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Rakhine Advisory Board submits Final Report

State Counsellor receives Advisory Board to Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received H.E. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of the Advisory Board for the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State and its members at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at 1400 hrs on 16 August 2018. H.E. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai was accompanied by five members of the Advisory Board.

During the meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Board explained about the final report of the Advisory Board which has been submitted to the Committee for implementation as the Recommendations on Rakhine State today. This was the fourth and last meeting between the State Counsellor and the Advisory Board since its inception. Dr. Surakiart has also presented the Final Report of the Advisory Board to the State Counsellor.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepts the Final Report of the Advisory Board to Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State from Chairman of the Advisory Board Dr. Surakiart in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Vice President U Myint Swe inspects greening tasks, lacquer trade in Sagaing Region

VICE PRESIDENT U Myint Swe departed from Nay Pyi Taw to Sagaing where he was welcomed by Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing, Regional Hluttaw Speaker U Than, Regional Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Than Tun Aung and other officials.

The Vice President and his entourage first travelled to Wetlet Township and visited the hydroponic garden. In the garden's meeting hall, Director-General U Htay Aung of the Dry Zone Greening Department explained about the department's processes, the history of hydroponic gardening and its performances.

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The Vice President urged Sagaing Region authorities to increase the percentage of forests covering the dry zones, encourage the use of more firewood substitutes, expand firewood plantations, and fulfill annual project goals in a timely manner.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

MPs read three reports, discussions ongoing

AT the tenth-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's ninth regular session held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, three reports were read and Joint Public Accounts Committee Report No. (6/2018) was discussed by the Hluttaw representatives.

Reading of reports

At the meeting, reports on Myanmar dental, oral medical council bill and Condominium Rule in which the two Hluttaws were in disagreement were first read by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee members U Nay Myo Tun and U Kyaw Kyaw, after which Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the reports to enroll their names.

Next, a Joint Public Accounts Committee Report No. (7/2018) Part 1 on the Office of the Auditor General of the Union's audit report for fiscal year 2016-2017 was read by Committee Vice Chairman U Saw Than Htut.

The Committee Vice Chairman said that Part (1) will include the committee's finding, assessment and comments on sector wise implementation of the National Plan, implementation of Union Budget Law, national debt and actual figures submitted by departmental organisations.

On implementation of the National Plan, agriculture sector was unable to achieve the target by a small margin but industrial and service sectors were able to achieve beyond the target set.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

GDP for 2016-2017 declined to 5.9 per cent compared to last year. Some work projects of state-owned sector investments were conducted with loans and assistance from international and partner organisations, and some work projects were found unimplemented as planned. On the implementation of Union Tax Law, 2016 Union Tax Law was enacted as Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 22. As per the enacted law, the initial estimate for tax collection was Ks 6,209.759 billion and the revised estimate was increased to Ks 6,512.704 billion. Tax collected was Ks 7,122.43 billion.

Of the 21 types of tax, 17 were collected beyond the target amount but four did not meet the target. There were outstanding tax left for Internal Revenue Department to collect and the ratio of tax collected and GDP is much less compared to other ASEAN countries and it is observed that

relevant ministries need to manage more on this.

On implementing the Union Budget Law, for fiscal year 2016-2017, an additional Ks1,284 billion was permitted with Supplementary Budget Law. It is the opinion of the Office of the Auditor General of the Union that supports to states and regions should be provided only up to the actual amount required. As per the enacted amendment to the Constitution on 2015, states and regions were permitted to collect additional taxes and if the ability of the states and regions to collect tax increases, support can be reduced. International and local loans need to be acquired, in accordance to procedure on loans prescribed in the Union Budget Law. If performance guarantees of tender winning construction and purchasing contracts are deposited in the departmental accounts, the State's budget defi-

cit could be reduced.

The State had made a total loan of US\$ 18.123 billion out of which \$11.641 billion was used, \$2.492 billion was repaid and outstanding loan required to be repaid is \$ 9.149 billion.

According to the Joint Public Accounts Committee, the 5.9 per cent GDP increase for fiscal year 2016-2017 being less than fiscal year 2015-2016 was because the entire agriculture sector was unable to reach the target set even for fiscal year 2015-2016. Although tax receipt had increased, tax receipt to GDP ratio still remains low. Especially the increases in tax collection need to be beyond the GDP increase and inflation rates. As the present tax rates are appropriate, increasing tax is not recommended.

Foreign currency balance, as of 31 March 2017, of Union ministries and organisations that are working outside of the Union funds are US\$571.739 million and the public needs to be informed transparently through Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Union ministries and organisations need to manage the projects implemented with foreign aids and loans, according to disbursement plan included in the agreement and works are to be fully implemented.

Joint Public Accounts Committee Report No. (7/2018) Part 2 and Part 3 will be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, explained the Committee Vice Chairman.

Hluttaw representatives discuss Joint Public Accounts

Committee Report No. (6/2018)

Joint Public Accounts Committee Report No. (6/2018) on the committee's comment and remark on implementation of construction works in fiscal year 2017-2018 by Ministry of Education, Basic Education Department was then discussed by Hluttaw representatives.

Daw Naw Chris Tun @ Dr. Arr Kar Moe of Kayin State constituency 7, Tatmadaw representative Lt-Col Soe Naing, Dr. Sein Mya Aye of Dala constituency, U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency, U Aye Bo of Yangon Region constituency 11, U Saw Thalay Saw of Shwegyin constituency, U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency 6, U Sai Aung Kyaw of Kehsi constituency, U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8, U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, U Ohn Lwin of Nyaungdon constituency, U San Myint of Ayeyawady Region constituency 3, U Nyunt Aung of Monywa constituency, U Aung Myo Latt of Mandalay Region constituency 5, U Win Htut of Pyapon constituency, Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11, U Than Soe @ Than Soe (economics) of Yangon Region constituency 4, U Oo Tun Maung of Ponnagyun constituency and Dr. Khin Maung Win of Taninthayi Region constituency 11 discussed the report.

The eleventh-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be held on 20 August, it is learnt.—Aung Ye Thwin (MNA) ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives PARI, Tokyo University Professor

PYITHU Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein received Prof. Mr. Hisashi Yoshikawa from Policy Alternatives Research Institute (PARI), Tokyo University, Japan, at Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker's office, Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the discussion, they

exchanged views on promoting the skills of Hluttaw representatives and staff for democratic reform in Myanmar and increasing the role of Hluttaw, and electricity sector development which is the basic requirement for the development of the economic sector, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein meets with Prof. Mr. Hisashi Yoshikawa, PARI, Tokyo University, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY



(From Left to Right) Vice President U Myint Swe browses products from the hydroponic garden in Watlet Township. Vice President U Myint Swe examines the small-scale replica of the Shwebon Yadanar Mingalar Palace in Shwebo Township, during his visit across Sagaing Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Vice President U Myint Swe inspects greening tasks, lacquer trade in Sagaing Region

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The Vice President then gave instructions to the Dry Zone Greening Department to adhere to the eight objectives, the five aims and the four main tasks laid down to ensure the success of the department's projects in the thirteen districts of three regions of Myanmar.

The Vice President urged Sagaing Region authorities to increase the percentage of forests

covering the dry zones, encourage the use of more firewood substitutes, expand firewood plantations, and fulfill annual project goals in a timely manner.

The Vice President then viewed firewood substitute samples and a high-powered stove exhibit and then took a tour around the water garden.

The Vice President and his entourage then arrived in Shwebon Yadanar Mingalar Palace in

Shwebo Township. In the meeting hall of the palace, U Kyaw Oo Lwin, the Director-General of the Archaeology Department, gave a presentation of the palace's history, general facts of the palace and tasks they have performed in the palace.

The Vice President then instructed the officials concerned to properly preserve the historical artifacts, documents and archives of the Shwebon Yada-

nar Mingalar Palace, as it is a priceless historical heritage, and to ensure the longevity of the palace as well.

This was followed by the Vice President viewing a small-scale replica of the palace, touring the palace museum and visiting the final resting place of King Alaungphaya. Next, the Vice President and his entourage travelled to Kyaukkar Village (North) in Monywa Township

and visited Ngwe Sin Kyel lacquer business and listened to an explanation on the lacquer manufacturing process by the owner, U Soe Moe Kyaw. The Vice President observed the lacquer production process and finished lacquer products and then gave instructions to the staff concerned on how to ensure that lacquer products gain access to the global market. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister U Thein Swe receives Thailand delegation led by Labour Minister

UNION Minister U Thein Swe for Labour, Immigration and Population received a delegation led by Mr. Adul Sangsingkeo, Minister for Labour of Thailand at 9:30 a.m. yesterday at the office of Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, they discussed matters regarding

changes in Thailand's labour policy, amendment of Labour Law, request to give favour to weak compliance of Myanmar's migrant workers in Thailand while Thailand's government is doing labour protection activities, sending labours under MoU system, activities that Thailand government issued the Certificate of Identity

(CI) by opening CI centers for migrant workers, request for ordinary passport office to relocate at Mahachaing, co-operation to formulate legal remittance system for migrant workers, granting permit for the teachers of migrant worker's children, request to take actions against cross-border traffickers of Myanmar's migrant workers, sending 40,000 labours under MoU system to work in Thailand's fishing industry, cases of sending labours holding fake visa by those unscrupulous employment agents, protection of labours in Thailand's fishing industry and data of Myanmar's migrant labour force in this industry, extension of working period, exchanging information between the two countries and strengthening relations of the two countries in dealing with labour problems. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister U Thein Swe holds meeting with Thai Minister for Labour in his ministry's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UEHRD Vice Chairman receives Independent Commission of Enquiry



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye in talks with Independent Commission of Enquiry members in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

DR. WIN MYAT AYE, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Vice-Chairman of Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State (UEHRD), received Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) members at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay

Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, matters relating to UEHRD works, status of providing humanitarian supports, regional development works, arrangements made for repatriation and resettlement were discussed followed by answering to questions raised by ICOE members. — Myanmar News Agency ■

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

Nat Pauk elephant camp in Sagaing Region celebrates World Elephant Day

NAT PAUK elephant camp in Indaw Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region, celebrated World Elephant Day on the morning of 12 August.

