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Voices of displaced from Rakhine

'I just want to warm myself near a fire in my home: Daw Hnin Nyo, 96

By Min Htet Aung,
Tin Maung Lwin

In Sittway, one of the towns where internally displaced people are being housed, there are about 4,000 people living mostly in Monasteries. They were forced to flee the Maungdaw Region Due to the attacks by the ARSA extremist terrorists.

Tens of thousands more have headed to the Bangladesh border. Officials have compiled statistics and report that between 28 August and 7 September, a total of 4,645 people (1,904 men and 2,741 women) fled Maungdaw for Sittway and are currently taking refuge in 22 monasteries. The following are interviews with IDPs and those in charge of the temporary shelters. The interviews shed some light into the challenges they are facing.

U Thu Mingalar, Sayadaw of Dhamma Rama monastery

"There are 268 people taking refuge in my monastery, and we provide them with three meals a day. The regional government does provide support, but the monastery receives many donations as well. What we really need is more lavatories and a private donor is working with the city de-



U Thu Mingalar, the Sayadaw of Dhamma Rama monastery Photo: Maung Hmwe

velopment committee to fix that problem. We are also trying to send the children here to a nearby school so that their education isn't stalled. I have told the people taking refuge here to return to their homes when the violence has ended and I urge those in office to make this possible as soon as they can."

U Kyaw Hla Htun, Chairman of committee for delivering aid to IDPs

"Currently we are providing cash to the IDPs along with healthcare in collaboration with the Rakhine State Department for Relief and Resettlement.

There are multiple donors helping the shelters and some have helped set up lavatories and some have provided TVs for the displaced people."

U Kyaw Min, in charge of the Rakhine State Department for Relief and Resettlement

"Our department has provided Ks20 million for emergency relief between 27 August and 5 September. Our State Attorney General and the Deputy Administrator of the regional government formed a committee to accept and distribute donations from across the country. The donated items are kept in our warehouses



U San Maung Thein, of Waitharli Village, Maungdaw Township

and the donation money is deposited in a bank account in Myanmar Economic Bank."

Daw Hnin Nyo, 96, of U Daung Village, Maungdaw Township

"I've been here for 10 days now. I want to thank everyone who's helping us through these troubled times. Although I am living here, I'm happier in my home. But since we had to run away due to the terrorist attacks, it isn't really an option. I'm used to warming myself by a small bonfire in the morning, and I miss that. Last year we had to flee our homes too because of these



Daw Hnin Nyo, 96, of U Daung Village, Maungdaw Township

kinds of terrorist attacks. I want to request that they station more soldiers near our homes so that we feel more secure."

U San Maung Thein, Waitharli Village, Maungdaw Township

"The Sayadaw and multiple donors are providing us with our basic necessities so we are well taken care of here. I cannot express my gratitude enough to those who are helping us in our time of need. But there are sleepless nights when I long for my home. Everyone here wants to return home and live peacefully again." ■

IDPs asked to assemble at provisional camps

WITH a view to a systematic and effective distribution of humanitarian aid to displaced people due to the terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) in the Maungdaw region of northern Rakhine State, the region will

be categorised into three areas, it was learnt.

Displaced people who have fled to safer places will be asked to go to the nearest temporary camps in one of the three areas. The region will be categorised into Maungdaw (north), Maung-

taw (middle) and Maungdaw (south).

In the north, temporary assembly camps will be opened at Wai Lar Taung, Hlaing Thi and Taungpyo Letyar. In the middle, two camps will be opened at Dargyisar and Kyauk Hlay

Kar. In the south, camps will be opened at Thinbaw Gway and Thawun Chaung.

In this way, displaced people who are currently spread out will be able to receive humanitarian aid and medical care. Provision of these subsidies will be

launched under the programme of the Red Cross Movement (RCM). Displaced people have been asked to assemble at the nearest camps, according to a news release of the Information Committee.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Myanmar embassy families in China



Speaker U Win Myint meets staff of Myanmar embassy in Beijing. **PHOTO:MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint who was paying a good will visit to China went to Myanmar Embassy in the People's Republic of China yesterday and met

with families of the Myanmar embassy yesterday afternoon.

Earlier in the day, Myanmar Hluttaw representative group led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker

visited Badaling, the most visited section of the Great Wall of China, where officials explained about the site.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Thura U Shwe Mann meets EEAS Managing director Mr. Gunnar Wiegand

Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, Thura U Shwe Mann received European External Action Service (EEAS) Managing director for Asia Pacific Mr. Gunnar Wiegand yesterday afternoon at Hluttaw Affairs Building I-1, Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting matters relating to relation between European Union and Myanmar, assistance to Myanmar, improving the effectiveness of the assistance to Myanmar, Rakhine region development, increasing investment and legal affairs were discussed.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Mr Gunnar Wiegand. **PHOTO:MNA**

Village land records official absconds after being sued

A lawsuit has been filed against Ko Maung Maung, the in-charge for land records in Penwaigone Ywama village-tract, Kyauktaga township, Bago Region, alleging that he demanded bribes in return for changing ownership names and making land contracts.

The plaintiff in the case alleges that the bribes were demanded when he was dividing his land that he wanted to give to his offspring in order to al-

low them to make farming their livelihood.

As a result of the plaintiff's complaint, the Anti-Corruption Commission formed a committee to investigate the case, finding that U La Pyae Wun, also known as U Maung Maung, demanded bribes amounting to Ks1.125 million six times from May 2014 to 30th May 2017 before he would change ownership names on a document known as "Form 7". A lawsuit was filed

against the defendant under section 56 of the anti-corruption law on 8 September at the Bago Region Supreme Court, at which time the defendant absconded, officials said. Arrangements are being made to take action against U Maung Maung (a) U La Pyae Wun under section 56 of 2013 anti-corruption law and section 512 of Penal Code, according to the Anti-Corruption Commission.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint meets H.E. Mr. Yu Zhengsheng, Chairman of CPPCC

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint and Hluttaw affairs committee members who were paying a good will visit to China at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the People's Republic of China met with H.E. Mr. Yu Zhengsheng, Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) yesterday afternoon at a meeting room in Great Hall of the People, Beijing.

Matters relating to increasing friendship and cooperation between the two governments,

the parliaments and the peoples, joint development of China and Myanmar through all round strategic cooperation between the two countries and assisting the Myanmar peace process were discussed and views exchanged. Together with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint at the meeting were Hluttaw affairs committee members Mahn Nyunt Thein, U Than Nyunt, U Khun Than Htoo, Daw Wint War Tun, U Tin Nu @ U Tin Nu Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn, and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with Mr Yu Zhengsheng. **PHOTO:MNA**

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint to attend ASEAN-Japan ministerial level round table talk

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint left by air from Yangon International Airport for the Philippines yesterday morning to attend an ASEAN-Japan ministerial level round table talk that will be held in Seda Vertis North Hotel, Quezon City under the theme "Countering Fake News

and Communicating the Right Information" and was seen off at the airport by officials of the Ministry of Information.

The Union Minister was accompanied by Myanmar Radio and Television director U Zayar.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint is seen at Yangon International Airport as he leaves for the Philippines. **PHOTO:MNA**

State Counsellor receives Hon. Jose de Venecia of Philippines

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received former Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines Hon. Jose de Venecia yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, matters relating to bilateral relations, economic cooperation and bilateral cooperation under the International Association of Parliamen-

tarians for Peace (IAPP) were discussed. The meeting was attended by U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Gina de Venecia, wife of the former Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines and former representative of the House of Representatives of the Philippines, and the Philippines Ambassador to Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talk with former Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines Hon. Jose de Venecia yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin (Right) and Ambassador of China Mr Hong Liang open the Liaison Office. **PHOTO: MNA**

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs attends opening ceremony of Interim Liaison Office of the Embassy of China

THE opening ceremony of the Interim Liaison Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China was held on 8th September 2017 at Grand ACE Villa in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang and concerned officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw Council and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and other invited guests.

At the ceremony, the Min-

ister of State for Foreign Affairs and the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar firstly opened the Interim Liaison Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China by cutting a ceremonial ribbon and splashing aromatic water to the ornamental plate of the Office.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs then delivered opening remarks, followed by the remarks of the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar. The ceremony was concluded with a photo session.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Myanmar Interfaith Group meets IDPs in Sittway, Rakhine State

By Tin Maung Lwin, Min Htet Aung

U Khin Maung Tin, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of the State Counsellor Office and members of the Myanmar Interfaith Friendship Group gave cash assistance to displaced people in Sittway due to the ARSA extremist terrorists' attacks, yesterday morning.

In the morning, the Deputy Minister and party visited

Mani Yadanar and Alotawpyay monasteries in Sittway to pay homage to Sayadaws, donating money contributed by the Myanmar Interfaith Friendship Group to displaced people.

Afterward, the Deputy Minister and party, together with U Aung Kyaw Zan, Rakhine State Minister for Electricity, Industry, Transport and Communications, and U Min Aung, Rakhine State Minister

for Development, met with local people from both communities, discussing concerning terrorist attacks.

After the meeting, the Deputy Minister clarified the matters — situations on present supports over local people's necessities, development tasks such as peace, stability, security and rehabilitation to be carried out further after terrorist attacks. ■

ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting successfully concluded

ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM SOM) was held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ASEM SOM meeting was chaired by Myanmar ASEM Senior Official, U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

At the meeting, ASEM delegations discussed the matters related to the preparation of 13th ASEM Foreign

Ministers' Meeting that will be hosted by Myanmar in November 2017. ASEM Senior Officials' meeting was successfully concluded in the afternoon.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Helicopter makes emergency landing due to severe weather

TATMADAW helicopter with Rakhine State Chief Minister and party on board leaving for Sittwe to support subsidies for displaced people at the rescue camps had to make emergency landing at Kyikanpyin village at 11:30 am yesterday, but it was learnt that provisions were managed to have been sent to those camps.

