find a better approach to problems in our bilateral relations."

The most recent Ryabkov-Shannon meeting took place on 11-12 September in Finland's Helsinki. The sides failed to reach any practical agreement on bilateral issues, but, according to the Russian Foreign Ministry's earlier statement, Russia and the United States were able to clarify their stance on a number of issues.—Tass ■

Anti-terrorism police hold five over wired explosives found in posh Paris neighbourhood

PARIS — French counter-terrorism investigators questioned five people on Tuesday after police over the weekend found what appeared to be a ready-to-detonate bomb at an apartment building in one of Paris's poshest neighbourhoods.

Interior Minister Gerard Collomb said one of those arrested was on an intelligence services list of "radicalised" persons — a list that includes the names of potential Islamist militants.

"We are still in a state of war," Collomb, speaking after a Sunday attack in which a knifeman killed two women in Marseille, told France Inter radio.

Judicial sources said the explosive device includ-

ed two gas canisters inside the building in the affluent 16th district of western Paris and two outside, some of them doused with petrol and wired to connect to a mobile phone.

It was unclear why the device was planted at the location where it was found as there was no obvious target living there, the judicial sources said.

More than 230 people have been killed in France in attacks by Islamist militants over the past three years. The Islamic State militant group, whose bases in Syria and Iraq are being bombed by French war planes, has urged followers to attack France. Most of those killed died in attacks by Islamist gunmen and suicide bombers in Paris in

2015 and when a man drove a large truck into crowds in the Riviera resort of Nice in 2016. Since then, there has been a string of attacks perpetrated by lone assailants, often targeting police or soldiers.

"The threat is changing form," said Collomb.

A counter-terrorism investigation is also under way after the attack on Sunday, where a knifeman slit the throat of one of his victims and killed her cousin before being shot dead by soldiers at a train station in the southern port city.

A separate inquiry has been opened to establish why the man, who had been briefly detained by police the day before in the city of Lyon had been released.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV OCEAN ARROW VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OCEAN ARROW VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (024)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM LONG VOY. NO (024) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV HONG KAI VOY. NO (1712)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HONG KAI VOY. NO (1712) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 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 BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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

Moscow confirms all Russian troops left Belarus after Zapad-2017 drills

MINSK — All Russian troops left Belarusian soil after the Zapad-2017 (West-2017) strategic drills had been completed, Russia's Ambassador to Belarus Alexander Surikov said on Monday.

"Unless someone [among the Russian servicemen] got married. Otherwise, no one has remained," the diplomat noted. Any exercise should be approached calmly, considering that any army "cannot remain idle," Surikov said.

"Both Belarus and Russia have armies that must undergo training. We need to treat this [the drills] like athletes in training," the Russian diplomat said. The Zapad-2017 drills are a planned exercise, held every two years alternately in Russia and Belarus, he added.

"Are Russia and Belarus wary of military drills that are taking place in



The Zapad-2017 strategic drills were held on September 14-20 in Belarus and Russia. **PHOTO: TASS**

Lithuania and Sweden? Probably not," the envoy noted. "We are watching how our military counterparts are training. That is why, we are urging everyone to reasonably treat the drills that take place on our soil," the diplomat said.

The Zapad-2017 strategic drills were held on

14-20 September at six practice ranges and two terrain sections in Belarus and three ranges in Russia. The exercises involved up to 12,700 troops, about 70 aircraft and helicopters, up to 680 armored vehicles, including about 250 tanks, up to 200 guns, multiple launch rocket systems and

mortars. Representatives of seven countries, including NATO member states, observed the drills.

The Belarusian Defense Ministry earlier said that troops from Russia and Belarus would return to their permanent bases after the drills by 30 September.—Tass ■

The press, branded the 'enemy' by Trump, increasingly trusted by the public

NEW YORK — Americans are increasingly confident in the news media and less so in President Donald Trump's administration after a tumultuous year in US politics that tested the public's trust in both institutions, according to a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll released on Tuesday.

The poll of more than 14,300 people found that the percentage of adults who said they had a "great deal" or "some" confidence in the press rose to 48 per cent in September from 39 per cent last November. Earlier this year, Trump branded the entire industry as the "enemy of the American people."

The percentage of those who said they had "hardly any" confidence in the press dropped to 45 per cent from 51 per cent over the same period.

Confidence in Trump's administration

moved in the opposite direction.