The World Elephant Day was attended by the elephant camp in charge, elephant veterinarian and staffs from west Katha, Indaw and Bamauk townships and Namhkam area, staffs from east and north Katha, Shweli and Mabein timber extraction regions and guests from Katha and Indaw towns.

"Today, our Nat Pauk elephant camp celebrates World Elephant Day by providing buffet food for the elephants, fruits such as bananas, sugarcanes, pineapples and Napier grass, also known as pennisetum purpureum," said Dr. Htoo Htoo Aung, an elephant vet of Katha west timber extraction region.

The World Elephant Day was held with an aim of pre-



Visitors feeding elephants at Nat Pauk elephant camp in Indaw Township Sagaing. **PHOTO: MAUNG CHIT LIN (INDAW)**

venting illegal poaching of elephant for their skin, meat, teeth and tusk and reduction of their habitats. It was also held to reduce conflicts between humans and elephants in wild elephant habitat areas. Nat Pauk elephant camp was opened in 2015. Initially, the camp conducted elephant show for foreign visitors. Since October 2016, the camp was opened to locals as well. The

eight acres Nat Pauk elephant camp is an elephant conservation based tourism (ECBT) camp.

There are a total of 18 ECBT camps under the supervision of Myanma Timber Enterprise across the country. 425 tourists visited the Nat Pauk elephant camp, which earned Ks 11.5 million in fiscal year 2017-2018. The camp earned Ks 1.4 million between 1 April and 31 July 2018.

The tour season is between October and March, while the camp goes under renovation between June and September, said Dr. Htoo Htoo Aung, an elephant vet. There are over 6,500 elephants in Myanmar which includes 3,100 Myanma Timber Enterprise elephants, close to 2,000 privately-owned elephants and 1,500 elephants in the wild.

ECBT elephant camps were opened with the aim for people to understand the elephant conservation work, sustaining Myanmar elephants, creating job opportunities while gaining income for the country and promoting the capacity of the employees, he added.

The admission fee is Ks 20,000 for foreigners and Ks 1,000 for locals. The camp collects Ks 3,000 from locals and Ks 20,000 from foreigners for a short elephant ride. The World Elephant Day was celebrated in every ECBT camp in Myanmar.— Maung Chit Lin (Indaw) ■

Myanmar-Thailand friendship caravan tour visits Loikaw

A FRIENDSHIP caravan tour comprising 28 men and three women, led by Mr. Phanudate Chaisagoon visited Myanmar by three cars and 22 motorcycles. The caravan crossed over into Myanmar at BP-13, Thailand-Myanmar border gate in Khun Yuam town, Mae Hong Son Province, Thailand.

The friendship caravan visited Myanmar under the permission of Kayah State government. The friendship caravan tour was arranged by Amazing Kayah Travel and Tours Co., Ltd., based in Loikaw Town, and Mae Hong

Son T.N & Family Tours Co., Ltd., based in Mae Hong Son Province, Thailand.

The trip started on 11 August and ended on 14 August. The friendship caravan visited significant places in southern Shan State and Kayah State and enjoyed local Kayah traditional foods.

The friendship caravan visited Seven Stage Lake in Dimawhso Township, Thiri Mingalar market, Lawpita hydropower plant and famous places in Loikaw Town. They also visited Htee Se Khar waterfall, 15 miles north of Loikaw, near the Shan and



Friendship caravan tour visiting Loikaw. **PHOTO: KO SAI (LOIKAW)**

Kayah states border.

The friendship caravan left Loikaw and went back to

Thailand through Khun Yuam town, Mae Hong Son Province, Thailand.—Ko Sai (Loikaw) ■

Wilmar-Myanmar (Meizan) donates cooking oil and rice to flood victims

WILMAR-MYANMAR (Meizan) donated Meizan cooking oil and rice to flood victims in Bago Region, Mon Sand Kayin states on 10 and 11 August.

Under the supervision of Myanmar Edible Oil Millers Association (MEOMA), Wilmar-Myanmar (Meizan) was pleased to have the chance to donate to

flood victims facing difficulties.

Wilmar-Myanmar (Meizan) donated 12,000 Meizan 1 liter vegetable oil bottles and 12,000 pyi (2.55718 litre) of rice for 12,000 families at the flood affected areas.

This is a preliminary donation by Wilmar-Myanmar (Meizan). As they are also planning

to conduct social work in future.

"Our Wilmar-Myanmar (Meizan) is producing high-quality products for the people. We are glad to donate for the people when they are facing difficulties with the assistance of MEOMA. Our Wilmar-Myanmar (Meizan) is wishing people from across the country to be healthy and safe

from natural disasters, said Daw Win Win Aye, Business Manager from Wilmar-Myanmar (Meizan).

Wilmar-Myanmar (Meizan) is producing Meizan sunflower oil, vegetable oil, soybean oil and flour across the country under the Meizan brand beginning from 2013.—GNLM ■

Gold, jewellery IMEX OSSC to be opened

By May Thet Hnin

ONE STOP Service Centre (OSSC) regarding gold and related jewellery import/export will be opened at Culture Valley in People's Park, Yangon, on 3 September. The OSSC includes an appraising team and related departments.

After the Ministry of Commerce announced import and export permit of gold and related jewellery products on 22 January, preparations were made for an OSSC to be opened.

Gold export and import might vary depending on current supply and demand. According to current market condition, gold import will possibly well.

"Traders are currently focusing on import. Most of the gold entrepreneurs expressed their interest in import. However, only 1-2kg of gold will be initially imported. If everything turns out well, all members of Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association are likely to start importing gold", said U Myo Myint, chair of this association.

At present, entrepreneurs are preparing for import of pure gold (99.99% gold bar). The majority of them are preparing to bring them in from China, said the entrepreneurs.

Gold export may later be



Permit for gold imports and exports aims to eradicate illegal trade and earn revenue for the country. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

conducted by gold miners teaming with foreign companies. Besides gold bar import, they are interested in import of white gold jewellery products from foreign countries.

Traders plan to submit a report to the government if they face any difficulty in importing gold, said U Kyaw Win, chairman of the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

"We might face challenges and difficulties in running this. We have not found out what we will experience yet. By trial and

error, it will go smooth later on", he maintained.

Concerning import of gold and related jewellery products, concerted efforts are required to be exerted by the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association and importer companies. The OSSC is now to be opened in Yangon.

In order to avoid unnecessary problems, the Ministry of Commerce will form a team at the airport to check imported gold to see whether or not the

items tally with the approved list.

Export and import of gold and jewellery products are valid for sea routes, border trade and air routes. International buyers can transfer payments, Letters of Credit (L/Cs) or telegraphic transfer systems, regulated by the Central Bank of Myanmar, according to the Ministry of Commerce announcement on 22 January.

Seeking import and export licences and registration, and evaluating price, value, quality

and volume, are obligatory for importers and exporters.

Registration requires a certificate from the Myanmar Gems Enterprise and the Department of Mines, or a business permit from the Yangon City Development Committee.

A committee to observe and control the market, including officials from the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Education Department of Research and Innovation and representatives from the Myanmar Central Gold Market Committee will appraise the quality, value, price and volume of gold and jewellery products, and give approval for their import and export.

If unscrupulous activities are discovered, those committing fraud will be given a warning. If they commit an offence a second time, their import-export licences will be revoked and actions, according to the law, will be taken against them.

This permit for gold imports and exports aims to eradicate illegal trade, earn revenue for the country and maintain the market's stability. It also seeks to assure that Myanmar's gold products are able to penetrate the global gold market, according to an official statement of the Ministry of Commerce. ■

YRIC approves 79 foreign businesses

YANGON Region Investment Committee (YRIC) had already approved 79 businesses in the manufacturing sector and other services sector from 11 countries so far, with a total pledge amount of US\$ 112.65 million (Ks37.25 billion), according to a recent news of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Those approved 79 businesses are expected to create 39,124 local job opportunities, according to YRIC meeting 11/2018 held on 10 August at Yangon Region office.

Manufacturing sector absorbed the most foreign investments in Yangon Region. These enterprises are engaged in man-

ufacturing of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes and garments on Cutting, Making and Packing (CMP) basis.

The main investors in Yangon Region are China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea and Viet Nam.

A total of 53 foreign enterprises received permits and endorsements, bringing in a capital of \$442.7 million as of July in the current six-month interim period (April to September) prior to the next fiscal year 2018-2019. Overall, foreign direct investments of over \$1 billion flowed into the country so far, including increased investments and investments of over \$171 million in the Thilawa Special Economic

Zone.

Also, a total of 65 domestic enterprises made investments of \$167 million (Ks783 billion) over the four months. Total domestic investment flow exceeded \$168.4 million (Ks813 billion), with increased investments.

At present, Yangon Region absorbed 60 per cent of foreign investments. Mandalay attracted 30 per cent of investments. Other regions and states attained only small portion of investments, according to the statistics released by DICA.