U Hla Tun Kyaw, local resident at Tat Chaung village, in Maungdaw region said, "In such a time when the weather was severely harsh, provisions were sent to us. For this, we were

greatly rejoiced and we were grateful. Though we earned our living on farming, we were greatly in trouble because of unstable conditions, heavy rains and shortage of the food. Especially, now we greatly need salt, fish paste, cigar and betel leaves and betel nuts. At this time we were very grateful toward the Chief Minister and party for fulfilling our present necessities. As for security matters, we have had people's militia forces in our village, and border guard police forces, so we need not worry about it, apart from the need of

food and clothing."

Chief Minister and party contributed foods and commodities to displaced local people at Tat Chaung village where Mro and Daingnet ethnic people mostly reside and at the village, "Thu Pannaka" where Mro and Rakhine nationals live. Subsidies include rice, cooking oil, salt, bean, chilli, onion, potatoes, drugs, clothing and slippers.

Rakhine State Cabinet and party are delivering foods and other subsidies to local people daily by helicopter.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles,
markangeles@gmail.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSKhin Maung Oo,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Khin Maung Win (Chief Proof Reader),
Zaw Min, zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Sandar Soe
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTERS**May Thet Hnin,
mayreporter.mmm@gmail.com
Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team),
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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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.

A disabled person closes his barbershop in Yangon. The persons with disabilities identification card will also help the PWDs to get more employment opportunities. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Registration of persons with disabilities

PRIORITY will be given to a project on identification of persons with disabilities (PWDs) and it is planned to be implemented only after enacting bylaws for PWDs, said U Myat Thu Win, general secretary of the Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities.

The parliament enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law passed in mid-

2015. The country became a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in late 2011.

According to a report of the Myawady Daily issues on Friday, U Myat Thu Win said registration for the PWDs is important for the disabled persons to ensure their rights and other benefits under the existing laws.

He continued to say that a

national committee led by the vice president will be appeared after passing the bylaws which is expected to come out within a few months, hoping that there will be lots of things benefiting for the PWDs with the help of the rules.

The PWD identification card will also help the PWDs get more employment opportunities than before, he added. — GNLM ■

Eye survey results to be issued this year

The results of a nationwide eye survey will be issued before the end of this fiscal year, according to the Yangon Eye Hospital.

"We conducted the survey across the nation last year. We have surveyed for the kind of eye diseases that mostly occur, percentage of the eye diseases by type and how many patients

with cataracts. The survey was completed and we are starting to calculate with software to make sure the data obtained is correct. We have planned to issue the survey data in November and December," said Professor Dr. Tin Win, a medical superintendent from the Yangon Eye Hospital.

The data from the survey will be used to help calculate the budget for treatment and training projects.

The survey was conducted by local and foreign eye specialists and survey experts, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Health and Sports. — GNLM ■

Underground electricity system to be implemented

TO be able to distribute electricity efficiently in the Yangon region, an underground electricity distribution system project will be implemented, said Daw Nilar Kyaw, the Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation.

"If we can implement the underground electricity pro-

ject, we can solve the blackouts that occur frequently in the Yangon region. Currently, we are distributing electricity above ground through lamp posts. Blackouts are usually caused by broken branches (that fall onto electrical wires).

There are three stages in an electricity system: gen-

erating, transporting and distributing. Among them, we are planning to implement the electricity distributing system from underground.

The underground electricity distributing system will be implemented depending on the budget situation", Daw Nilar Kyaw said. — GNLM ■

Yangon parks to be beautified

THE Yangon City Development Committee is planning to renovate Mingalardon and South Dagon parks this fiscal year, according to a report yesterday in the Myawady Daily.

Yangon boasts more than 60 public parks, 25 of which were restored in FY2013-2014 and 2016-2017 by the Parks and Gardens Department. Yangon Region government allocated Ks1.5 billion to upgrade the parks in FY2017-2018. YCDC will also repair CCTV networks at Innaya Lake in Pyay Road. — GNLM ■

Heroin seized in Bhamo Township

An informant provided authorities a tip that led counter-narcotics officers to arrest Thein Aung, also known as Mar Hsae, yesterday, after they allegedly discovered 2.1 grams of heroin in his house. Police also searched a house owned by Win Myint, also known as Aik Myo, at Malular village, Bhamo Township in Kachin State and found 8.4 grams of heroin in a bottle.

Police have also filed charges against both suspects under Sections 15 and 16(C) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws. — District IPRD ■

Myanmar to showcase natural beauty for tourism expo in Japan

MYANMAR will promote the beauty of Kayah, Chin and Rakhine states and Taninthayi Region at the JATA Tourism Expo in Tokyo, Japan from 21 to 21 September. Among other gifts, Myanmar's states and regions will promote their rich biodiversity as well as a growing number of accommodations and attractions, including traditional dance performances, handcraft sales and other draws for tourists. The expo will also be shown a video featuring Myanmar's landscape and people. — GNLM ■



Women are pictured as they sell dried fish at a market in Sittwe, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Dried fish market cools due to lower demand

THE local dried fish market remains cool because of lower demand from regions and scarcity of the fish, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

"This is rainy season, and we are facing difficulty to dry the fish", said U Soe Win, the owner of Nadi Ayeya, a broker-

age at the Bayintnaung wholesale market.

Currently, a few varieties of dried fish (yellow pike conger, bombay duck and false trevally) enter the Mawlamyine and Pyapon township. The dried fish from Sittway will enter the market in October and November.

"The price of dried fish will

increase when dried fish enters the market from Sittway", said U Soe Win.

Currently, manta rays are selling for Ks8,000 per viss, while false trevally costs between Ks3,000 and Ks3,200 per viss. Yellow pike conger costs between Ks4,000 and Ks4,500 per viss.—GNLM ■

Price of low-quality rice increases

THE price of low-quality rice has increased because of high demand from the Muse 105-mile trade zone, said traders at the Bayintnaung wholesale rice market.

The price of low-quality rice has increased between Ks200 and Ks1,800 per bag during the last week of August. The price of low-quality rice continues to increase because Myanmar is exporting the rice via sea routes, according to rice traders.

"Next month, farmers from

the western part of the Bago region will harvest their paddy fields. At that time, we expect that the rice price will become normal", said U Zaw Khine, a rice merchant.

Although the price of low-quality rice has increased, the market for quality rice is cool. Currently, between 60,000 and 80,000 rice bags entered the Bayintnaung and Wahdon wholesale markets regularly, according to rice merchants.

Currently, Pyapon Pawsan

rice is selling for between Ks32,000 and Ks34,000 per bag, while Dedaye Pawsan and Myaungmya Pawsan rice costs between Ks32,500 and Ks34,000 per bag.

The price of Ehmata Moe costs between Ks19,500 and Ks21,200 per bag, and Ehmata is selling for between Ks19,500 and Ks19,700. Ngwe rice (90days) costs between Ks22,000 and Ks23,000 and Ngwe Ti between Ks21,000 and Ks 21,400, according to the rice market.—Zwe ■

China imports marine products increase

CHINA imported over 1,150 tons of a wide variety of marine products worth US\$2.272 million from Myanmar via the Muse 105-mile trade zone between 19 and 25 August, according to Muse border trade

authorities.

The export volume of fisheries products increased by 442 tons with a value of \$874,000 compared with the previous week.

Neighbouring China, the

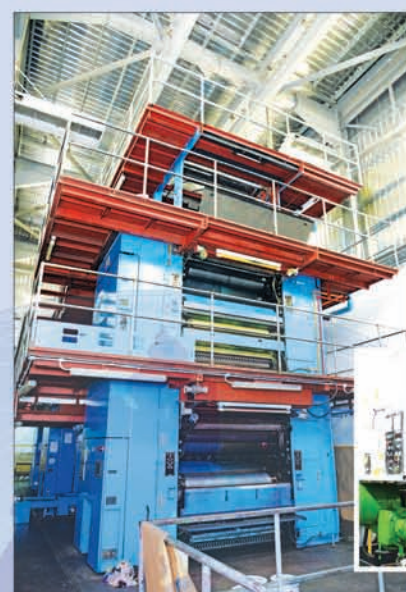
world's most populous nation, significantly increased its import of crab, eel and other kinds of marine products in the third week of last month, domestic exporters say.—Khine Khant ■

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Aid delivered to Islamic community in Maungdaw. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Humanitarian aids provided to displaced people

INTERNATIONAL Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a humanitarian organization based in Maungdaw Township provided aids to displaced people who were in Alethanyaw beach, Maungdaw Township.

20 bags of rice, 8 bags of

beans, 24 cans of cooking oil, 100 boxes of Hygiene Kit, 2 bags of mosquito nets and medicines were presented to the displaced people on 7 September.

The information committee stated that the government will lead the Red Cross Movement

(RCM) for international and local donors to provide effective humanitarian aids to all displaced persons regardless of race and religion in accordance with the humanitarian assistance principles. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Donation of ten trucks to Rakhine State gov't

By Min Htat Aung,
Tin Maung Lwin

A company donated ten trucks to Rakhine State Government yesterday to assist in the government's efforts for delivering aid to the displaced people in northern Maungdaw.

At the donation ceremony held at the office of Rakhine State government, personnel

from MCM company handed over 10 Foton vehicles to Rakhine State government.

Rakhine State Minister for Planning, Finance, Tax and Economy U Kyaw Aye Thein attended the ceremony and accepted the donation.