Reuters/Ipsos, which tracked confidence in major institutions every couple of months after the 2016 presidential election, found in late January that 52 per cent of Americans had a "great deal" or "some" confidence in the new president's executive branch. That dropped to 51 per cent in the May survey and to 48 percent in the latest poll. Trump took office in January.

In comparison, 57 per cent of Americans expressed similar levels of confidence in former Democratic President Barack Obama's outgoing administration in November.

The poll also found that the shift in trust was not simply a partisan reaction to a Republican president.

From January to September, the percent-

age of people who had a "great deal" or "some" confidence in the executive branch dropped 6 percentage points among Republicans and 3 points among Democrats.

The percentage of those who expressed similar levels of confidence in the media rose 3 points this year among Republicans and 11 points among Democrats.

More than other modern presidents, Trump has treated the news media as an opposition party. He has shamed individual reporters by name and responded to unflattering reports as "fake news."

Every president clashes with the news media, but Trump "has gone a step further in attacking the press and questioning their legitimacy," said Martha Kumar, a presidential historian who has worked with White House

transition teams for Obama and 2008 Republican presidential nominee Senator John McCain.

"What you're seeing now is a gradual recognition of the importance of the press" at a time when people are still getting used to a new president whose campaign is under federal investigation for alleged collusion with Russia, Kumar said. Trump has denied any collusion occurred.

Kumar added that confidence in the press may be rising this year because news organizations have offered wildly different perspectives on Trump, satisfying people who like him as well as those who do not.

"They're not all watching and reading the same things," she said. "They're gravitating toward organizations they trust."—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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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 PACIFIC STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.10.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

ဂျပန်နိုင်ငံသို့ သွားရောက် ပညာသင်ကြားနိုင်ရန် အကောင်းဆုံး အခွင့်အရေး

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Actor Leslie Jones. PHOTO: REUTERS

Leslie Jones was nervous to meet Beyonce and Jay Z

LOS ANGELES — Actor Leslie Jones had a fan girl moment when she recently met pop diva Beyonce at the “Saturday Night Live” after party at TAO, New York City.

The 50-year-old comedian and actress said she was terrified about asking Beyonce for a picture. “I take the worst pics ever!! Thank God Beyonce is

just f*****g beautiful!! Thanks for pic Queen B!! I was so nervous!! (sic)” Jones captioned the photograph.

Leslie also met Beyonce’s husband Jay Z. Alongside a photo of herself with the “Empire State of Mind” rapper, she wrote: “Jay Z is a lyrical beast!!! Thanks for the pic!! Again soooo nervous!!” —PTI

Monica Bellucci to star in sci-fi horror ‘Nekromancer’



Hollywood star Monica Bellucci. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood star Monica Bellucci is set to star in the sci-fi horror film “Nekromancer” directed by Australian filmmaker brothers Kiah and Tristan Roache-Turner.

The movie also features Ben O’Toole and Tess Haubric, reported Deadline.

“Monica Bellucci brings her wonderful talents and considerable glamour to our production and we are thrilled to have her on board working alongside this group of exciting up-and-coming actors,” said Kiah Roache-Turner.

Kiah Roache-Turner will direct, with Andrew Mason and Troy Lum producing for Hopscotch Features along with Tristan Roache-Turner of Guerilla Films.

“Nekromancer” will shoot at various locations in Sydney later this year.—PTI ■

The Killers land first Billboard No 1 with ‘Wonderful Wonderful’

LOS ANGELES — Las Vegas rockers The Killers landed their first chart-topping album on the US Billboard 200 chart on Monday, staving off new records from rapper Macklemore and R&B singer Jhene Aiko.

“Wonderful Wonderful,” the fifth studio album by The Killers, sold 118,000 album units in its first week, accord-

ing to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

Macklemore’s latest album, “Gemini,” debuted at No 2 with 51,000 album units sold, while Aiko’s “Trip” came in at No 5 with sales of 37,000 album units.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one

album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Monday’s chart win was bittersweet for The Killers after 59 people were killed at a country music festival in Las Vegas, the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history.

While The Killers had no

affiliation with the festival, the band tweeted: “We’ve got heavy hearts. We love you, Las Vegas.”

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online single sales, alt-rockers Imagine Dragons’ “Thunder” climbed to No 1 from No 4, with 65,000 copies sold.