Region and state investment committees are allowed to grant permission to investment proposals worth up to US\$5 million (Ks6 billion). —GNLM■

Rice export earns \$230 million in four months

MYANMAR'S RICE worth US\$233.8 million has been shipped to 40 countries from 1 April to 3 August, with export volume of over 649,700 metric tons, according to an announcement of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Meanwhile, over 183,880 metric tons of broken rice were exported to 15 countries, earning \$55 million. The volume of rice and broken rice export over the past four months reached over 833,663 metric tons, with an estimated value of US\$288.9 million.

Border trade surpassed

sea trade in rice export, accounting for 56.4 per cent of the total export. Rice export through border checkpoints earned an estimated \$167.86 million, whereas the sea trade saw an income of \$121 million.

Rice is the chief export among the country's agriculture products. 75 per cent of the production is for domestic consumption and the remainder is exported. In the last 2017-2018 fiscal year, 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice worth \$1.13 billion were exported to foreign countries.—GNLM ■

Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State, Advisory Board hold talks

THE Advisory Board to the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State submitted its Final Report to the Union Government in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Advisory Board which is chaired by Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai held talks with the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday handed over its Final Report to the committee.

It was attended by Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Chairman of the Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State, U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State and Joint-Chairman of the committee, and deputy chairman, secretary and joint secretary of the committee.

Speaking at the meeting, Dr. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, expressed his satisfaction that the Advisory Board, since its formation in January this year, had taken its advisory and coordination role to promote further closer cooperation between the Union Government and the international communities in implementing the recommendations.

He also noted that since January 2018 when the Advisory Board began its work, relations between the Government of Myanmar and the UN had improved as seen by the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Union Government and the UNHCR and UNDP.



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of the Advisory Board to the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State and its members in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

He also expressed his belief that the Committee on Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State will make progress in its ongoing efforts as the Advisory Board has already submitted its Final Report to the Union Government.

Cooperation with UN in repatriation, implementing recommendations

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State, said MoU between Myanmar and UNDP, UNHCR for successful repatriation was signed on 6 June 2018. The Technical Working Group-TWG, comprised of representatives from relevant Ministries and UNDP and UNHCR, convened their

coordination meetings for three times.

He continued to say that the TWG also conducted their first field visit to Rakhine State from 21 to 23 July 2018 in order to effectively implement the MoU.

As agreed in 3rd TWG meeting, UNDP and UNHCR are now proceeding with the field assessment to the agreed 13 village-tracts encompassing the 23 villages, said Dr. Win Myat Aye.

Full Humanitarian Access

Humanitarian assistances have been provided to all communities by the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Rehabilitation and Development in Rakhine State-UEHRD, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Red Cross Movement-RCM in accordance with the Humanitarian Principles, he said, WFP also provides food assistance to the communities.

“The Government of Myanmar has now established the Independent Commission of Enquiry as part of its national initiative to address reconciliation, peace, stability and development in Rakhine. The commission comprises two International Figures. The independent Commission will investigate the allegations of human rights violations related issues, following the terrorist attacks by ARSA,” said the Union Minister.

Redouble the efforts on closure of IDP camps

Regarding the closing of IDP camps, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye said there are only 19 IDP camps left in Rakhine State, after closing three camps suggested in the interim report.

“As suggested by Advisory Board, now we are going to close six more camps. Now Ni Din IDP Camp in Kyauktaw is closed and all 85 families had been moved to new houses. Taung Paw Camp in Myay Bon was being closed and 100 new houses had been constructed and 100 families had been moved. Another 100 new houses will be build soon and budget are already allocated. Thet Kal Pyin and Gaung Dottha-1 and -2 camps in Sittway and Kyauk Ta Lone camp in Kyauk Phyu are also given priorities to be closed,” said Dr. Win Myat Aye.

Discussion between authorities, communities, international partners and IDPs are being carried out by the committee, said the Chairman of the Committee.

“National IDP Camp Closure Strategy is being formulated together with the UN and partners. Workshop on that was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 June 2018 and continued meetings and discussions between our Ministry and UN partners to formulate the strategy very soon in accordance with international standard,” said Dr. Win Myat Aye.

Comprehensive anti-terrorism approach

Myanmar and Bangladesh agreed to intensify cooperation on counter terrorism through exchange of intelligence, closer cooperation between the border-guard officials and conducting enhanced coordinated border patrols.

Benefits of NVC holders

He continued to say that efforts were put in to speed up the national verification process in accordance with the existing

laws and regulations, adding that arrangements have been made for NV card applicants to simultaneously apply for the citizenship scrutinization process.

Freedom of movement for those holding NVC is granted in Maungdaw District as first step, and the authorities are trying to expand that to other districts, he added.

“We are considering and discussion to conduct the comparative study of the citizenship laws and practices on some ASEAN countries such as Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Cambodia and Laos etc.,” said Dr. Win Myat Aye.

In his concluding remarks, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye acknowledged the tireless effort and recommendations made by the Advisory Board to the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, expressing his belief that the final report will bring the opportunities to support efforts to get significant progress in implementation activities of the committee.

At the meeting, Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, handed over US\$ 60,000 for emergency aid in flood-hit areas across the country donated by the Friends in Need (of “Pa”) Volunteers Foundation, Thai Red Cross, to Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye.

Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Thaung Tun, Dr. Win Myat Aye, UEHRD Chief-Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet and members of the Committee on Implementing the Recommendations on Rakhine State hosted a luncheon in honour the Advisory Board’s chairman and members. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Chairman Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai hands over the Final Report of the Advisory Board to Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye. **PHOTO: MNA**

Independent Commission on Enquiry holds press conference

INDEPENDENT Commission on Enquiry (ICOE) led by Chairperson Ambassador Rosario Manalo held a press conference in Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon on the commission's duties and responsibilities.

At the press conference, Commission Chairperson Ambassador Rosario Manalo said ICOE was established on 30 July 2018. The Commission was formed with 4 members that include an international expert. The Commission arrived to Myanmar on 14 August and met with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as well as relevant Union Ministers. During these meetings, the Terms of Reference (ToR) of ICOE and the work of the Government of Myanmar in relation to Rakhine State were discussed.

The Commission and the Government discussed in detail about the voluntary, safe and dignified return program of displaced persons from Rakhine State as agreed between Myanmar and Bangladesh on 23 November 2017.

The Commission also discussed the national initiatives of the Myanmar Government to address reconciliation, peace, stability and development in Rakhine State. Furthermore, the Commission discussed the



Independent Commission on Enquiry (ICOE) press conference held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

establishment of a Secretariat of the ICOE that will serve it administratively.

The Commission is tasked to investigate allegations of human rights violations and related issues following the terrorist attacks on 9 October 2016 and 25 August 2017 by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) in Rakhine State with a view to seeking accountability and to formulate recommendations on steps to be taken to ensure peace and stability in Rakhine State.

In discharging its mandate, the ICOE will apply the laws of Myanmar, in particular, the Investigation Committees Act 1950. The ICOE will also avail of

international human rights law and international humanitarian law, when applicable.

The ICOE anticipates having the cooperation from the Government of Myanmar, as well as those from the Region, State and other relevant authorities. Such cooperation will cover complying with requests for information by the ICOE, assistance in collecting data/information and provision of testimony from central and local authorities of all branches of government, including military and police.

The Government of Myanmar will provide appropriate security arrangements for the members of ICOE and support

staff.

The Government of Myanmar will also provide protection to all those who are in contact with ICOE, particularly victims and witnesses. No person shall suffer harassment, threats, acts of intimidation, ill-treatment, reprisals or any prejudicial treatment on account of appearance before the Commission as witnesses or as victims.

ICOE will take into account all sources of relevant and reliable information. ICOE may undertake studies, and/or investigative visits to the critical areas to obtain first-hand information. ICOE may make a call for written submissions from any interested

persons or group which will help in its work. ICOE will observe the principles of independence, impartiality, objectivity, discretion, transparency, confidentiality, integrity and professionalism.

The Chairperson of the ICOE shall submit to the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar the Commission's reports including its recommendations prepared on the basis of the outcomes of its investigations.

The ICOE has set up an in-house Secretariat which will support its work administratively. Legal and forensic international experts will be called upon by ICOE as and when necessary. In the meantime, the Commission has tasked the Secretariat to start gathering reports and documents from different stakeholders/institutions/ministries so that ICOE may commence soonest the research and analysis of these data. The website of the ICOE will be launched soon said the ICOE Chairperson.

Next, questions raised by international and local media were answered by Commission Chairperson Rosario Manalo and Commission member Ambassador Kenzo Oshima.

ICOE members U Mya Thein and Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet also attended the press conference. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Advisory Board to Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State holds press conference

THE Advisory Board to the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State has submitted its final report to the State Counsellor, said Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Chairman of the Advisory Board, in a press conference at M-Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai said that the work for the report started in early September last year, making it a year since they began working on the Rakhine State issue.

He added this August will be one year after the submission of the Advisory Commission's report, led by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai commended the chairman of the Implementation Committee, Dr. Win Myat Aye, for being able to implement more than half of Kofi Annan's recommendations.



Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai (third from left), Chairman of the Advisory Board, speaks to the media at a press conference at M-Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

He also expressed his satisfaction to the implementation committee that has taken up the advice of the advisory board very seriously. There are some

positive developments that have taken place since January. For example, there has been an increase of access of the media to Rakhine State, said Dr. Surak-

art Sathirathai. There has also been a visit by Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye to Cox's Bazar, who met the people there and explained about the prepara-

tions that have been made in Rakhine State.