The trucks will be commissioned into service today to transport aid to Maungdaw.

U Thein Win, an official from

MCM Company said the donation was made to carry foods and utensils for local ethnic people who face difficulties from terrorist attacks in Maungdaw region. Each truck is worth about Ks 15 million he said.

A terrorist group of ARSA attacked police outposts and civilians between 25th August and 4th September, displacing 30,200 residents of Maungdaw ■

Rakhine Issue and Security Outlook talk

Under the arrangement of Myawaddy Media Group, a talk on Rakhine Issue and Security Outlook was held at Mini Theatre Room of the Defence Services Museum in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area yesterday morning.

At the talk, international affairs researcher U Ko Ko Hlaing, head of French Institute of Asian Studies (EFEO) Dr. Jacques P. Leider and two from French Cultural Center discussed under the title of historical backgrounds, Rakhine affairs turning into a battle, comparing the Rakhine area events with international events and how to resolve the problems from the view point

of national security.

The talk was attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Mya Tun Oo, high ranking officers from commander-in-chief office, Nay Pyi Taw command commander, high ranking officers from National Defense College, political researchers, historians, interested personnel in politics, nationalism and Rakhine affairs and media personnel while political researchers and historians also join the discussion. —Myanmar News Agency ■



A talk on Rakhine Issue and Security Outlook being held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

ASEM FMM 13 in Myanmar

MYANMAR will host the two-day 13th Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers' Meetings (ASEM FMM 13) from 20 to 21 November.

To successfully host the ASEM FMM 13, ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEM SOM) was held at the Myanmar International Convention Center-1 (MICC-1) in Nay Pyi Taw for three days from 6 to

8 September. The three-day meeting was attended by representatives from 51 ASEM partners including Myanmar, the European Union (EU), the ASEAN secretariat and Asia-Europe Foundation and discussed matters relating to enabling cooperation in energy, trade, communications and achieving mutual benefit from cooperation. — Mi Mi Hmwe



Journalists return Yangon after Maungdaw trip

INDEPENDENT local and foreign Journalists returned Yangon after visiting Maungdaw, Rakhine State, where ARSA terrorists attacked police outposts and vicilians in October. They departed Sittway by air for Yangon yesterday.

The local and international media group visited and collected news from temporary relief camps in Maungdaw town where displaced persons who fled from terrorist attacks were staying, peaceful and stable places where

no act of terrorism occurs and where Muslims were staying, Mawrawadi Village where ethnic nationals were staying, Alethanyaw Border Post that repulsed the extremist terrorist attack, fire-damaged villages and Myanmar-Bangladesh border fence in Maungdaw. The news media group includes 25 journalists from AP, NHK, BBC, TBS, RFA, EPA, Swiss TV, Al Jazeera, CAN, Mizzima, Myanmar Time, CNB and MDN. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Minor New Zealand parties in focus as hotly contested election gets tighter

WELLINGTON — The rising popularity of New Zealand's Labour Party in hotly contested elections is making it less likely that the nationalist New Zealand First Party will play kingmaker, poll averages released on Friday show.

The uncertainty over which combination of parties will decide the next government is worsening an already topsy-turvy election, previously seen as a slam dunk for the center-right National Party, which has ruled for almost a decade.

Since taking over as leader last month, charismatic politician Jacinda Ardern has almost single-handedly changed the chances of her Labour Party at the Sept. 23 election.

"When I go out and knock on doors...there is a feeling for change, there is," Marama Fox, a leader of the Māori Party, said at a televised debate between leaders of smaller parties, referring to Labour's newfound popularity. Fox's party, which campaigns for the rights of indigenous New Zealanders, could play a crucial role in determining the next government.

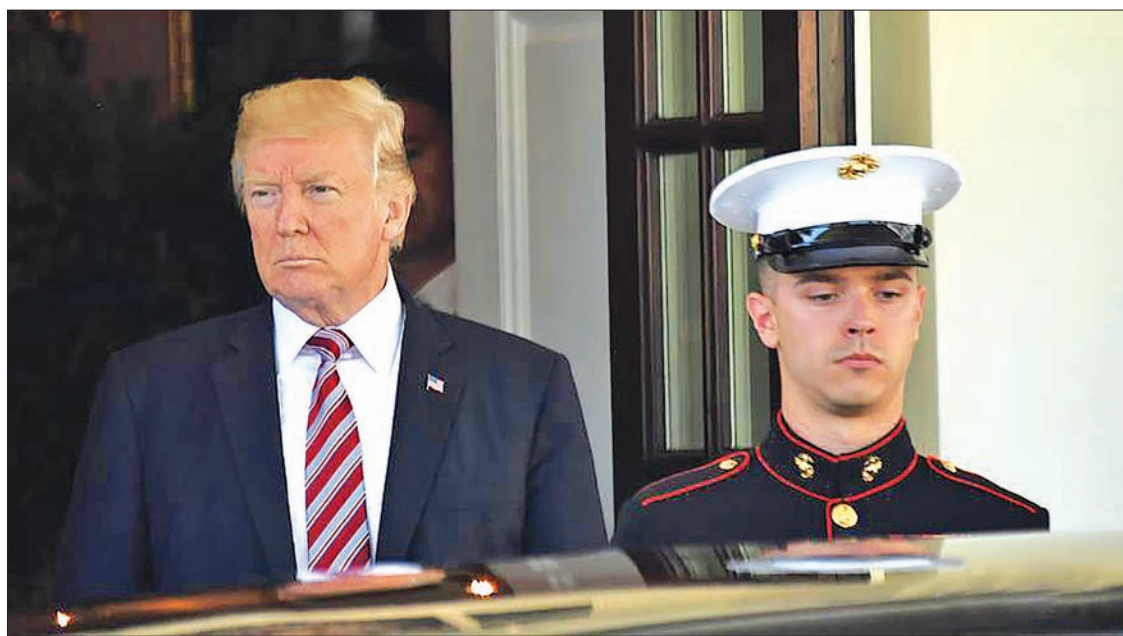
Though it has been in a coalition with National for nine years, Fox said she could work with Labour.

Support for newly invigorated Labour rose to 41.8 percent in opinion polls, nudging above the National Party's 41.1 percent, figures released by media showed. That put the center-left opposition party closer to being able to form a government with the Green Party, polling at around 5.4 percent, and the Māori Party, which posted support of about 1.2 percent.

Alternatively Labour could join forces with New Zealand First, which slipped to 7.9 percent and had previously been thought likely to determine which major party governed.

Green Party leader James Shaw would not rule out a deal with New Zealand First, but expressed reluctance, as the party's outspoken leader would not commit to either National or Labour.

"He's a bad date," Shaw said of Peters' last-minute decision to skip the debate. "He's stood us up tonight... he's completely unreliable and you don't know which way he's going to go." — Reuters ■



US President Donald Trump (L) waits to welcome visiting Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the White House in Washington D.C., the United States, on 7 September 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

Trump says willing to mediate in Qatar diplomatic dispute

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he would be willing to mediate an ongoing dispute between Qatar and other Middle East countries.

"If I can help mediate between Qatar and, in particular, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, I would be willing to do so and I think you'd have a deal worked out very quickly," said Trump here during his joint press conference with visiting Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Sa-

bah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

On 5 June, the Saudi-led quartet severed diplomatic ties with Qatar and imposed a blockade on the rich tiny Gulf nation, citing Doha's support for terrorism and extremism, interference in their internal affairs, and seeking closer ties with Iran. Qatar has strongly denied these charges.

Tensions were renewed last month when Qatar announced it would send back its ambassa-

dor to Iran, a rival for most Gulf nations.

Qatar recalled its envoy in Tehran in early 2016 in a show of solidarity with Saudi Arabia after the attacks on two Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran.

Despite a flurry of diplomatic mediation efforts made by the United States, the European Union, and Kuwait in the past months, the Gulf standoff has shown no signs of abating. — Xinhua ■

UN to deploy security force to guard its base in Libya: envoy



Destroyed and damaged buildings are seen in Sabri, a central Benghazi district, Libya, on 15 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

ROME — The United Nations is preparing to deploy up to 250 peacekeepers to Libya to guard its base in the capital as part of a plan to return its operations to the country, the head of the organization's mission there said on Friday.

Backed by Western governments, the UN is trying to heal a rift between Libya's two rival governments, to tackle growing militant violence and people smuggling from its northern coast.

Envoy Ghassan Salame told Italian newspaper La Stampa that "a little under 250" peacekeepers "can be deployed in the coming weeks".

The mission has been based in Tunis since 2014 but has gradually increased its presence on the ground in Libya and has been planning for months for a fuller return. The military unit would probably consist of around 150

people, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, told a news briefing in Geneva.

Deploying the peacekeepers to the base in Tripoli "will mean that around the beginning of October we can carry out a significant part of our work in Libya," said Salame, who has headed the mission since June.

The rival leaders have pledged to work toward elections in 2018 and a conditional ceasefire in a conflict which broke out after the 2011 ousting of strongman Muammar Gaddafi.

Salame said there were many issues to address to ensure a vote brought lasting change, including writing constitutional and electoral laws.

"We need to be sure everyone accepts the final result," he said. "Let's not forget that presidential elections would be the first ever." — Reuters ■

People's Consideration for Natural Environment

By Maw Lin

WITH the advancement of science and technology, people come to be more and more convinced of how much nature protects human beings from elements of risk and danger. Had we managed to explore and utilize protections given to humans by the nature, these would protect us from unpredictable natural disasters, to some extent. These natural gifts include inter alia, mangroves.