—Reuters ■

‘Blade Runner 2049’ red carpet canceled after Las Vegas shooting

LOS ANGELES — Warner Bros on Monday scaled back the world premiere for its sci-fi film “Blade Runner 2049” following the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history in which a gunman killed at least 59 people in Las Vegas.

The premiere for the film, which stars Harrison Ford and Ryan Gosling, was scheduled for Tuesday night in Hollywood. The screening will go ahead but without a red carpet where stars chat to reporters and pose for photos.

“In light of the tragic events of last night, Warner Bros Pictures, Sony Pictures and Alcon Entertainment are cancelling the red carpet for tomorrow’s screening of ‘Blade Runner 2049,’” Time Warner Inc.-owned Warner Bros said in a statement.

Monday’s red-carpet premiere in Los Angeles for the movie “Marshall” was also canceled, and ABC television said “Dancing With the Stars” would begin with a moment of silence on Monday.

Variety also reported that Las Vegas shows Cirque du Soleil and Blue Man Group canceled Monday night performances.

Sunday’s shooting turned a three-day open-air country music festival into a scene of carnage.

More than 500 people were injured after a 64-year-old gunman released a hailstorm of bullets into the site of the Route 91 Harvest festival.

Police said the motives of the gunman, who killed himself, were unknown. —Reuters ■



Musician Tom Petty speaks to guests after being inducted during the 47th Songwriters Hall of Fame Induction ceremony in New York, US on 9 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Tom Petty, ‘distinctively American’ rocker, dies aged 66

LOS ANGELES — Veteran US rocker Tom Petty, whose vibrant guitar riffs, distinctly raw, nasal vocals and slick song lyrics graced such hits as “Refugee,” “Free Fallin’” and “American Girl,” has died following a heart attack. He was 66.

Petty suffered cardiac arrest and was found unconscious at his home in Malibu early on Monday morning and was taken to UCLA Medical Center but

could not be revived, his longtime manager Tony Dimitriades said in a statement.

“We are devastated to announce the untimely death of our father, husband, brother, leader and friend Tom Petty,” Dimitriades said on behalf of the family.

He died peacefully at 8:40 pm local time (0340 GMT Tuesday) surrounded by family, his bandmates and friends. —Reuters ■

Size-zero ban hits Paris catwalks, campaigners hopeful

PARIS — Labels from Givenchy to Saint Laurent showed of their new designs at Paris Fashion Week, alongside another innovation meant to wean the industry off its association with unhealthily thin, underage models.

All said they were honoring a new charter by their parent companies LVMH and Kering, setting age and size-limits for the people parading their clothes — a timely development say campaigners, who want it to spread even further. “I’ve seen a lot of girls have eating disorders ... (the charter) helps them from harming their bodies to fit the standard,” said model Danielle Ellesworth, 20, as she prepared for Christian Dior’s show.

Two years ago, Dior, part of LVMH, made waves by picking a 14-year-old for the catwalk — the new charter only allows people older than 16 to display adult clothes. LVMH and Kering will also no longer use models below the French size 34 for women and 44 for men, meaning the United States’ infamous “size 0” — equivalent to a French 32 — is out. It is still far from an industry-wide standard, and the models in Paris

remained very slender and young — the stars included Kaia Gerber, the 16-year-old daughter of supermodel Cindy Crawford, who modeled for Kering’s Saint Laurent.

But designers, models and other insiders said it was a start that could encourage people to denounce bad practices.

“It’s important that this industry takes responsibility,” said British designer Stella McCartney, after showcasing a contrasting collection of cotton T-shirts and bright taffeta skirts at Paris’ baroque Opera Garnier on Monday. “The houses must, the designers must, the casting directors must, the agents must, the models must,” added McCartney, whose eponymous label is part of Kering. Cyril Brule, founder of Viva Model Management and the head of a French union for modeling agencies, said the companies’ all-encompassing ban could be more effective than regulations and laws brought in by individual countries.

“Something had to be done,” Brule said. “Things had gradually deteriorated, there were more and more instances of depres-

sion, of models suffering panic attacks.”