More importantly, the relationship with the United Nations has been improved, said Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai. He said there has been signing of MoUs between the Myanmar government and the United Nations, in particular, with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Myanmar has also accepted the special envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations Ambassador Christine Burgener, who came to Myanmar and held discussions with senior personalities and also visited the Rakhine State. She will be coming back here again, said Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai.

SEE PAGE 10

Raise a Grievance in Polite Manner

THE proverb, “Man proposes, God disposes.” may be similar to a Myanmar saying that goes, “Devas cannot satisfy man’s desire.”

But anyway, all human beings have the right to express their grievances and pains.

And in a democratic society, the authorities pay heed to information from the people, and try to settle their problems, resulting in harmony in the whole community.

Hand delivering letters personally by people to State leaders and throwing letters and things to State leaders during their trips have caused public anxiety for the security of the State leaders and leading to increasing criticism.

Following the incidents, the Office of the President formed the Complaints Acceptance Team which will be a part of the entourage of the State leaders during their trips.

Those who want to report their grievances to the State leaders are requested to cooperate with the team with full understanding for security of the State leaders and the smooth and comfortable conclusion of their trips.

As a good citizen, one should treat the person in authority with respect and vice versa.

It is no doubt that the governing authorities are taking care of the welfare of every citizen.

Therefore, it is important for every citizen to render obedience to the governing authorities but to be submissive should be not only because of punishment but also for the sake of one’s conscience.

While trying to solve the problems in every corner, an authority may miss one’s interest. Before we are going to criticize others, we need to understand the situation.

There are various ways, and means, and procedures for making complaints about services or treatment people receive – launching demonstrations, making rallies, organizing vigils, and so on.

Lack of proper etiquette is not the style of a good citizen.

Whatever stance one is going to take, he or she should take the security of others, including the authorities, into consideration because today’s world is prone to terrorism.

The motto, “Prevention is better than cure” is for the medical field in general, but it is also applicable to all other sectors.

Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. Let us report our grievances to the authorities, but make sure that it is in a polite manner.

There are various ways, and means, and procedures for making complaints about services or treatment people receive - launching demonstrations, making rallies, organizing vigils, and so on.

Lack of proper etiquette is not the style of a good citizen.

What is fake news?

Fake news is a type of yellow journalism or propaganda that consists of deliberate misinformation spread through traditional print and broadcast news media or online social media. This false information is mainly distributed by social media, but is periodically circulated through mainstream media. Moreover fake news is written and published with the intent to mislead in order to damage an agency, entity, or person, and/or gain financially or politically, often using sensationalist, dishonest, or outright fabricated headlines to increase readership, online sharing, and Internet click revenue. Intentionally misleading and deceptive fake news differs from obvious satire, which is intended to amuse rather than mislead its audience.

The relevance of fake news has increased in post-truth politics. For media outlets, the ability to attract viewers to their websites is necessary to generate online advertising revenue. If publishing a story with false content attracts users, this benefits advertisers and improves ratings. Easy access to online advertisement revenue, increased political polarization, and the popularity of social media, primarily the Facebook News Feed, have all been implicated in the spread of fake news, which competes with legitimate news stories. Hostile government actors have also been implicated in generating and propagating fake news, particularly during elections.

As technology develops, the same wear out effect is likely to occur with false information based on fake news and people getting accustomed to it in their daily life. When weird and strange things happen around us, it is no wonder that fake news spreads rapidly like wild fire and it can spread faster than truth online, thanks to media and social network. It is said that a lie will travel around the world while the truth is pulling on its boots, and we can see that it takes time for the truth to be revealed. Every individual, organization, country and national, are facing groundless and false news which are the root causes of the conflicts in the world.

Regarding a fake news on WhatsApp, two men were beaten to death in an incident that occurred in India, where rumours have inspired vigilante mobs to attack visitors accused of being child kidnappers. The victims had stopped by the roadside to hand out chocolates to school children. According to the sayings of the authorities concerned, the killings are being inspired by text messages and videos shared on WhatsApp, which dominates the Indian social

By Yadana Chyu



media landscape. The encrypted messaging system allows person-to-person or person-to-group communication, making it difficult for law enforcement to monitor or stop the spread of fake stories. The viral messages suggested that kidnappers are abducting the children and harvesting their organs. Some of the messages purported to show video of these kidnapping, while other showed images of dismembered corpses, and claimed that the organ thieves are disguised as beggars.

Another incident happened in Rakhine State, and the spread of false news of that incident had great effect on the conflicts that occurred in the region. But it was clear that most of the news was false. We should take into consideration the original sources and the news intention. Fake news is everywhere—we can see it on the social media feeds and group chats. There is always someone sharing unverified news on child kidnappings, stories of political unrest and the latest cancer scares from often dubious sources. Fake news was even named 2017’s word of the year by Collins Dictionary, which describes it as “false, often sensational, information disseminated under the guise of news reporting”.

Being able to spot fake news is a crucial part of digital literacy and an important aspect of life in the digital age as well. Here are some tips from the Reader’s Digest and other sources on how to spot fake news:

It is said that a lie will travel around the world while the truth is pulling on its boots, and we can see that it takes time for the truth to be revealed.

Check the website and quality of the articles

Look at where the story comes from and read other articles on the site to see whether they are well written, using correct citations, or are they riddled with grammatical errors? You should make sure that you are on a legitimate news site. Some fake sites use addresses and even logos that are similar to those of real news organizations. For example, abcnews.go.com is

real, while abcnews.com.co is not.

Is it the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

Sometimes a fake news story can have a sliver of truth to it, but most of the facts and figures are made up. For example, the event and the people mentioned may be

used and for what purposes. That will help you decide if a photograph has been doctored or is being falsely presented.

Do some independent research

Check the questionable piece of news against other news sources or fact-checking websites. If the news is about a local kidnapping for example, it would be odd if the story wasn’t covered in your local newspapers.

Make sure it is not satire

If the story is on a satirical website, you should be aware that the intent is humour, not to mislead. These websites publish parodies of news -- satirical news stories to make you laugh. So if you are thinking a story is a bit farfetched, check that you are not reading a satirical site like The Onion, or the Borowitz Report in The New Yorker.

Understand when a message is forwarded

Make sure which messages you have been forwarded to, and double check the facts when you are not sure who wrote the original

message.

Question information that upsets you

If you read something that makes you angry or afraid, ask whether it was shared to make you feel that way. And if the answer is yes, think twice before sharing it again.

Check information that seems unbelievable

Stories that seem hard to believe are often untrue so check elsewhere to see if they are really true.

Look out for messages that look different

Many messages containing hoaxes or fake information have spelling mistakes. Look for these signs, so you can check if the information is accurate.

Check photos in messengers carefully

It is easier to believe photos and videos, but even these can be edited to mislead you. Sometimes the photo is real, but the story around it is not. So look online to see where the photo came from.

And check links too

It may look like the link to a well-known website, but if there are spelling mistakes or unusual characters, it is usually a sign something is wrong.

Use other sources

Look at other news websites or apps to see if the story is being reported elsewhere. When a story is reported in multiple places, it is more likely to be true.

Be thoughtful about what you share

If you are not sure of the source or concerned that the information may be untrue, think twice before sharing.

You can control what you see

On WhatsApp you can block any number or leave any group you want. Use these features to keep control of your WhatsApp experience.

Fake news often goes viral

Do not pay attention to the number of times you receive the message. Just because a message is shared many times, does not make it true.

References: Reader’s Digest, Wikipedia
Translated by Win KoKaung

ဟိုတယ်နှင့်ခရီးသွားလာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏အထောက်အကူပြု၍ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံခရီးသွားလုပ်ငန်းအဖွဲ့ချုပ်၊ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဟိုတယ်လုပ်ငန်းရှင်များအသင်းနှင့် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံစားသောက်ဆိုင်လုပ်ငန်းရှင်များအသင်းတို့ ပူးပေါင်းကျင်းပသော

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MYANMAR TRADITIONAL FOOD SHOW 2018
Taste of Myanmar Flavours
18th-19th August, 2018

EARTHQUAKE NEWS
A moderate earthquake of magnitude (5.0) Richter Scale with its epicenter in Near South Coast of Myanmar; latitude 16.06°N, longitude 96.26°E, depth (10) kilometers about (56) miles south of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (13)hr (20) min (10)sec MST on 16 August 2018.

Flood Bulletin
(Issued at 15:00 hrs MST on 16-8-2018)
Flood condition of Sittoung River
According to the (14:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (2) feet at Madauk above its danger level. It may rise about (½) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.
Flood condition of Thanlwin River
According to the (14:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River has exceeded by about (4½) feet at Hpa-an above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (5) days.
Flood conditions of Ngawun River
According to the (14:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ngawun River has exceeded by about (3) inches at Ngathaingchaung and (½) foot at Thabaung above their respective danger levels. The water levels of Ngathaingchaung and Thabaung may remain above their respective danger levels during the next (2) days.
Advisory
It is especially advised that people who have settled near the river banks and low lying area in Hpa-an, to avert due to the rise of water level and Maubin and Thabaung Townships, Madauk and Ngathaingchaung, to take precautionary measures.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 16 August, 2018)
BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the North Bay and moderate over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (18:30)hrs MST today, the tropical storm “Bebinca” over the South China Sea has reached to Gulf of Tonkin, its centered at about (120)miles Southeast of Hanoi (Vietnam) and it is almost stationary.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 17 AUGUST 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing and Mandalay regions, scattered in Magway Region and Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Kayin State and isolated heavy falls in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Rakhine and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35 - 40) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-10) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts and about (4 -8) feet in off and along Motamma, Mon- Taninthayi Coasts.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Bago Region, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states.