Mangroves are learnt to remarkably reduce heights and impacts of tides and storms approaching coastal areas from the sea. The Nargis Storm had proved how much great the destructive

forces of storms and tides were. Yet, we have found that villages surrounded by mangroves withstood the impact of such an extremely great storm. These mangroves not only protect human beings from dangers of storms, but also they make marine creatures grow in number for the survival of villagers. And, these mangroves help the conservation of the soil by which villages are situated. Simultaneously they protect bank erosions as well. Moreover, mangroves surrounding coasts can hinder or reduce moving inland of saltwater intrusion.

According to the findings by professional surveyors, there were over 0.6 million acreage of mangroves in the

year—1942 in Myanmar, but there were only 12 percent of that amount left in 1995, it was learnt. It is really frightening to hear that we are losing such amounts of mangroves that are of great value for us. Excessive utilization of cut mangroves as firewood and char-coal, extension of farming acreages for reclamation by cutting mangroves and building ponds for breeding fish and prawns are the causes of destruction of mangroves.

The State Government is performing the tasks of protection, conservation and extension of mangroves, with the assistance of civil societies from home and abroad. In doing so, we are definitely required to get technical

and financial aids. Yet, it is assumed that we still fail to pay attention to the matter which is fundamentally more important than others, to the extent we should amend. That is none other than the matter of educating the usefulness of mangroves to all the citizens including villagers since their younger ages. World histories prove that enthusiastic and active participation of the people can create epoch-making events. Accordingly, we deeply urge for all the national forces including the State Government to make concerted efforts to create people's consideration for natural environment.

(Translated by Khin Maung Oo)

DIY Powerwalls and power plant houses: the best green innovations of the week

As a flood of warnings arrive during World Water Week, edie rounds up the latest low-carbon technologies and innovations that could help to accelerate the global shift towards a prosperous low-carbon future.

The floods in Houston and across South Asia serve to highlight the growing impact that climate change is having on the planet. New research released from CDP notes that these types of weather events could become the norm, with 103 cities now at “serious risk” from flooding.

If these events highlight the need to combat climate change then the renewables revolution will play a big role in the battle. A new report found that the Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) windfarm off the Fife coast could be worth more than £800m to the Scottish economy, while industrial automation specialist ABB will provide a 2MW battery storage system to support the use of renewable energy at the 90MW Burbo Bank offshore windfarm near Liverpool.

In fact, it's been a relatively positive week for the UK green economy. The green finance market has been buoyed by news that British energy company SSE has issued the biggest ever green bond by a UK company.

All that new finance will be ploughed into green technologies, and with all of that in mind, edie has once again pulled the best innovation stories of the week into this neat and tidy little green package for you to enjoy.

Carbon's circle of life

Carbon productivity, or reuse, is

growing in popularity and is considered an under-explored market for the circular economy. Now, British firm Eonic Technologies has unveiled a new method to convert carbon for use in a polyol market estimated to be worth £15bn.

Polyols, a key building block of polyurethane plastic, is commonly used as a component in cars, bedding, furniture, footwear and numerous other household and industrial products. Thanks to Eonic's new tunable catalyst, these products could be made from an abundant source of carbon.

The technology could save more than 3.5 million tonnes of CO₂ annually, and this number can be dialled up or down depending on performance requirements of each product. Manufacturers now have a way to use their own carbon emissions as a raw material and reduce the use of oil-based inputs, further reducing emissions.

Orange is the new Black Birch



Around 20 years ago Costa Rica's Área de Conservación Guanacaste national park struck a deal with orange juice manufacturer Del Oro to dump 12,000 metric tonnes of orange peel and pulp on the park.

Now a new study published in



The deal sees Dulas supply 25 solar-powered vaccine refrigerators to health workers and first-hand training of cold chain storage use in Myanmar

the journal Restoration Ecology has uncovered the unexpected benefits of the deal, which was made under the condition that Del Oro would donate part of their own forested land to the national park.

The barren part of the park where the oranges were dumped has transformed into a dense woodland. The research team found that the orange peel had enriched soil nutrients, and the now-fertilized land could offer a greater variety of tree species. It is hoped that the learnings could be applied to create partnerships that used food waste to boost soil productivity.

The town that dreaded sundown

The town of Neath in Wales is currently acting as the “Frankenstein's monster” for a 21st Century exploration on the limits of electricity and power; although for entirely positive reasons. A new trial will see 16 homes in the area act as “power stations” to test whether buildings can replace local power plants.

As part of a programme between the UK energy innovation specialists at Swansea University, Specific, and social housing group Pobl, a number of two and three-bedroom houses and one-bedroom apartments will be fitted

to benefit from solar roofs and battery storage.

Solar energy generated from roofs can be stored in battery systems and even used to charge electric vehicles. Each building will be fitted with perforated steel skin to create natural heating. If successful, the pilot could be rolled-out to build another 1,200 homes in the Swansea Bay area.

Sunstroked cures for Myanmar's health ambitions

While Neath residents are exploring the advanced uses of solar technology, the Myanmar Ministry of Health is using solar power for more basic human needs. British solar refrigeration manufacturer Dulas is carrying out a training programme for Myanmar technicians to bring them up to speed with using solar devices to keep vaccines at the right temperature.

With the country's Ministry of Health aiming to achieve 100% immunisation nationally, Dulas has offered a supply package for the World Health Organisation (WHO). The deal sees Dulas supply 25 solar-powered vaccine refrigerators to health workers and first-hand training of cold chain storage use.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 21/2017

3rd Waning of Tawthalin, 1379 ME
(8 September 2017)

Political party permitted to register

It is hereby announced that Public of Labour Party headquartered at No. 1148, Set Hmu Leiyar Road, Ward No. 45 in Dagon Myo Thit (North) Township, Yangon Region, has been permitted to register as a political party in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 8 September 2017.
The registration number of Public of Labour Party is 104.

By order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 22/2017

3rd Waning of Tawthalin, 1379 ME
(8 September 2017)

Political party permitted to register

It is hereby announced that Kayah State Democratic Party headquartered at No.47, Haw Gyi Road, Mingalar Ward in Loikaw Town, Kayah State, has been permitted to register as a political party in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 8 September 2017.
The registration number of Kayah State Democratic Party is 105.

By order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification (23/2017)

3rd Waning of Tawthalin, 1379 ME
(8 September, 2017)

Revoking the registration of political party and abolishing the party

1. Union Election Commission had given the permission to the All Nationalities Democracy Party (Kayah State) to be registered as political party with Registration No.(64) by the notification No. (19/2013) of 1.8.2013 and to the Kayah Nationals Democracy Party with registration No. (65) by the notification No. (23/2013) of 9.8.2013.
2. As All Nationalities Democracy Party (Kayah State) and Kayah Nationals Democracy Party applied to form a Kayah State Democratic Party by merging the above-mentioned two parties so as to be able to carry out party works together, the commission after doing necessary scrutiny gave permission to be registered as Kayah State Democratic Party with Registration No. (105) by the notification (22/2017) of 8.9.2017. On account of the registration of the new party, the registration as political party of All Nationalities Democracy Party (Kayah State) and Kayah Nationals Democracy Party has been revoked and those two parties shall be abolished according to Political Parties Registration Rules 25 and Order (1/2013) of the Union Election Commission. All the assets owned by the two respective parties shall be transferred to the asset list of Kayah State Democratic Party.
3. Therefore, it is hereby announced that the registration as political party of All Nationalities Democracy Party (Kayah) and Kayah Nationals Democracy Party has been revoked starting from 8 September 2017 and those parties have been abolished.

By order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

13 terrorism suspects arrested in Maungtaw, Rakhine State

While performing security operations in the area on Thursday, 13 people were arrested on suspicion of involvement in the recent acts of terrorism in north Rakhine State, according to a government information committee.

Eleven people were arrested, including Marmauk Annawar, son of Sulayman, who was allegedly involved in the terrorist attack on Doetan village on the afternoon of 3 September. They were taken to the police station and charged under the anti-terrorism law, officials said.

Similarly, security forces arrested two other men on Thursday who were allegedly involved in the 6 September terrorist attack near Zinpaingnyar village, including Mamed Arrid, son of Larmyar, of Italia village. Legal action will also be taken against them under the anti-terrorism law.

Authorities are also searching for those responsible for the destruction of some 30 homes by fire at noon on September 7 at Gorduthara (east) village.

Extremists from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), which has been de-



Photo: Information Committee of the Government

scribed as a terrorist group, allegedly burnt down five houses in Kyein Chaung village (north) in Maungtaw township at 7:15 pm on 7 September.

Thursday's arrests bring the total number of arrested ARSA members who are suspected of involvement in the recent attacks in northern Rakhine State to 50. Two were arrested on 25 August, two on

29 August, four on 30 August, seven on 31 August, one on 2 September, 12 on 3 September, three on 5 September, six on 6 September and 13 on 7 September. The government Information Committee released a statement stating that the suspects are being investigated in accord with the law at the respective police stations.— Myanmar News Agency

DIY Powerwalls and power plant houses: the best green innovations of the week

FROM PAGE-8

As the country consists of numerous remote locations, solutions for keeping cold chain powered needs to be off-grid, hence the use of solar energy to keep the vaccines at optimum temperatures. In total, Myanmar has invested more than \$156m in vaccination programmes since 2001.

Powerwall's power to all

Tesla Powerwalls may have revolutionised how homeowners interact with energy, but they do come at a cost. However, new forums that show people how to create their own energy storage systems from scratch could open the storage market to the masses.

Videos across Facebook, YouTube and in forums are providing step-by-step learning

guides on how to create energy storage systems safely, and for much less than commercial systems. So far, several users have created systems that can even store more energy than a Tesla version.