There has been some resistance and some designers have defended the use of tall, thin models as the best way to show off their creations. Karl Lagerfeld, creative director at privately-held Chanel, hit out in a 2009 interview at the “fat mummies” objecting

to thinner women. Dior designer Maria Grazia Chiuri said there were also technical considerations — her teams found it easier to work upwards from smaller-sized dummies and prototypes, whether on shoes, hats or clothes. “There are some sizes that are good for making the first prototype,” she said after unveiling her

collection last week. But some other brands have already started to push beyond the charter: Issey Miyake, part of Japan’s Shiseido Group, used three models over 40 in a dance-filled runway show on Friday. “I didn’t want to stick to one particular kind of muse,” said the brand’s designer Yoshiyuki Miyamae. —Reuters ■



A model presents a creation designer Maria Grazia Chiuri as part of her Spring/ Summer 2018 women's ready-to-wear collection show for fashion house Dior during Paris Fashion Week, France on 26 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Song dynasty bowl shatters world record for Chinese ceramics, fetches \$37.7 million in HK sale

HONG KONG — A nearly 900-year-old porcelain Song dynasty bowl smashed the world auction record for Chinese ceramics on Tuesday, selling for HK\$294.3 million (\$37.68 million) at a Sotheby’s sale in Hong Kong.

The small, blue-green item broke the previous record, also set in a sale in Hong Kong, when a 500-year-old imperial “chicken” cup from the Ming dynasty Chenghua period sold for HK\$281.2 million (\$36.0 million) in 2014, Sotheby’s said.

The 13-cm (5-inch) bowl, used to wash brushes, was fired in the famed Northern Song dynasty (960-1127) kilns in Ruzhou, and was sold to an anonymous buyer after a 20-minute bidding battle. Such “Ru guanyao” wares — known for their intense blue-green glaze and “ice-crackle” pattern — are extremely rare because the kiln in China’s central Henan province had a brief production run of only around



Nicholas Chow, Deputy Chairman for Sotheby’s Asia and the International Head and Chairman of the Chinese Works of Art department, poses with a rare Ru Guanyao brush washer, after it sold for \$37.7 million during an auction in Hong Kong, China on 3 October, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

two decades.

The bowl, from the Chang Foundation in Taiwan’s Hongxi Museum, is one of only four known pieces of Ru heirlooms in private hands. Since 1940, no more than six Ru vessels have ever appeared at auction, according to ceramics expert Regina Krahl.

“We’ve had in last 20 years a huge sort of influx of mainland Chinese buyers. We’re filling the room with new prices, new interest and that’s what’s really driven the price today,” said Sotheby’s Asia deputy chairman Nicolas Chow, who declined to reveal the nationality of the buyer. —Reuters ■

MRTV

Programme Schedule
(4-10-2017, Wednesday)

| | | | |
|----------|---|---------|--|
| 6:00 Am | ♦ Paritta Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 3:00 Pm | ♦ Peace Music Festival (Pha An) (Part-3) |
| 7:00 Am | ♦ Breakfast News | 4:35 Pm | ♦ Documentary |
| 7:35 Am | ♦ Money Talks in Myanmar | 4:45 Pm | ♦ Documentary (Thidingyut) |
| 8:35 Am | ♦ Talk on Electric and Engery | 5:05 Pm | ♦ Documentary |
| 9:30 Am | ♦ Documentary (Thidingyut) | 5:15 Pm | ♦ Teleplay (Thidingyut) |
| 9:40 Am | ♦ Kyae Pwint Myae Yae Yin khone Than | 5:40 Pm | ♦ MRTV Travelogue |
| 10:30 Am | ♦ Pyi Thu Ni Ti | 6:20 Pm | ♦ Football Magazine |
| 11:30 Am | ♦ Analysis for Myanmar Movie | 6:35 Pm | ♦ Real Story Real Movie |
| 11:40 Am | ♦ ASEAN Programme | 7:15 Pm | ♦ TV Drama Series |
| 12:30 Pm | ♦ TV Drama Series | 8:00 Pm | ♦ News/ International News/ Weather Report |
| 2:20 Pm | ♦ TV Drama Series | 8:35Pm | ♦ Documentary |
| | | | ♦ TV Drama Series |
| | | | ♦ Musiclan’s Talk |

Myanmar Lethwei fighter Saw Nga Man to fight against Australian Eddie Farrell at WLC 3

Kyaw Zin Tun

MYANMAR Lethwei fighter Saw Nga Man will fight against Australian fighter Eddie Farrell at the World Lethwei Championship (WLC), the third event of its kind that will take place on 4 November at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium in Yangon.