Myanmar-India Friendship Game held to commemorate Independence Day of India



Young men going all out in a tug-of-war amidst the cheer of people during the Myanmar-India Friendship Game held on India's side of the Friendship Bridge on Wednesday. **PHOTO: RIHKHAWDAR IPRD**

TO commemorate the 72nd Independence Day of India that falls on 15 August, an Independence Day ceremony was held at the India side of the Myanmar-India Friendship Bridge in Zokhawthar Village, Champai District, Mizoram State, India on 11 am 15 August.

Under the invitation of Brigadier M.S. Mokha of Assam Rifles, the Independ-

ence Day ceremony was attended by Col. Ye Kyaw Kyaw from Kalay cantonment and Col. Nay Myo Zaw from Haka cantonment.

The ceremony was opened by singing of Myanmar and India national anthems by students from the two countries.

Afterwards, Colonel Ye Kyaw Kyaw and Brigadier M.S Mokha delivered opening

speeches followed by the commencement of Myanmar-India Friendship Game and a prize awarding ceremony.

On the same day, health department officials from Myanmar also provided medical services for local people in Rihkhawdar town and Zokhawthar village in commemoration of the Independence Day of India. —Rihkhawdar IPRD ■

Advisory Board for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine ...

FROM PAGE 7

And most importantly, he added, the advice of the advice report has been taken up to establish the Independent Commission of Enquiry. And lately the composition of the Commission of Enquiry has already been announced.

Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai said there have been many positive developments and all of the advice of the Advisory Board has been implemented since the establishment of the board in mid-December last year.

Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai said the final report included some of the recommendations, such as the pilot project of a model township, and perhaps the participation of ASEAN countries and of the international community in the pilot project, either mixed schooling, health services, mobile health clinic, so that they can be em-

phasized.

He added that the inter-communal dialogue is something that has to continue because it will be a long-lasting solution to the reconciliation in Rakhine State.

Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai said that some of the advisory board members would be willing to assist to work with the Myanmar government on individual basis. He said Lord Darzi is enthusiastic about the issue of the mobile clinic and improvement of the Sittway Hospital, while Mr. Roelof Petrus Meyer would continue to engage in bringing South African experience into the inter-communal dialogue.

He added that the advisory board would be willing to provide names of experts to be helpful to the works of the commission of enquiry, if requested.

Afterwards, a Q&A session was held where journalists ask about the meeting between the Advisory Board and the Com-

mander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the national verification process of returnees, the government's responses to international pressure concerning Rakhine State, and the Advisory Board's final report on Rakhine State to which the Advisory Board Chairman and members replied.

Present at the press conference were Chairman of the Advisory Board to the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Advisory Board member Mr. Roelof Petrus Meyer, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) Chairman U Win Mra, former UN Security Coordinator U Tun Myat, MNHRC member U Khin Maung Lay, Pyithu Hluttaw Health and Sport Development Committee member Dr. Khin Nyo, and foreign and domestic journalists.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Appointment of Ambassador agreed

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of H.E. Mr. George Crytone Mkondiwa as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Malawi to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in New Delhi.

Mr. George Crytone Mkondiwa got a Master Degree in Development Studies from Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, Netherlands in 1983 and a Bachelor degree in Public Administration from University of Malawi, Chancellor College, Zomba, Malawi in 1977.

He served as Chief Training Officer of the Department of Personnel Management and Training, Office of the President and Cabinet from 1989 to 1990. He also served as Director of Administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1993 to 1996 and as Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Mining from 1996 to 1997. He also served as Chief Secretary to the Government of the Office of the President and Cabinet from 2014 to 2016.—Myanmar News Agency

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun meets ministerial staff in Sagaing, Mandalay regions

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun met with Ministry of Information departmental personnel in Sagaing Region at Information and Public Relations Department district office, Monywa yesterday afternoon. First, the Deputy Minister observed the books, journals, lacquer ware products produced from Kyauka Village, records of famous pagodas, monks and persons of Monywa District in the district

library. Next, the Deputy Minister met with heads of (Sagaing) region, districts and townships IPRD, personnel of sub-printing house (Monywa) and Myanmar Radio and Television (retransmission) station in the meeting hall. Earlier in the day, the Deputy Minister met with heads of (Mandalay) region, districts and townships IPRDs in Mandalay Region, Meiktilar District IPRD office.—Min Htet Aung (Mann Sub-Printing House) ■



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun addresses MOI departmental personnel in Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: MIN HTAT AUNG (MANN SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

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Former CIA Director John Brennan has been a frequent critic of President Donald Trump. PHOTO: AFP

Trump blacklists critical ex-CIA chief Brennan

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump on Wednesday revoked the security clearance of former Central Intelligence Agency director John Brennan, and warned several other prominent critics they too risk being blacklisted.

In a highly unusually directive, Trump claimed that Brennan — a former station chief in Riyadh who rose to lead the formidable spy agency — had become “erratic.”

Brennan is a frequent Trump critic. Just hours before Trump issued the edict, the former CIA chief had accused the Republican leader of failing “to live up to minimum standards of decency, civility, & probity.”

And after Trump’s surprise decision was made public at a White House briefing, Brennan quickly hit back, accusing the president of trying to curb free speech in a “politically motivated” action that he said should “gravely worry all Americans.”

In his statement, Trump suggested the ex-spy chief had tossed around “unfounded and outrageous allegations — wild outbursts on the internet and television — about this administration” and engaged in “increasingly frenzied commentary.”

Brennan, who has briefed Republican and Democratic presidents, could now lose access to classified information — a courtesy usually afforded to former senior officials of all political stripes. The White House has been besieged by a scandal over a former aide’s tell-all memoir in recent days and often tries to defuse crises by stoking new controversy.

It said that eight other officials could also lose their clearances, including former director of national intelligence James Clapper, former CIA director and four-star general Michael Hayden and ex-FBI director James Comey.

The individuals were accused — without details — of politicizing and monetizing their public service and security clearances.

“Historically, former heads of intelligence and law enforcement agencies have been allowed to retain access to classified information after their government service so that they can consult with their successors,” Trump’s statement read.

“At this point in my administration, any benefits that senior officials might glean from consultations with Mr Brennan are now outweighed by the risk posed by his erratic conduct and behavior.”

He later tweeted “John Brennan is a stain on the Country, we deserve better than this,” quoting the author of a new book that claims Trump’s predecessor Barack Obama attempted to sabotage his presidential campaign.—AFP ■

British inflation rises to 2.5 pct in July

LONDON — British inflation slipped upwards to 2.5 per cent in July, a whole 50 basis points above the Bank of England’s (BoE) target.

The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose to 2.5 per cent, up from 2.4 per cent in June, according to figures released on Wednesday by the Office of National Statistics (ONS).

The reading was in line with consensus expectations, but below the 2.6 per cent level

expected by the BoE. Inflation had been on a consistent downward trend since November, when CPI inflation stood at 3.1 per cent.

Despite the rise in inflation, the underlying data revealed a confused picture, with strong upward pressure seen in the fuel category, reflecting rising global oil prices.

However, as in June, clothing and footwear prices fell more sharply than in the same month

a year ago. Underlying inflation gauges point to a continuing weakening in inflation pressures, although a 0.5 per cent rise over the month in producer price inflation (PPI) input prices took the yearly PPI rate rise to 10.9 per cent.

At the beginning of this month, the BoE raised the bank rate 25 basis points to 0.75 per cent, only the second rate rise since before the financial crisis in 2007.—Xinhua ■

Anger grows in Italy as bridge toll hits 39

GENOA (Italy) — Italy’s government on Wednesday blamed the firm that operated the collapsed Genoa bridge for the disaster in which at least 39 people died, as it announced a state of emergency in the region.

Search operations, meanwhile, were due to enter a second night with rescuers digging through mountains of crushed concrete.

A vast span of the Morandi bridge caved in during a heavy rainstorm in the northern port city on Tuesday, sending about 35 cars and several trucks plunging 45 metres (150 feet) onto railway tracks below.

Children aged eight, 12 and 13 were among the dead, Interior Minister Matteo Salvini said, adding that more people were still missing. Sixteen people were injured.

The driver of a green lorry left precariously close to the edge told Italian media how he had escaped the “hell” of the bridge collapse.

“It was raining very hard and it wasn’t possible to go very fast,” he told the *Corriere della Sera* daily.

“When a car overtook me I slowed down... (then) at a certain moment everything shook. The car in front of me disappeared and seemed to be swallowed up by the clouds. I looked up and saw the bridge pylon fall,” he said. “Instinctively, finding myself in front of the void, I put the van into reverse, to escape this hell,” he added. Three Chileans, who live in Italy, and four French nationals were also killed.

The tragedy has focussed anger on the structural problems that have dogged the decades old Morandi bridge and the private sector firm Autostrade

per l’Italia, which is currently in charge of operating and maintaining swathes of the country’s motorways.

Deputy prime minister Luigi Di Maio said the tragedy “could have been avoided”.

“Autostrade should have done maintenance and didn’t do it,” he alleged.

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte also confirmed that his government would push to revoke the company’s contract for the A10 motorway, which includes the bridge, while Transport Minister Danilo Toninelli said the company should be fined up to 150 million euros (\$170 million).

The firm, which said the bridge had been undergoing maintenance work, however, released a statement refuting accusations of underfunding of motorway infrastructure.

“In the last five years (2012-2017) the company’s investment in the security, maintenance and strengthening of the network has been over one billion euros a year,” it said.

‘I went down with the car’

Survivors recounted the heart-stopping moment when the bridge buckled, tossing vehicles and hunks of concrete into the abyss.