The users recommend using 18650 lithium-ion batteries in most projects, and can be found in electronic devices like laptops or purchased from computer stores for less than £10. If these batteries are obtained second-hand from old, but high-performing laptops, the cost of the project could help consumers save thousands of pounds.

California remains in the loop for futuristic travel

Speaking of Tesla, it appears that founder Elon Musk's vision of high-speed travel is one step

closer to reality. Musk has championed the Hyperloop project, an underground, supersonic train that is able to reach speeds of 700mph, for some time.

Earlier this week, the City Council in Hawthorne, California approved an application for Musk's Boring Company to begin construction on a two-mile-long underground testing tube for the train, which will be located 44 feet below Musk's SpaceX headquarters.

In fact, SpaceX's senior director of facilities and construction Brett Horton has confirmed that residents near the area won't notice construction or testing. However, the Boring Company still need a variety of permits before they can actually start digging the tunnel for testing.—Matt Mace(edie newsroom) ■

Macron hurls challenge to Europe — reform or decline

ATHENS — Europe risks subjugation to China and the United States unless it becomes more sovereign and democratic, French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday in a speech underlining the scale of his ambition to reform the European Union. In a speech delivered symbolically on the Athens hill where ancient Greeks gave birth to democracy a few thousand years ago, Macron, a fervent europhile, said the continent would face its demise without a radical overhaul of its governance. “In order not to be ruled by bigger powers such as the Chinese and the Americans, I believe in a European sovereignty that allows us to defend ourselves and exist,” Macron said at the top of the hill of Pnyx, with the spectacular backdrop of the Parthenon temple in the sunset.

“Are you afraid of this European ambition?” Elected four months ago, the 39-year-old leader wants a giant leap in European cooperation which, at the economic level, would see the creation of a euro zone budget, finance minister and parliament.

Macron said more democratic institutions would help



President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech atop the Pnyx Hill as the Acropolis hill with the ancient Parthenon temple is seen in the background in Athens, Greece, on 7 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

respond to a populist wave which has seen the rise of far-right leaders such as Marine Le Pen, whom he defeated in May, and helped fuel the successful Brexit campaign which led to Britain's vote to leave the EU. He said he would unveil a “road map” for the EU in a few weeks, after Germany's 24 September election, and wanted European leaders

to agree before the end of the year to launch public debates in the first half of 2018 during which citizens will be able to discuss their vision for the bloc.

“I don't want a new European treaty discussed behind closed doors, in the corridors of Brussels, Berlin or Paris,” Macron said. These debates — so-called ‘democratic conventions’,

which he proposed during his French presidential campaign — would help lay the foundations of Europe for the next 10 to 15 years.

Macron also said he backed the idea of giving Britain's 78 seats in the European Parliament to pan-EU representatives elected by all of the EU's citizens after Brexit.—Reuters ■

FBI chief sees no evidence of White House interference in Russia probe

WASHINGTON — FBI Director Christopher Wray said on Thursday he has “not detected any whiff of interference” by the White House into the ongoing investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

Speaking publicly for the first time since being confirmed as head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Wray also expressed confidence in Robert Mueller, the special counsel investigating whether President Donald Trump's campaign colluded with Russia during the election.

“I can say very confident-

ly that I have not detected any whiff of interference with that investigation,” Wray said during a panel discussion at the Intelligence and National Security Summit in Washington. Wray was installed as FBI director after his predecessor, James Comey, was fired by Trump in May. In an interview with NBC after Comey's removal, Trump admitted he was thinking about “this Russia thing” when he decided to fire the then-FBI chief.

Comey later told Congress he believed Trump had tried to get him to drop an FBI probe into former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, as part

of the broader Russia investigation — testimony that has raised questions about whether Trump was potentially trying to obstruct justice. The White House has repeatedly denied the Trump campaign colluded with Russia in the election.

Trump's advisers and allies also have questioned Mueller's independence and credibility, with some pointing out that he has hired attorneys who have given political donations to Democrats. But Wray said he has “enormous respect” for Mueller, who is also a former FBI director. He stressed that Mueller is running the probe but said the FBI

is assisting by dedicating agents and providing other support to the investigation.

Wray also reiterated his confidence in a January report compiled by US intelligence agencies which concluded that Russia had interfered in the 2016 election and tried to tilt it in Trump's favour - a finding Trump has often questioned.

Prior to his confirmation as FBI director, Wray had only read a non-classified version of the report. “I have no reason to doubt the conclusions that the hard-working people who put that together came to,” Wray said.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

India bars ‘unruly’ passengers from flying for three months to over two years

NEW DELHI — India has issued new norms barring unruly passengers from flying for a minimum of three months to more than two years depending on the nature of the misdemeanour, the government said on Friday.

The federal government has issued a no-fly list of unruly passengers after a lawmaker admitted assaulting an official from state-owned carrier Air India. The new rules will be applicable to foreign carriers as well, the government said in a statement, adding that unruly behaviour has been categorised in three levels - verbal, physical and life threatening.—Reuters ■

South Korea finds traces of radioactive gas, ‘can't yet link it’ to nuclear test

SEOUL — South Korean nuclear experts, checking for contamination after North Korea's sixth and largest nuclear test, said on Friday they have found minute traces of radioactive xenon gas but that it was too early to specify its source.

The Nuclear Safety and Security Commission (NSSC) said it had been conducting tests on land, air and water samples since shortly after North Korea's nuclear test on Sunday.—Reuters ■

Philippine military says terrorist leaders' 5 brothers dead in Marawi city fighting

MANILA — The Philippine military said on Friday they believe five other Maute brothers are dead besides one of the leaders, Abdullah Maute, was reportedly dead earlier, leaving only Omar Maute directing the fight in Marawi City on Mindanao island. The fighting between the Philippine government and Islamist extremist Maute Group under the leadership of two Maute brothers, who have pledged to IS, has left 653 terrorists and 145 soldiers killed to date since its beginning on 23 May.—Xinhua ■

Pope Francis to bless Colombia's war victims

VILLAVICENCIO/BOGOTA, (Colombia) — Thousands of victims of Colombia's five-decade war will seek blessings, guidance and a path to forgiveness from Pope Francis on Friday, during his visit to a region that for years has been known as an epicentre of violence.

The Argentine pope has received a rapturous welcome in Colombia, a majority Roman Catholic nation, bringing with him a message of peace and unity as he seeks to strengthen faith and heal the scars of civil war.

In the city of Villavicencio, Francis will hold a prayer

meeting with 6,000 survivors of a brutal conflict that has left millions scarred by kidnappings, massacres, rape, land mines and displacement.

He will also bless the Cross of Reconciliation, a plain white memorial to the victims, and hear personal testimonies of those who have suffered.

"There has been too much hatred and vengeance. The solitude of always being at loggerheads has been familiar for decades, and its smell has lingered for a hundred years," the leader of the world's 1.2 billion Roman Catholics said on Thursday.

"We do not want any type of violence whatsoever to restrict or destroy one more life," added the pontiff, who delayed visiting Colombia until a peace deal between the government and Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels was in effect.

Colombians have suffered from war between right-wing paramilitaries, Marxist rebels, and government forces since 1964. More than 220,000 have been killed and millions more displaced as the war spilled into towns and rural communities. — Reuters ■



Pope Francis waves to the crowd while arriving for a holy mass at Simon Bolivar park in Bogota, Colombia, on 7 September 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Lebanese army to deploy along entire eastern border, army chief says



Army Commander General Joseph Aoun attends the official funeral ceremony for the Lebanese soldiers who were killed in Islamic State captivity at the Ministry of Defense in Yarze village, east of Beirut, Lebanon, on 8 September 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIRUT — Lebanon's army will deploy along the country's entire eastern border with Syria and remain stationed there after recently recapturing areas from Islamic State militants, army chief General Joseph Aoun said on Friday.

The remarks appeared to confirm comments by the Lebanese Shi'ite group Hezbollah that it was handing over points it had controlled along the border to the military.

"The army will deploy from now onwards along the extent of the eastern borders, to defend them," Aoun said at a ceremony commemorating Lebanese soldiers killed by Islamic State.

An army offensive last month ended with the militants withdrawing from their last foothold along the border under a ceasefire deal. The Syrian army and Hezbollah fought the jihadists separately on the Syrian side.

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said in July it would be ready to hand over territory it captured if the Lebanese army requested it.

Hezbollah led a campaign in the same area that month to oust the Nusra Front jihadist group from their last foothold along the border.

Security sources said Hezbollah had begun handing over

points it controlled.

Iran-backed Hezbollah has played a critical role in vanquishing Sunni Muslim jihadists in the border region during the six-year-long Syrian war, part of its military support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The group, an ally of Lebanese President Michel Aoun, was key to the defeat of militants in the Qalamoun area further south in 2015, and at the Syrian town of Qusair, in 2013.

Lebanon's southern border with Israel, a Hezbollah foe, is patrolled by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. —Reuters ■

Three vehicles torched in long-running South African taxi war

JOHANNESBURG — One Uber vehicle and two other taxis were torched in South Africa's main business district on Thursday night in a feud over fares, but no one was injured, Uber and police said on Friday.

The vehicles were set alight in the wealthy Sandton district near the Gautrain station, a popular pick-up point for taxis where previous attacks on Uber vehicles have taken place. It was not clear who torched the vehicles.

Uber [UBER.UL] drivers around the world have faced threats and protests from regular taxi operators, who say cheap fares from Uber drivers are forcing them out of business.