Although Saw Nga Man announced in October 2016 that he would retire from boxing, he participated in a boxing ring event on 2 January, 2017, fighting and defeating a Muay Thai Lethwei fighter. Saw Nga Man then assumed two roles, as a Lethwei fighter and coach, at his Shwe Phuu Lethwei Club and defeated another Muay Thai

Lethwei fighter and one Japanese fighter. Saw Nga Man is known as a boxer who is good at defensive manouevres and strong in wrestling.

Eddie Farrell is well known for his elbow fighting and as a boxer who never backs downward when he fight. He fought against Myanmar Lethwei fighter Too Too at the World Lethwei Championship (WLC 1), Great Beginning event that took place on 3 March 2017 at Mingaladon Event Zone. Farrell lost the match in a decision.

The World Lethwei Championship, also known as WLC, is a Lethwei promotion based in Yangon. It was launched in August 2015 by Zaykabar Com-

pany Vice-Chairman Zay Thiha and investors.

It signed top Lethwei fighters Tun Tun Min and Too Too to exclusive contracts. It also offered exclusive contracts to Thway Thit Win Hlaing, Ye Tagon and Phoe Thaw and signed international fighters including Eddie Farrell and Umar Semata.

The first WLC event, titled WLC1: The Great Beginning, was held on 3 March at Mingaladon Event Zone in Mingaladon Township, Yangon, Myanmar. The second WLC event, titled WLC 2: Ancient Warriors, was held on 10 June at Thuwanna Stadium. Its third event, titled WLC 3: Legendary Champion, will be held on 4 November. ■



PHOTO: WLC

Mason prepared to be patient over Hull return

LONDON — Hull City midfielder Ryan Mason remains committed to resuming his playing career but insists he will have to wait for his skull to completely fuse before returning to action.

Mason suffered a fractured skull in a collision with Chelsea defender Gary Cahill in January.

The 26-year-old former Tottenham player has been recovering well but will have to wait for a second CT scan to determine when he can return on the pitch.

"I am just waiting for my

skull to fuse together," he told Sky Sports on Monday.

"I had a CT scan a month ago and it isn't quite there yet. We are going to repeat that scan in the near future and measure the rate of healing and go from there. "Physically I am ready to go back in when it is safe and sensible. It's just a case of a bone healing now, there's no brain damage or anything like that. I am in a positive way."

Mason was involved in a non-contact training with his Hull teammates ahead of the

season.

When asked what would be the next stage to assess his fitness levels, he replied: "Joining in with the boys, jumping for headers and being involved in that contact type of training.

"I feel fine, I wouldn't put myself in a position that could possibly be dangerous.

I am just being patient, respecting my body and letting it heal."

Mason, who left Spurs in 2016, made 16 appearances for Hull last season. —Reuters ■



Chelsea's N'Golo Kante in action with Hull City's Ryan Mason during the match of Premier League in Stamford Bridge on 22 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Media invited to press conference for Myanmar-Thailand friendly match

JOURNALISTS are invited to a press conference for the Myanmar-Thailand friendly match that will be held on the first floor of Golden Hotel in Mandalay at 2 pm today.

Advanced tickets for the match are being sold at the Myanmar Football Academy (Man-

dalay), the office of the Institute of Sports and Physical Education and at the gates of Mandalay Thiri Stadium.

The friendly match will be played tomorrow at Mandalay Thiri Stadium, Mandalay. — GNLM ■

Myawady FC defeats ISPE 2-0 in KBZ Women's League

Kyaw Zin Tun

MYAWADY FC defeated the Institute of Sports and Education (ISPE) FC 2-0 yesterday evening in week 10 of the KBZ Women's League at Aung San Stadium, Yangon.

The Myanmar Women's League is mainly sponsored by KBZ Bank and is supervised by the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The next two matches for week 10 are Sport and Education FC versus Thitsar Arman FC today and Zawkapin FC versus Gandamar FC on Friday. Both matches will be held at Aung San Stadium.

So far, Myawady FC is at the top of the standing, garnering 22 points after playing eight games and earning seven wins, one tie and a 28 goal differential. Thitsar Arman is in second place with 18 points after playing eight games, earning five wins and three ties and a 28 goal differential. Sports and Education FC follows in third place with 17 points after playing eight games and earning five wins, two ties, one loss and a 25 goal differential.

The Institute of Sports and Education FC stands in fourth place, Gandamar FC is in fifth place, Zwekapin FC is in sixth place and YREO is at the bottom of the standings. ■