Davide Capello, a former goalkeeper for Italian Serie A club Cagliari, plunged with his car but was unscathed.

“I was driving along the bridge, and at a certain point I saw the road in front of me collapse, and I went down with the car,” he told TV news channel Sky TG24. As cars and trucks tumbled off the bridge, Afifi Id-riss, 39, a Moroccan truck driver, just managed to stop in time.

—AFP ■



The disaster left one driver’s green lorry perched precariously close to the precipice. The 37-year-old driver told Italian media how he had escaped the “hell” of the bridge collapse. PHOTO: AFP

At least 25 killed as suicide attacker targets school in Kabul

KABUL — At least 25 people, many believed to be students, were killed when a suicide blast ripped through a school in a Shiite area of Kabul Wednesday, officials said, the latest assault on Afghanistan's war-weary capital.

The attacker appeared to target the Mawoud education centre, which specialises in

preparing students for university exams in the western part of the city, officials said.

"We can confirm the attack was caused by a suicide bomber on foot. The bomber detonated himself inside the education centre," police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai said. The spokesmen for the interior ministry and health ministries both

confirmed that at least 25 people were killed and 35 injured.

It was not clear how many students were at the centre at the time of the attack. One witness, another student named Ali Ahmad, said as many as 100 students may have been inside when the bomber struck, but officials have not yet confirmed the figure.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which was swiftly condemned by President Ashraf Ghani in a statement.

Both the Taliban and the Islamic State group (IS) have carried out devastating, high-profile attacks in Kabul in recent months, but the Taliban quickly denied they were involved.—AFP ■



Map locating Afghanistan's capital Kabul, where dozens were killed Wednesday in a suicide bombing attack on an education centre. **PHOTO: AFP**

China to send negotiator to US for trade talks this month

BEIJING — China will send a top negotiator to the United States in late August to resume trade talks, the commerce ministry said Thursday, the first public meeting on the subject in weeks as the trade conflict intensifies.

Vice Commerce Minister Wang Shouwen, the deputy representative on international trade negotiations, will meet with a senior US treasury official, David Malpass, at the invitation of the United States, the ministry said in a statement.

"The Chinese side reiterates that it opposes unilateralism and trade protectionism practices and does not accept any unilateral trade restriction measures," the ministry said. "China welcomes dialogue and communication on the basis of reciprocity, equality and integrity."

US Commerce Minister Wilbur Ross held talks with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He in Beijing in June.

But the discussions

failed to reduce tensions as the United States slapped tariffs on \$34 billion worth of Chinese goods in early July, triggering an immediate dollar-for-dollar retaliation from Beijing.

The two countries plan to launch a new round of tit-for-tat tariffs on \$16 billion worth of goods from each country on 23 August.

Washington has also lined up an additional \$200

billion in Chinese imports and US President Donald Trump said he could raise tariffs on those products to 25 per cent instead of the previously touted 10 per cent.

Later impact

"It is hard to tell how the talks will go but it's a positive signal that the two countries are looking for some compromise plan," said Makoto Sengoku, mar-

ket analyst at Tokai Tokyo Research Institute. "If they were determined to fight it out, they wouldn't meet," he told AFP.

Chinese officials say the tariffs have yet to make an impact on the country's economy, with its exports even beating forecasts in July. But analysts warned that China could feel the full effect of tariffs in August.—AFP ■



The United States slapped tariffs on \$34 billion worth of Chinese goods in early July, triggering an immediate dollar-for-dollar retaliation from Beijing. **PHOTO: AFP**

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)

For AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 17th August 2018

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGSAKAO VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BANGSAKAO VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MSTLA-1 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 BAY LINE SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0103N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0103N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (107N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (107N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185



Plastic bags have become an environmental curse — Burundi is the latest country to crack down on their use. **PHOTO: AFP**

Burundi plans plastic bag ban

NAIROBI (Kenya) — Burundi's president, Pierre Nkurunziza, has issued a decree banning the use of plastic bags in the small central African country within the next 18 months.

"The manufacture, import, storage, sale and use of all plastic bags and

other plastic packaging is prohibited," said the presidential order signed by Nkurunziza on Monday and seen by AFP Tuesday.

"A grace period of 18 months is granted, before the entry into force of this decree, to allow for the disposal of current

stocks and orders already placed," the decree read.

The decree includes some exemptions that may be authorised for "biodegradable plastic bags, bags and plastic materials used in medical services, and in industrial and pharmaceutical

packaging".

When the law comes into force Burundi will join a growing list of African countries that have introduced total plastic bag bans to fight pollution, including Morocco, Rwanda and Kenya. —AFP ■

Climate change multiplies harmful marine heatwaves

PARIS — The number of days marked by potentially destructive ocean heatwaves has doubled in 35 years, and will multiply another five-fold at current rates of climate change, scientists warned Wednesday.

Even if humanity does manage to cap global warming "well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), as called for in the Paris climate treaty, marine heatwaves will sharply increase in frequency, intensity and duration, they reported in the journal *Nature*.

Compared to hot spells over land, which have claimed tens of thousands of lives since the start of the century, ocean heatwaves have received scant scientific attention.

But sustained spikes in sea-surface temperature — typically to a depth of several metres — can also have devastating consequences.

A 10-week marine

heatwave near western Australia in 2011, for example, shattered an entire ecosystem and permanently pushed commercial fish species into colder waters.

Another ocean hot spell off the coast of California warmed waters 6 C (10.8 F) and lasted for more than a year. Known as "The Blob", it generated toxic algae blooms, caused the

closure of crab fisheries, and led to the death of sea lions, whales and sea birds.

"Marine heatwaves have already become longer-lasting and more frequent, extensive and intense in the past few decades," lead author Thomas Frolicher, an environmental physicist at the University of Bern, Switzerland, told AFP.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO. (086 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO. (086 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1039)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1039) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-8-2018 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 LAND AND SEA
SHIPPING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (064N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (064N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI-AMPLE VOY. NO. (0254-460)

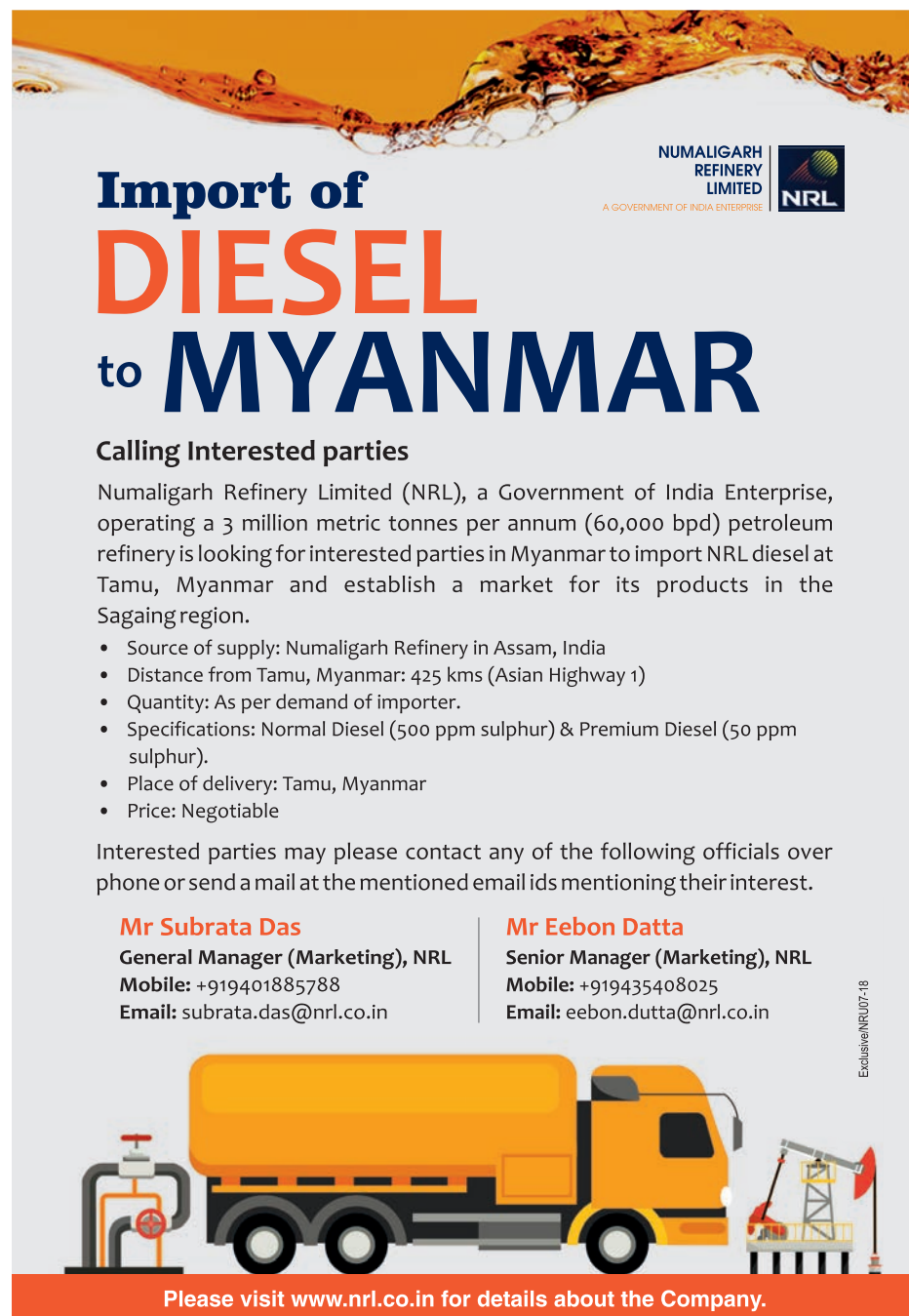
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI-AMPLE VOY. NO. (0254-460) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185



**Import of
DIESEL
to MYANMAR**

Calling Interested parties

Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), a Government of India Enterprise, operating a 3 million metric tonnes per annum (60,000 bpd) petroleum refinery is looking for interested parties in Myanmar to import NRL diesel at Tamu, Myanmar and establish a market for its products in the Sagaing region.