"All the drivers of the cars escaped unharmed. It is suspected that the incident is related to the ongoing fight between the metered taxis and

the Ubers," police spokesman Captain Mavela Masondo said.

A fourth car had its back window smashed in, he said.

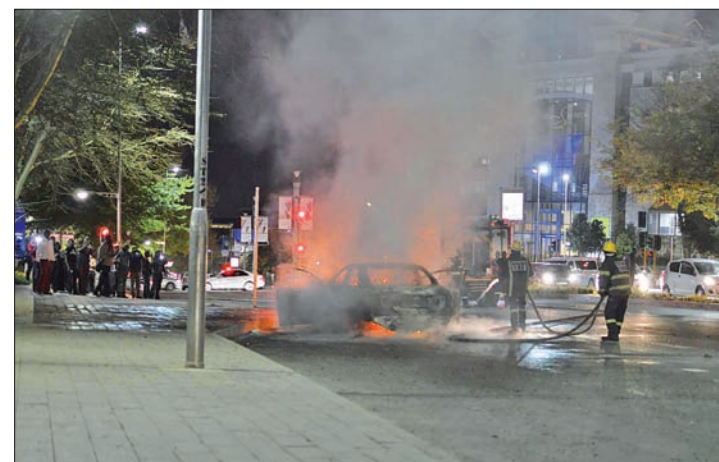
On Friday, police officers patrolled the street outside the Gautrain station, which is opposite the Reuters offices.

Samantha Allenberg, Uber's communications head for Africa, said only one of the torched vehicles belonged to Uber.

One of the torched vehicles was likely from a different ride-hailing service, Allenberg said.

"We really need the government to do more here. The violence and intimidation is simply unacceptable," she said.

Uber has met the minister of transport and law enforcement agencies several times over similar incidents, she said. —Reuters ■



Firefighters extinguish a car that police said was set on fire during a confrontation between Uber and meter taxi drivers in Sandton, South Africa, on 7 September 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

At least 32 die after massive quake off southern Mexico

MEXICO CITY — At least 32 people were killed after a massive 8.1 magnitude earthquake, one of the biggest recorded in Mexico, struck off the country's southern coast late on Thursday, causing cracks in buildings and triggering a small tsunami, authorities said.

The quake was apparently stronger than a devastating 1985 temblor that flattened swathes of Mexico City and killed thousands, but this time, damage to the city was limited.

A number of buildings suffered severe damage in parts of southern Mexico. Some of the worst initial reports came from the town of Juchitan in Oaxaca state, where sections of the town hall, a hotel, a bar and other buildings were reduced to rubble.

Alejandro Murat, the state governor, said 23 deaths were registered in Oaxaca, 17 of them in Juchitan.

A spokesman for emergency services said seven people were also confirmed dead in the neighbouring state of Chiapas. Earlier, the governor of Tabasco, Arturo Nunez, said two children had died in his state.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) said the 8.1 magnitude quake had its epicentre in the Pacific Ocean, 54 miles (87 km) southwest of the town of Pijjia-



Patients and family members are seen outside the Institute for Social Security and Services for State Workers (ISSSTE) after an earthquake struck off the southern coast of Mexico late on Thursday, in Puebla, Mexico, on 8 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

pan in the impoverished southern state of Chiapas, at a depth of 43 miles. Rescue workers laboured through the night in badly affected areas to check for people trapped in collapsed buildings.

Windows were shattered at Mexico City airport and power went out in several neighbourhoods of the capital, affecting more than one million people. The cornice of a hotel came down in the southern tourist city of Oaxaca, a witness said.

The tremor was felt as far

away as neighbouring Guatemala. The quake triggered waves as high as 2.3 ft (0.7 m) in Mexico, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said. Mexican television showed images of the sea retreating about 50 meters, and authorities evacuated some coastal areas.

President Enrique Pena Nieto said the tsunami risk on the Chiapas coast was not major.

"We are alert," he told local television. More aftershocks were likely, the president said, advising people to check their

homes and offices for structural damage and for gas leaks. The USGS reported multiple aftershocks, ranging in magnitude from 4.3 to 5.7. Classes were suspended in most of central and southern Mexico on Friday to allow authorities to review damage.

There was no tsunami threat for American Samoa and Hawaii, according to the US Tsunami Warning System. The national disaster agency of the Philippines put the country's eastern seaboard on alert, but no evacuation

was ordered.

People in Mexico City, one of the world's largest cities, ran out into the streets in pajamas and alarms sounded after the quake struck just before midnight, a Reuters witness said.

Helicopters buzzed overhead a few minutes later, apparently looking for damage to buildings in the city, which is built on a spongy, drained lake bed.

"I had never been anywhere where the earth moved so much. At first I laughed, but when the lights went out, I didn't know what to do," said Luis Carlos Briceno, an architect, 31, who was visiting Mexico City. "I nearly fell over."

In one central neighbourhood, dozens of people stood outside after the quake, some wrapped in blankets against the cool night air. Children were crying. Liliana Villa, 35, who was in her apartment when the quake struck, fled to the street in her nightclothes. "It felt horrible, and I thought, 'this (building) is going to fall.'" State oil company Pemex said it was still checking for damage at its installations.

Pena Nieto said operations at the Salina Cruz refinery in the same region as the epicentre were temporarily suspended as a precautionary measure.—Reuters ■

Most South Koreans don't expect war with North, poll shows, as Trump highlights military option

SEOUL/WASHINGTON — Most South Koreans doubt that North Korea will start a war, a survey showed on Friday, just days after the North's largest nuclear test, as President Donald Trump again highlighted the possibility of a U.S. military response.

Tension on the Korean peninsula has escalated as North Korea's young leader, Kim Jong Un, has stepped up the development of weapons in defiance of UN sanctions, testing a string of missiles this year, including one flying over Japan, and conducting its sixth nuclear test on Sunday.

Experts believe the isolated regime is close to its goal of developing a powerful nuclear weapon capable of reaching the United States, something Trump has vowed to prevent.

Still, a Gallup Korea survey showed South Koreans were considerably less concerned

about war compared with June 2007, nine months after North Korea conducted its first nuclear test, in September 2006.

The survey found that 58 per cent of those questioned felt there was no possibility North Korea would cause a war, while only 37 per cent thought it could.

In 2007, 51 per cent of respondents said they expected a war, while 45 per cent did not.

Trump has repeatedly said all options are on the table in dealing with North Korea and on Thursday said he would prefer not to use military action, but if he did, it would be a "very sad day" for North Korea.

"Military action would certainly be an option. Is it inevitable? Nothing is inevitable," Trump told reporters. "If we do use it on North Korea, it will be a very sad day for North Korea."

Even as Trump has insisted that now is not the time to

talk, senior members of his administration have made clear that the door to a diplomatic solution is open, especially given the US assessment that any pre-emptive strike would unleash massive North Korean retaliation.

North Korea says it needs its weapons to protect itself from US aggression and regularly threatens to destroy the United States.

South Korea and the United States are technically still at war with North Korea after the 1950-53 Korean conflict ended with a truce, not a peace treaty.

The USS Ronald Reagan, a nuclear-powered carrier, left its home port in Japan for a routine autumn patrol of the Western Pacific, a Navy spokeswoman said. That area included waters between Japan and the Korean peninsula, she added, without giving any further details. —Reuters ■

China sends supervisors to provinces for water pollution control

BEIJING — The Ministry of Environmental Protection said Friday it will dispatch supervisors to nine provincial regions this month to push for the fulfillment of annual water pollution control targets.

The regions, namely Liaoning, Heilongjiang, Anhui, Jiangxi, Hubei, Hunan, Guizhou, Yunnan and Ningxia, have seen relatively slow progress in implementing the Action Plan for Water Pollution Prevention and Control, according to a ministry statement.

Regions along the Yangtze River will be a focus of supervision, which will last for a month, the statement said. More than 70 per cent of the water in seven major river valleys, including the Yangtze and Yellow rivers, should have relatively good quality of between Grade I and Grade III by 2020, according to the plan.

In the first half of this year, the nation's water quality improved overall, but improvement varied among regions, with some having difficulty in meeting their annual targets, according to earlier information from the ministry.

The supervisors will focus on such areas as the elimination of "dark and odorous water" in major cities, construction of sewage disposal facilities, and pollution control at coastal ports and wharves. If serious problems are found, local officials could be summoned for talks while local project approvals could be restricted, the ministry said. Last year, 67.8 per cent of monitored surface water areas were ranked from Grade I to Grade III, according to the ministry. The share was slightly higher than 66 per cent for 2015 and exceeded a target of 66.5 per cent for 2016.—Xinhua ■

Irma powers towards Florida, leaving behind path of death, destruction

PROVIDENCIALES, (Turks and Caicos) — Hurricane Irma, one of the most powerful Atlantic storms in a century, drove towards Florida on Friday after lashing the Caribbean with devastating winds and torrential rain, killing 19 people and leaving a swathe of catastrophic destruction.

Irma was about 450 miles (724 km) southeast of Miami, Florida, early Friday after saturating the northern coasts of the Dominican Republic and Haiti and pummeling the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The “extremely dangerous” hurricane was downgraded from a Category 5 to a Category 4 early Friday but still packed winds as strong as 150 miles per hour (240 km per hour), the National Hurricane Center (NHC) said in an advisory at 8 am EDT (noon GMT).

Irma hit the Bahamas on Friday, where it was



View of the aftermath of Hurricane Irma on Sint Maarten Dutch part of Saint Martin island in the Caribbean, on 7 September. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

forecast to bring 20-foot (six-meter) storm surges before moving to Cuba and then slamming into southern Florida on Sunday.

