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U Henry Van Thio, at left, in blue shirt, greets farmers at a ceremony to return confiscated land in Myaing, Pakokku District. **PHOTO: MNA**

Confiscated land in Magway Region returned to farmers

MORE than 2,660 acres of confiscated land were returned to farmers in Myaing Township, Pakokku District, Magway Region, yesterday in the presence of Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

Speaking on the occasion, U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as the chairman of the central committee for scrutinising the confiscated farmland and other property, said the committee has been in discussions with

authorities from regions and states in order to solve the land grabbing issues nationwide as soon as possible.

The Vice President also expressed the commitment of the government to return con-

fiscated land to farmers, saying that the government adopted clear and simple policies in an attempt to solve the issues in a fast and efficient manner.

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Some return to Rakhine homes, China backs Myanmar

AS security forces made arrests of terrorists and more than 1,400 displaced people who have been sheltered in camps in Maungdaw returned home, China said yesterday that it backed Myanmar's efforts to safeguard "development and stability" in northern Rakhine State.

Since the deadly attacks on civilians and to police outposts by members of the extremist terrorists Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on 25 August, some 370,000 members of the Muslim community fled to the Bangladesh border to the west and tens of thousands of other civilians went to camps, army installations and monasteries for shelter in Sittway, Maungdaw and Buthidaung.

Since the 25 August attacks, the Union government says its security forces have been fighting ARSA extremist terrorists, and are doing all they can to avoid harming civilians, officials said.

The government says about 400 people have been killed in the fighting, and the security offensive has drawn criticism.

"We call on Burmese security authorities to respect the rule of law, stop the violence, and end the displacement of civilians from all communities," the White House said in a statement.

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Confiscated land in Magway Region returned to farmers

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"The government is very sympathetic with the farmers who lost their farmland and faced obstacles for earning a livelihood. So we have sped up the work for solving the land-grabbing issues in accordance with the law," said U Henry Van Thio.

To solve the issues across the country rightly and speedily, the Union government has formed the Union-level central committee while forming region, state, district, township, ward and village-level committees for scrutinising the confiscated land with local authorities, MPs, CSOs and farmers.

"I want to urge the farmers who have got their land back today to make honest efforts to improve your socio-economic life



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects restoration of a temple in Bagan damaged by an earthquake. **PHOTO: MNA**



and to transform the traditional farming ways into a modern one," said the Vice President.

He also called on the farmers to grow marketable crops without losing sight of market demand, stressing the important

role of farmers in boosting the country's exports.

At the ceremony, the Ministry of Education announced that it will use only 485 acres out of 3,150 acres confiscated by its Educational Research Department,

returning more than 870 acres to farmers. The ministry also returned the remaining 1,790 acres to the Union Government.

The ceremony was also attended by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi and

deputy ministers of the ministries concerned.

Following the ceremony, the Vice President visited Bagan inspecting restoration of earthquake-hit temples there.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Cash support for displaced people in Minbya, MraukU, Myebon, Kyauktaw and Ponnagyun

Director General of the Relief and Resettlement Department Dr. Ko Ko Naing provided cash support to displaced people who were in Minbya, MraukU, Myebon, Kyauktaw and Ponnagyun townships, Rakhine State on 11 and 12 September.

On 11 September, Director General Dr. Ko Ko Naing and officials met displaced Rakhine people in Myebon and Minbya townships and provided Ks990,000 in education cash support to 71 students, Ks916,000

for 458 people. Ks1.5 million in education support was provided to 123 students and Ks748,000 for 374 people was also provided to Laymyosa Village Monastery, Lawkamanaung Pagoda and Shitthaung Monastery, MraukU Township. Ks 1,00,000 was provided to purchase fuel for a generator in Laymyosa Village Monastery. A total of Ks4.3 million was provided.

On 12 September, the Director General and officials provided Ks475,000 education support

to 35 students and Ks252,000 to 126 people staying in Pauktawpyin Village Monastery and Tane Nyo Village Monastery in MraukU Township. Ks1.02 million in education assistance was provided to 70 students and Ks274,000 to 137 people was also provided at Aung Tin Ward, Taungyat Ward, Chaunghit Village, Byotechaung Village, Kyauktwingone Village and Sinbawkaing Villages in MraukU Township.

Another Ks4.7 million in education support was provided to 366 students, and Ks90,000 in education support was provided to three university students, Ks2.8 million was provided to 1,410 people in Sasana Beikman, Pyigyishin Pagoda and Thazin Village in Kyauktaw Township, Ks2.3 million in education support was provided to 167 students and three university students, Ks876,000 was provided to 438 people in Lawkamarazane Ordination Hall in Ponnagyun Township were also provided.