- Source of supply: Numaligarh Refinery in Assam, India
- Distance from Tamu, Myanmar: 425 kms (Asian Highway 1)
- Quantity: As per demand of importer.
- Specifications: Normal Diesel (500 ppm sulphur) & Premium Diesel (50 ppm sulphur).
- Place of delivery: Tamu, Myanmar
- Price: Negotiable

Interested parties may please contact any of the following officials over phone or send a mail at the mentioned email ids mentioning their interest.

Mr Subrata Das General Manager (Marketing), NRL Mobile: +919401885788 Email: subrata.das@nrl.co.in	Mr Eebon Datta Senior Manager (Marketing), NRL Mobile: +919435408025 Email: eebon.dutta@nrl.co.in
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Please visit www.nrl.co.in for details about the Company.

Creator of iconic Soviet cartoons Eduard Uspensky dies at age 80

MOSCOW—Legendary Soviet children's writer and creator of the USSR's most popular cartoon characters Eduard Uspensky died in his home in the Moscow suburbs at the age of 80 late on Tuesday.

Uspensky was most famous for his iconic cartoon characters Gena the Crocodile – a friendly crocodile who works at a zoo and plays the accordion – and Cheburashka, a strange brown-haired creature with large ears.

Millions of children in the Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc watched the animated adventures of Gena the Crocodile, which first aired in 1969. Cheburashka first made an appearance in the cartoon in 1971.

The Kremlin on Wednesday

said President Vladimir Putin sent a note with condolences to Uspensky's family.

"Every generation of Russians was brought up on the heroes of this famous writer and absorbed the good that they carried," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Born in the Moscow region in 1937, Uspensky began writing children's stories as a student at the Moscow Aviation Institute.

He first published the story of Gena the Crocodile in 1966 and it was turned into an animation three years later.

One of the songs in the cartoon, composed by Soviet musician Vladimir Shainsky who died last year, has been adopted as Russia's main birthday tune.



Legendary Soviet children's writer Eduard Uspensky. PHOTO: AFP

Uspensky was also one of the founders of "Goodnight Little Ones", the Soviet Union's cartoon programme for children that began broadcasting in the 1960s.

"What is remarkable, is that Uspensky's characters were not lost with the collapse of the Soviet Union," an obituary

in Russia's *Argumenty i Fakty* newspaper said.

"They confidently competed with foreign cartoon characters and even experienced a cultural expansion abroad."

In Japan, Cheburashka became so popular in the 2000s that the country produced a new modern animation series cen-

tred around the creature.

Cheburashka was chosen as the official mascot of the Russian team at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

"We lost a truly great writer, a visionary and an inventor," well-known Russian theatre critic Mikhail Shvydkoy told the TASS news agency. —AFP ■



Pop star Madonna and designer Jean Paul Gaultier arrive at a fashion gala in New York City on 7 May 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Madonna celebrates turning 60 in Marrakech

RABAT (Morocco)—Madonna, the Queen of Pop, appears to have travelled to the former imperial city of Marrakech in western Morocco to celebrate her 60th birthday on Thursday.

"Walking thru the Labyrinth of the Medina during the Call to Prayer," the American singer wrote on her Facebook and Instagram accounts on the eve of the big day. She posted a "birthday, magic, adventure" video shot at night in the labyrinthine alleys of the city's ancient market. On Tuesday, she posted a portrait of herself wearing a fez decorated with berber jewelry, along with a caption reading: "Today I am wearing C A K E on my head!"

Celebrity watchers in Marrakech said Moroccan police were keeping journalists and photographers at bay, while speculation was rife over the venue and guest list for the star's birthday celebrations.

To mark the day, Madonna has launched a collection for the charity "Raising Malawi" which supports orphans and vulnerable children.

"For my birthday, I can think of no better gift than connecting my global family with this beautiful country and the children who need our help most," Madonna, who has adopted four Malawian children, wrote on Facebook. — AFP

'Crazy Rich Asians' touted as Hollywood watershed

NEW YORK—Rich, dashing man sweeps sweet young girl off her feet. It's the fantasy to launch a thousand love stories, but Hollywood's latest rom-com oozes more than sentimental escapism.

"Crazy Rich Asians," a two-hour celebration of fabulous wealth, stunning clothes and idealized love, complete with heroine who has to out-fox her beau's imperious mother and vicious ex-girlfriend, is a faithful adaptation of the international bestseller by Singapore-American author Kevin Kwan.

More importantly it's the first Hollywood movie in a quarter of a century to feature an majority-Asian cast – a feat not matched since "The Joy Luck Club" in 1993 and one driving frenzied publicity in the world of US entertainment.

It comes a year after "The Big Sick" made Kumail Nanjiani Hollywood's first Pakistani-born rom-com hero and months after "Black Panther" became the third highest-grossing motion picture of all time in North America.

Kwan turned down a "gigantic" pay-off from Netflix, to plop for Warner Bros. Pictures and a cinematic general release, looking to send a message and put down a marker

for Asian-led box office receipts.

A massive publicity blitz appears to be working. The *Hollywood Reporter* expects the movie to make at least \$28 million at the box office over the first five days in North America, up from \$20 million several weeks ago.

Director Jon Chu wants the movie to convince Hollywood bosses that there's plenty of

money to be made from Asian-led projects, opening the door to greater representation.

"That we are worth that time, we are worth that energy and worth that effort," he told Fox News.

"The cinematic experience is unparalleled in that kind of context, of putting it in the museum, in the glass box and say this is special." Filmed on location in Malaysia and Singapore, with a reported budget of \$30 million, its cast is almost entirely Asian, Asian-American and Asian diaspora.

As a result, it's American actress Constance Wu who gets to wear the posh frocks and British-Malaysian, former BBC host and hair stylist Henry Golding who gets to be the Cary Grant of summer 2018.

'World your oyster'

"You don't see that growing up. You don't feel like you can be the hero of your own story. I think every child should feel worthy and feel loved," a tearful Wu told NBC News.

"I want to get to a stage where it's not headline news that this is the first movie in 25 years," agrees Golding. "Let's just tell stories, that's what Hollywood was created for," he told NBC.



Actors Henry Golding (L) and Constance Wu star in "Crazy Rich Asians," a two-hour celebration of fabulous wealth, stunning clothes and idealized love, complete with heroine who has to out-fox her beau's imperious mother and vicious ex-girlfriend. PHOTO: AFP

Ebola: A double nightmare in DR Congo

BENI (Congo) — First came the war, which developed into a brutal, bloody tussle between militias who abused civilians or killed them.

Now Ebola, a name almost as dreaded as death itself, has come. In the Beni region, in the Democratic Republic of Congo's eastern province of Kivu, the twin peril has bred fear and despair. The region is haunted in particular by the Allied Defence Forces (ADF), a Ugandan Islamist rebel group blamed for hundreds of civilian deaths over the past four years. On August 1, Beni declared an outbreak of Ebola epicentered in Mangina — a small town that had been a relative haven from the fighting — where six members of the same family died of the disease.

"I fled here from Kokola, where the ADF were committing atrocities," said Pascaline Fiti-na, a 36-year-old woman, sitting alone, her head in her hands.

"I went to my elder sister, but she has died of Ebola and her husband is being quarantined at the treatment centre. I don't know what to do." Pascal Lukula, a 38-year-old farmer with

five children, said he was stuck in Mangina, unable to get to other members of his family, because of the encroaching militia. "We are caught between the hammer and the anvil," he sighed. "The ADF's on one side, and Ebola on the other."

The Congolese health ministry said Wednesday the death toll in the east had reached 42 out of 66 probable and confirmed cases.

The outbreak — the country's 10th since the disease was discovered in then-Zaire in 1976 — was announced just a week after the end of an Ebola flareup in northwestern Equateur province that claimed 33 lives.

Chlorinated water

Ebola causes serious illness including vomiting, diarrhoea and in some cases internal and external bleeding. It is often fatal if untreated. The disease is caused by a virus that is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads among humans through close contact with the blood, body fluids, secretions or organs of an infected person.

In Mangina, located 30 kilometres (18 miles) southwest of the

city of Beni, suspicion and rumour seem to have spread across the population. Containers of chlorinated water have been installed in front of all shops and in the markets to provide rudimentary hand protection. "I wear gloves to protect me from the epidemic," said Jonas Mumbere, 26, who drives a motorcycle taxi. "Customers have started to think twice about getting on the motorbike for fear of contamination." Elodie Zena, a 28-year-old sex worker, said, "Business has dropped off — customers are afraid. I've heard that even the sweat of someone who is infected can contaminate us. I've got two children and I don't how I can feed them."

Health experts have long fretted about the problems of combating Ebola in the DRC, a vast country that is poor and unstable and shares boundaries with nine countries.

On Tuesday, the World Health Organization (WHO) chief, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, also warned that conflict had helped create "a conducive environment for the transmission" of Ebola.

Hanna Leskinen of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said the grassroots work in combating Ebola lies in locating and treating patients and isolating people who have been in contact with them.