In Miami, hundreds lined up for bottled water and cars looped around city blocks to buy gas on Thursday. Shortages in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale

metropolitan area worsened on Thursday, with sales up to five times the norm.

In Palm Beach, the waterfront Mar-a-Lago estate owned by US President Donald Trump was ordered evacuated, media reported. Trump also owns property on the

French side of St. Martin, an island devastated by the storm.

A mandatory evacuation on Georgia's Atlantic coast was due to begin on Saturday, Governor Nathan Deal said. The storm comes two weeks after Hurricane Harvey struck Texas, claiming around 60

lives and causing property damage estimated at as much as \$180 billion in Texas and Louisiana.

Irma ravaged a series of small islands in the northeast Caribbean, including Barbuda, St. Martin and the British and US Virgin Islands, flattening homes and hospitals and ripping down trees.

A Reuters witness described the roof and walls of a solidly built house shaking hard as the storm rocked the island of Providenciales and caused a drop in pressure that could be felt in people's chests.

Throughout the islands in Irma's wake, stunned locals tried to comprehend the devastation as they were getting ready for another major hurricane, Jose, a Category 3 due to reach the northeastern Caribbean on Saturday. —Reuters ■

Japan's Tepco says Fukushima plant worker exposed to small radiation dose

TOKYO — A worker dismantling tanks at Japan's wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant was found to have been exposed to a small amount of radiation during a routine safety check on Friday, plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co (Tepco) said.

Radiation was detected in nasal cavities of the worker, an unidentified man in his 30s, a Tepco spokesman said on Friday. The company estimated the amount of radiation at up to 0.010 millisieverts — less than a typical chest X-ray of 0.05 millisieverts — and said it did not pose an immediate health risk. Reported radiation exposure incidents have been rare during work to clean up the plant, devastated by the 11 March, 2011 magnitude 9 earthquake and tsunami that left nearly 16,000 people confirmed dead, with more than 2,000 officially unaccounted for. —Reuters ■

Latest polls see Merkel's lead increasing in German election

BERLIN — According to poll released on Thursday by survey institute Infratest dimap, support for the German Social Democrats (SPD) dropped by two percentage points to 21 per cent, compared to last week.

Support for Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Christian Social Union (CSU) held steady at 37 per cent.

The Left party (Linke) and Free Democratic Party (FDP) were the only parties to gain support, rising to 10 per cent (Linke) and 9 per cent (FDP). The right-wing populist Alternative for Germany (AfD) continues to be third strongest party with 11 per cent and the Green party (Grüne) stagnated at eight per cent.

Concerning the candidate for chancellorship, Merkel is seen as

the stronger leader by a comfortable 75 per cent of respondents in this week's survey. Although she is also seen as more competent by 63 per cent, and more credible by 52 per cent, her ratings have slightly fallen since July's survey. A majority of all Germans would now choose Merkel over Schulz as chancellor. The share of those polled who favored the CDU-leader surged by five percentage points to 54 per cent compared to the 31 August survey by Infratest dimap.

Support for an EU membership of Turkey fell to a historical low of 12 per cent. Of 1,003 people interviewed, 84 per cent think that Turkey should not be part of the EU as a “matter of principle” and 88 per cent said that the German government should take a firmer stance on Turkey. —Xinhua ■

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV VINALINES OCEAN VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.9.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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3	Jintong (1) Mosquito Coil	d-Transallethrin 0.3	Provisional	P2017-3923
4	Jintong (2) Mosquito Coil	Meperfluthrin 0.04%	Provisional	P2017-3924

7 Star Agro Power Co., Ltd

‘Borg/McEnroe’ rivalry movie kicks off Toronto festival

TORONTO — A tale of real-life rivalry on the tennis court kicked off the Toronto International Film Festival on Thursday in a scaled-back line-up of movies that focus on tales of survival amid chaos.

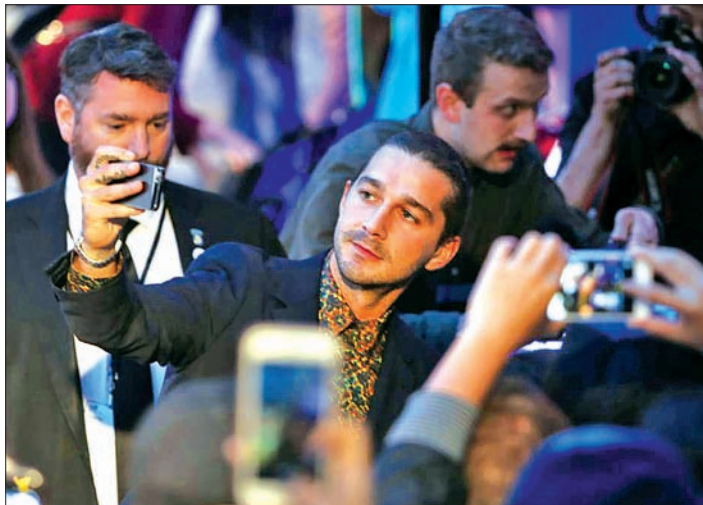
“Borg/McEnroe” stars Shia LaBeouf as fiery US tennis star John McEnroe and Sverrir Gudnason as cool Swedish champion Björn Borg, whose epic matches in the 1980s set the world of tennis alight.

“Their rivalry had something universal that transcended the sport,” director Janus Metz told a news conference. “It had deep existential questions about how two people could drive themselves above and beyond.”

LaBeouf, 31, in his first big movie since a string of arrests for drunken or disorderly behavior in the past three years, acknowledged that he shared some of McEnroe’s hot-headed personality.

“Acting is like athletics - ordinary men with extraordinary effort putting themselves out there,” the actor said, calling McEnroe the “bad Santa” of the tennis world.

“Borg/McEnroe” is not the only film getting a Toronto showcase whose drama plays out on the tennis court. Emma Stone, in her first movie since winning an Oscar for musical “La La Land” in February, plays Billie Jean King as she fought 1970s sexism



Actor Shia LaBeouf attends the premiere of the film “Borg/McEnroe” at Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in Toronto, on 7 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

and faced off against Bobby Riggs (Steve Carell) in “Battle of the Sexes.”

The Toronto festival has become one of the most important stops for filmmakers looking to showcase their work in the long Hollywood awards season that culminates with the Oscars, on 4 March next year. The slate this year has been trimmed to 260 from around 300 in 2016.

The festival’s chief executive, Piers Handling, said this year’s line-up reflected a “fascination with people at the top, people who have sacrificed everything.”

Other movies featuring personal struggles include the world premieres of “Stronger,” starring Jake Gyllenhaal

as a man who lost both his legs in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, and “Kings” in which Halle Berry plays a woman trying to protect her brood of children during the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

Other films on offer include “Suburbicon,” a George Clooney-directed satire tackling racial prejudice in 1950s America, and Darren Aronofsky’s horror movie “mother!”, starring Academy Award winner Jennifer Lawrence.

Angelina Jolie brings her film “First They Killed My Father” about the Khmer Rouge genocide in Cambodia to Toronto, while “Darkest Hour” stars Gary Oldman as British World War II Prime Minister Winston Churchill. —Reuters ■

‘Hunger Games’ actor Donald Sutherland to get lifetime Oscar

LOS ANGELES — Donald Sutherland, the star of “MASH,” “The Hunger Games” and more than 140 other movies, is to get a lifetime achievement Oscar, along with Belgian director Agnes Varda, Oscar organizers said on Wednesday.

Sutherland and Varda will be joined by African-American indie film director Charles Burnett and cinematographer Owen Roizman in receiving honorary Oscars at a ceremony in Los Angeles in November, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said in statement.

Academy president John Bailey said the honorees reflect “the breadth of international, independent and mainstream filmmaking, and are tributes to four great artists whose work embodies the diversity of our shared humanity.”

Canadian actor Sutherland, 82, has a career spanning five decades starting with his 1967 breakthrough in “The Dirty Dozen.” He went on to play wise-cracking army surgeon Hawkeye Pierce in the 1970 movie version of “MASH,” as well as roles in thriller “Don’t Look Now” and “Kluge.”

Sutherland, the father of “24” actor Kiefer Sutherland, played President Snow in all four of the recent “Hunger Games” young adult movie franchise. He



Actors Donald Sutherland and Agnes Varda poses during a photocall for the movie “The Leisure Seeker” at the 74th Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy on 3 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

has never been Oscar nominated.

Belgian-born Varda has experimented with shorts, documentaries and feature films during her more than 60-year career. Called the mother of the French New Wave, her movies include “Cleo from 5 to 7,” “Le Bonheur,” and “One Sings, the Other Doesn’t.”

Burnett is an independent filmmaker whose work, including “America Becoming,” has been praised for its portrayal of the African-American experience.

Roizman has five Oscar nominations for his work as a cinematographer on movies including “The French Connection,” “Tootsie” and “Network.”

The honorary Oscars will be presented at a gala dinner on 11 November. —Reuters ■



International Day of Democracy

15 September 2017

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No one wants to see me back on ‘Game of Thrones’: Ed Sheeran

LONDON — Singer Ed Sheeran said he would not want to return on “Game of Thrones” as no one wanted to see him again on the show.

The 26-year-old musician made a fleeting appearance in the seventh season premiere episode of the HBO series as a Lannister soldier, who had a chance encounter with real-life friend actor Maisie Williams’ Arya Stark.

Sheeran said although he enjoyed his screen time on “GOT”, he would not want to



Ed Sheeran performs at the 59th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California, US, on 12 February 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

come back on the show, reported FemaleFirst.

“No one wants to see me come back. I wanted to be a cameo in it, and I’ve done the cameo. I’m cool with it, though. I enjoyed it,” he told MTV News.