In North Kivu, "people are moving around all the time, fleeing the latest wave of violence," she said. "It enormously complicates search and followup of infected people." Another worry is for the safety of health workers — "the police and army are providing night-and-day security" for them, said North Kivu's governor, Ephrem Kasereka. —AFP ■

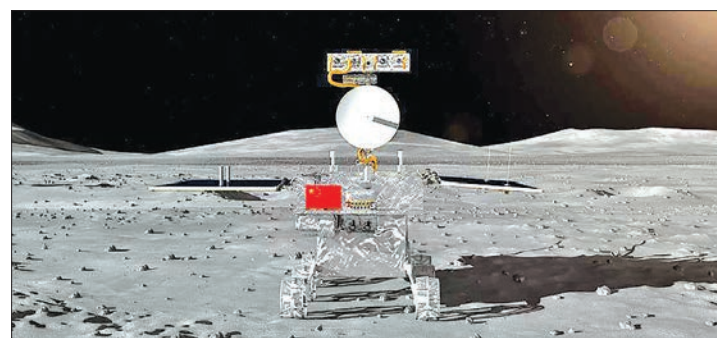


Photo provided by State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense shows the image of the rover for China's Chang'e-4 lunar probe. China's moon lander and rover for the Chang'e-4 lunar probe, which is expected to land on the far side of the moon this year, was unveiled Wednesday. The global public will have a chance to name the rover. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China Focus: China unveils Chang'e-4 rover to explore Moon's far side

BEIJING — China's moon lander and rover for the Chang'e-4 lunar probe, which is expected to land on the far side of the moon this year, was unveiled Wednesday.

Images displayed at Wednesday's press conference showed the rover was a rectangular box with two foldable solar panels and six wheels. It is 1.5 meters long, 1 meter wide and 1.1 meters high.

Wu Weiren, the chief designer of China's lunar probe program, said the Chang'e-4 rover largely kept the shape and conditions of its predecessor, Yutu (Jade Rabbit), China's first lunar rover for the Chang'e-3 lunar probe in 2013.

However, it also has adaptable parts and an adjustable payload configuration to deal with the complex terrain on the far side of the moon, the demand of relay communication, and the actual needs of the scientific objectives, according to space scientists.

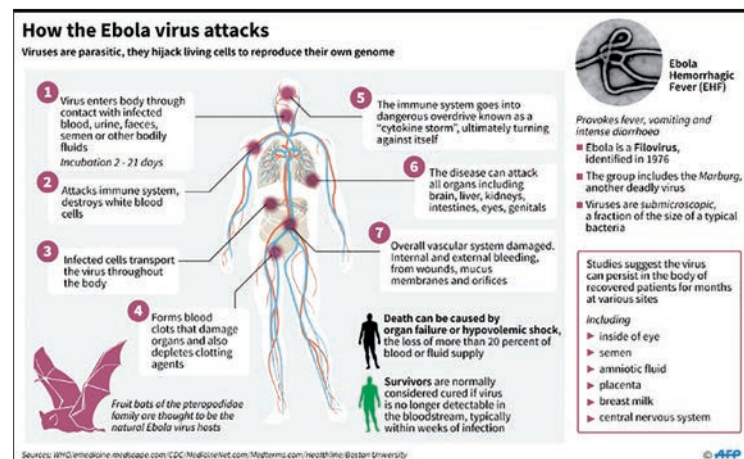
Like Yutu, the rover will be equipped with four scientific payloads, including a panoramic camera, infrared imaging spectrometer and radar measurement devices, to obtain images of moon's surface and detect lunar soil and structure.

It will also endure vacuum, intense radiation and extremes of temperature. The moon has a large temperature difference between day and night, which can reach more than 300 degrees Celsius.

Both the lander and rover will carry international payloads for other countries.

The Chang'e-4 lunar probe will land on the Aitken Basin of the lunar south pole region on the far side of the moon, which is a hot spot for scientific and space exploration.

Direct communication with the far side of the moon, however, is not possible, which is one of the many challenges for the Chang'e-4 lunar probe mission. —Xinhua ■



How the Ebola virus attacks. **PHOTO: AFP**

Kids more susceptible to robots than adults

WASHINGTON — A study published on Wednesday in the journal *Science Robotics* showed that children were more likely to be influenced by robots compared with adults.

The research conducted at the University of Plymouth compared how adults and children responded to an identical task when in the presence of both their peers and humanoid robots.

It showed that adults regularly had their opinions influenced by peers but they were largely able to resist being persuaded by robots.

However, children aged

between seven and nine were more tempting to give the same responses as the robots, even if they were obviously incorrect.

The study used the Asch paradigm, first developed in the 1950s, which asked people to look at a screen showing four lines and decided which two matched in length.

When alone, people almost never made a mistake but when doing the experiment with others, they tend to follow what others were saying.

In the new study, when children were alone in the room, they scored 87 per cent on the test, but when the robots join in their

score drops to 75 per cent.

Among their wrong answers, 74 per cent matched those of the robot, according to the study.

"Adults do not conform to what the robots are saying. But when we did the experiment with children, they did."

It shows children can perhaps have more of an affinity with robots than adults, which does pose the question: what if robots were to suggest, for example, what products to buy or what to think?" said the study leader Tony Belpaeme, professor in robotics from the University of Plymouth and Ghent University. —Xinhua ■



A study shows children were more likely to be influenced by robots compared with adults. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Atletico come back to beat Lopetegui's Real Madrid in Super Cup

TALLINN (Estonia)—Saul Niguez and Koke scored in extra time as Atletico Madrid fought back to beat city rivals Real Madrid 4-2 and win the UEFA Super Cup in Tallinn on Wednesday, as Julen Lopetegui got off to a losing start with the European champions.

Real had earlier looked set to win the trophy in their first competitive game since the departures of Cristiano Ronaldo and coach Zinedine Zidane when a Sergio Ramos penalty put them 2-1 up in the second half.

That came after Karim Benzema cancelled out Diego Costa's first-minute opener in the Estonian capital, but Costa hauled Diego Simeone's side level again late on to force extra time.

Simeone's men then looked stronger in the extra period as



Saul Niguez's brilliant extra-time strike helped Atletico to victory over Real in the Madrid derby Super Cup.

PHOTO: AFP

they won this competition, the annual meeting of the Champions League and Europa League winners, for the third time in

nine seasons.

"I stayed at Atletico because the project is a good one. I have confidence in this club, in the

coach and I saw tonight that I was not mistaken," said Atletico striker Antoine Griezmann who was linked with a move to Bar-

celona in the summer.

Atletico defender Lucas Hernandez added: "To win this trophy is something great but to do it against our eternal rival is even better."

Real had won the trophy under Zidane in each of the last two years, and emerged victorious against their neighbours in the Champions League finals of 2014 and 2016. But this result comes after a close season in which Atletico have strengthened while Real look to have gone backwards, with no replacement signed for Ronaldo after his move to Juventus.

Griezmann starts, Modric on bench

Griezmann started for Atletico at the compact Lillekula Stadium, fresh from helping France to World Cup glory last month.—AFP ■

Injured Fowler to skip US PGA playoff opener, 'will be ready' for Ryder Cup

LOS ANGELES—Rickie Fowler says he'll skip next week's Northern Trust, first event of the US PGA Tour's FedEx Cup playoffs, as he recovers from injury, but vows to be "more than ready" for the Ryder Cup.

"My team and I feel like it's best not to play next week

in the Northern Trust," Fowler wrote in a post on Instagram.

"I will be back healthy and competitive ASAP for the FedEx Cup and more than ready for the Ryder Cup!!!" Fowler was reportedly hampered by an oblique injury last week at Bellerive Country Club, where he started the third round of the PGA Championship two shots off the lead but faded to a tie for 12th. He confirmed the injury in his Instagram post, saying that an MRI exam had shown a partial tear of his right oblique muscle. Fowler said the injury also affected him at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, where he tied for 17th.

Fowler is among eight players who have qualified for the US Ryder Cup team on points, with those places confirmed on Monday after the conclusion of the PGA Championship. US captain Jim Furyk will choose four more players to complete the team to take on Europe at Le Golf National near Paris September 28-30.—AFP ■



Out of action: Rickie Fowler.
PHOTO: AFP

24th Asian Junior, Cadet Table Tennis Championships held in Nay Pyi Taw



The 24th Asian Junior and Cadet 2018 Table Tennis Championships in progress. PHOTO: MNA

THE 24th Asian Junior (U-18) and Cadet (U-15) Table Tennis competitions were held at the Wunna Theikdi Stadium (B) in Nay Pyi Taw Wednesday.

The event was attended by Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein, Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Myo Hlaing and officials, Asian Table Tennis Union tournament in-charge Mr. Afshin Baidee, Chairman of Myanmar Table Tennis Federation U Kyaw Kyaw and officials.

In the U-15 men's cadet competitions, the Chinese team won the championship and the Japanese team obtained the runner-up prize, whereas Hong Kong and Chinese Taipei shared the third prize. The prizes were presented by Asian Table Tennis Union Advisor Mr. Chan.

In the U-15 women's cadet competitions, China won the championship and Korea got the runner-up prize, while Japan and Chinese Taipei shared the third prize. Director-General U Myo Hlaing presented the prizes.

In the U-18 men's junior competitions, the Chinese team won the first prize and the Indian team got the runner-up prize, while Japanese and Iranian teams shared the third prize. The prizes were presented by tournament in-charge Mr. Afshin Baidee.

In the U-18 women's junior competitions, China won the championship, Japan got the runner-up prize, and Korea and Hong Kong shared the third prize. The prizes were presented by Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein.—Myanmar News Agency ■