The “Shape of You” hitmaker received a mixed response for his small role.

The director of the show, Jeremy Podeswa and actor Sophie Turner came out in his defence.—PTI ■



The organizers of the Peace Music Festival and donors deliver aid to children. **PHOTO: AYE MYA**

Peace Music Festival organisers and donors help orphanage school and Home For the Aged

Organising members of Peace Music Festival 2017 organised by Ministry of Information and other donors held a donation ceremony yesterday morning in Aungthukha Orphanage School at the foot of Yankin Mountain and Home for the Aged at the foot of Yaytagun Mountain, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region. The ceremony was attended by Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) Director General U Myint Htway and party

and U Tin Tun, chairman of the Mandalay Gold Entrepreneurs Association on behalf of donors who run gold shops and gold businesses in Mandalay.

First, donors took five precepts from Patron Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimala of Aungthukha Orphanage School and donated offertories.

Next, orphans were provided with books, stationery and other assistance and then the Sayadaws and orphans were provided with meals.

A total of 97 orphans were raised in Aungthukha Orphanage School out of which 71 were attending school.

The donors then went to Home For the Aged and donated cash and other material donations to the elders.

The total amount donated was Ks 3.4 million in which Ks 1.5 million was for the orphanage and Ks 1 million was for the Home For the Aged and others.—Aye Mya (Mandalay) ■

Miss United Continents will welcome the International Beauty Queens

Delegates from America, Asia, Europe and Africa will arrive in the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador on September 8th, 2017 to comply with a series of activities whose aim is to help raise funds along with the Red Cross Organization for the benefit of this institution.

The ladies who will take part in the 5th edition of Miss United Continents will make a tour in Ecuador and will be in contact with nature and the culture of the city of Cuenca, known as the 'Athens of Ecuador' and designed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This year in the host city of Guayaquil, delegates will visit new tourist spots: "La Perla", considered the largest Ferris wheel in South America, also a monument in honor of the chief Guayas and his wife Quil who were founders of the city, dancing fountains on the borders of the swamp, and other. Myanmar is represented by W May Shin Sein, she is 25 years old, she likes singing and traveling. She obtained the title of Miss Intercontinental My-

anmar 2015. The coronation night will be on September 23rd, 2017 at the Convention Centre of Guayaquil. Its auditorium has become the venue for important events, concerts and conferences due to its great capacity and infrastructure.

One of the most important segments in Miss United Continents is the election of the best national costume. The jury will choose the best design that represents the culture and the country of the delegates. Ecuador is characterized to be a small country. Often within a few hours traveling you can be at the seaport of Guayaquil, then in the next three hours you can be at Cuenca (Mountains region), and in five hours you can be at Salinas (beach). This contest offers the delegates to enjoy tourist alternatives in this country.—GNLM



W. May Shin Sein, 25-year old, contestant from Myanmar. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**



Dr. Foelan Wong and Linda Hla present US \$ 50000 to Mon State Chief Minister Dr Aye Zan. **PHOTO: MAWLAMYINE SUB-PRINTING HOUSE**

Donor funds upgrading sanitation facilities at Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda

SuperSearch Co Ltd based in Hong Kong donated US \$50,000 for upgrading sanitary facilities at Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda in Kyaikto, Mon State, through the Mon State government on 3rd September 2017.

Chief Minister of Mon State Dr Aye Zan accepted the donation at the state government office in Maw-

lamyine presented by Dr Foelan Wong, Chairman of the Co Ltd, and Linda Hla, Managing Director of the company. At the donation ceremony, the donors also handed over US\$5,000 for the displaced people in Maungtau, Rakhine State, through the government.—Mawlamyine Sub-printing House ■

Miniature dachshund receives award from police for stopping intruder

TOYAMA, (Japan) — Police presented a bravery award Thursday to a pet dog for helping capture a burglar at a home in Toyama Prefecture on the Sea of Japan coast in May.

The miniature dachshund, named Lucy, alerted

her owner in Namerikawa to the presence of an intruder, leading to his arrest.

The man had entered the home belonging to Lucy's owner, a woman in her 40s, on the night of 4 May before trying to make off with several thousands of

yen in cash. After the woman was alerted, she and her neighbors apprehended the man.

The Namerikawa Police Station presented Lucy with a certificate of appreciation and her favorite dog food. Despite being

17 years old, equivalent to the late 80s in human years, Lucy showed heroism in barking loudly to alert her owner, the local police said.

The burglar was indicted and given a prison term of two years, suspended for four years.—Kyodo News ■



Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(9-9-2017 07:00am -10-9-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon-Historic And Mysterious Places
07:56	Am	Myanmar Street Foods
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The Eel Business (Fisherman the eel culture)
08:42	Am	New Extra: Exclusive Interview with Italian Ambassador
08:53	Am	Cosplayer
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Paper Products... Plain but Pretty
09:48	Am	Myanmar Weaving
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Next Generation "Nyan Lin Htet

10:35	Am	(Football Player)"
10:54	Am	The Land of Stone Sculpture
		Dengue Fever

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	Alaungdaw Kathapa
07:43	Pm	Today Myanmar: Communication for Development
07:55	Pm	Now in Yangon
08:03	Pm	News
08:25	Pm	The Stories Of The Great Souls (Mar Mar Aye) (Ep-1)

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)-Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)-Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am)-Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Singapore, Thailand keep winning at AFF Championship

KyawZin Lin

Thailand earned their third win in Group A of the AFF Under-18 Championship being held in Yangon by defeating Cambodia, 1-0, in a closely contested match.

The win brings the total number of points won by Thailand so far in the tourney to nine.

The Thais played hard, but the rain seemed to be working in Cambodia's favour as they defended well at the back while at the same time created some chances to score.

Thailand scored the only goal at the start of the second half when Danusorn headed the ball into the goal that had been centered with a free kick from the right side of the opponent's backline.

Although the Cambodian footballers had golden opportunities, they could not convert them into goals.

In other action, Singapore



Thailand and Cambodia football players vie for the ball in yesterday's match at Thuwunna Stadium.

PHOTO: MFF

trouncing Laos 3-0 at Aung San Stadium yesterday, after having lost to Malaysia in their previous match.

Daniel Goh scored the opener at 28 minutes and Mohd

Rafikin Kamal at 42 minutes, then Idraki Mohd Adnan scored the third goal and sealed Singapore's second win in Group A.

Malaysia bested Timor Leste by a score of 3-0 at the

late match at Thuwunna Stadium yesterday.

Group B matches will be played today, and host Myanmar will play against Brunei at Thuwunna Stadium. ■

AFC U-16 Women's Championship to be held in Thailand

The 2017 AFC U-16 Women's Championship will take place in Thailand between 10 and 23 September, with eight participating teams who emerged from the previous AFC qualifiers.

The AFC U-16 Women's Championship 2017 line-up will consist of hosts Thailand, Laos, South Korea, Bangladesh and Australia, as well as the top three finishers in the 2015 edition – North Korea, Japan and China. Myanmar was knocked out at the qualifiers by losing to Thailand.

The first, second and the third place winners of AFC U-16 Women's Championship will have a golden chance to enter the 2018 FIFA Women's World Cup in Uruguay.

The 2017 AFC U-16 Women's Championship is the 7th edition of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship, the biennial international youth football championship organised by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) for the women's under-16 national teams of Asia.

—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Mourinho must end United title drought this season — Queiroz

HONG KONG — Jose Mourinho must lead Manchester United to the English title this season if he is to re-establish the culture that under-pinned the success of the Alex Ferguson era, the Scotsman's former right-hand man Carlos Queiroz has told Reuters.

Queiroz was assistant manager under Ferguson during two spells totalling five years from 2002 to 2008 and instrumental in the club's 2008 Champions League win as well as three Premier League title triumphs.

The 64-year-old feels United have simply followed the big-spending blueprint of clubs like Manchester City and Chelsea in the post-Ferguson era and need to bed down a nucleus of players to have a chance of sustained success.

"The Manchester United that I worked for was based on a couple of elements, the foundation of Alex was based on continuity and trust," Queiroz, who has just secured back-to-back



Jose Mourinho during the penalty shootout in London, Britain on 2 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

World Cup qualifications with Iran, said.

"Manchester United didn't have different teams at that time, they had a core of players that established the heritage of the club, the culture of the club.

"In my opinion, the things that made the team and the club suffer and drop was when this cultural approach was broken, to start to be like other clubs and building teams with money. The club lost a little bit of its heritage.

"The foundations were very, very strong inside the club. I think you can see at this moment, it's the club with the same name, the same colours, the same fans but it has the same pattern as City, of Chelsea, of some other clubs, like PSG and some others in Europe also.

"I hope that if the team under Jose is able to succeed and to win the championship that it can recover the foundation, which is stability and continuity.

"Because to win at this level it's crucial for Jose or any other coach to make everybody understand that now we have the right conditions to keep going with this core."

United struggled in the first three years after Ferguson's retirement in 2013, with David Moyes lasting just eight months before Louis van Gaal took over as the long-term replacement in the wake of a four-game caretaker stint from Ryan Giggs. —Reuters ■

Newcastle manager Benitez recovering from surgery

LONDON — Newcastle United manager Rafa Benitez is recovering from surgery and could miss Sunday's Premier League trip to Swansea City, British media reported on Thursday.

Fitness coach Francisco de Miguel Moreno will stand in for the 57-year-old Spaniard at Friday's regular pre-game news conference.

The BBC said Benitez had undergone a hospital procedure during last week's international break to deal with an infection resulting from a hernia operation that he had more than two years ago. —Reuters ■