A total of Ks12 million was provided.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Displaced people receives cash assistance presented by Dr Ko Ko Naing, Director-General of the Relief and Resettlement Department. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thura U Shwe Mann receives US Ambassador to Myanmar



Thura U Shwe Mann welcomes US Ambassador Mr Scot Marciel. **PHOTO: MNA**

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann received U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Marciel yesterday afternoon at Hluttaw Affairs Building

I-1, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, matters relating to bilateral cooperation, development and stability in Rakhine State were discussed and views exchanged. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Subsidies and cash donations for displaced people in Maungtaw

The department of Maungtaw District Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is providing family kits, each containing 10 items, to displaced local people who are now in Myoma monastery, 4 miles far from Maungtaw Township.

On 11 September morning, Mro, Daingnet and Rakh-

ine nationals taking shelter at the provisional rescue camp, 4 miles temporary rescue camp were provided with 211 sets of family kits and Ks 1.8 million. At Myoma monastery they distributed 42 sets of family kits and Ks982,000 to 491 people. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar Global Investment Forum kicks off

THE Myanmar Global Investment Forum kicked off yesterday at Myanmar International Convention Center – MICC 2 in Nay Pyi Taw, which was jointly organised by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and Euromoney Institutional Investor (Asia) based in Hong Kong.

The opening ceremony of the Myanmar Global Investment Forum was attended by over 1,200 participants, including Union Ministers and Deputy Ministers from various ministries, members of parliament, director generals and senior officials from various ministries, representatives from UMFCCL, representatives led by Mr. Tony Shale, Chief Executive Officer from Euromoney Institutional Investor (Asia), businessmen and media representatives.

U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, delivered the keynote address and Mr. Tony Shale gave welcoming remarks.

On the first day of the forum, a panel discussion on the economic outlook for Myanmar will be hosted by resource persons and representatives from various ministries. Officials explained the purpose of the discussion.

U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance

So as to be convenient in finding ways and means for opportunities of investment, responsible officials read out their presentations in such a forum in consultation with international experts, as to what kinds of investment would be convenient and as to what we have carried out for the convenience of investors.

As for the foreign investors, they pointed out their opinions from their point of view. Question were also made. In the forum, we searched for the solution as to which kinds of elite ways and means would be applied, for the acquisition of influx of investments. We had given out the Investment Law they wanted. As the newly promulgated law, rules and regulations had already appeared. Very soon, Myanmar Companies Law will be completed. At that time, we hope that we will have an influx of investments.



Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win delivers a speech at the Myanmar Global Investment Forum 2017. PHOTO: MNA



U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance.



Naw El Phaw, Managing Director, CB Bank.



Dr Wah Wah Maung, Director-General of Myanmar Central Statistical Organization, Ministry of Planning and Finance.



Khaing Zar Min Tun, Head of Marketing Department, AGD Bank.

Dr Wah Wah Maung, Director-General of Central Statistical Organization, Ministry of Planning and Finance

In this forum, what we are discussing is to invite high-powered investors for the sake of the nation and to be able to cooperate hand in hand with public private partnerships for national economic development.

Foreign investments have increased during this year. Being the transitional period from the old regime to the new one, last year they seemed to have watched and waited. The investors are presently interested in what economic policies would be laid down. But they know that there are many challenges in Myanmar. On the other hand, they are well convinced that they have many opportunities. So they are interested in Myanmar. The world is also willing to help the Government.

When investments are coming into the country, investors always hold meetings once a year so that they can know in which kinds of sectors they should invest and they can adjust their

investments to actual needs. It has been learnt that out of the estimated amount of US\$6 billion, actual investment had amounted to US\$3.5 billion.

Naw El Phaw, Managing Director, CB Bank

As their aims and objectives are excellent, we will continue to take part in the implementation, in cooperation with Central Bank of Myanmar and respective ministries. It is essential for Myanmar to hold this kind of forum. If and when we will practically fulfill actual needs, the financial sector of Myanmar will come on the right way to globalisation.

Khaing Zar Min Tun, Head of Marketing Department, AGD Bank

We firmly believe that we will have economic opportunities to have an access to keep in touch with foreign investors, as we were granted to take part in this forum. I would like to express that AGD Bank is willing and ready to help for the national economic development, on its part.

Anandu Kumar

This forum is helpful for everybody because it helps us decide how we go forward with investing in which sector. We got a lot of information from this forum. The minister said the power sector will be developed by 100 per cent and they will have added around 10,000-15,000MW by 2030. I think it's pretty aggressive.

We are working here in the telecom sector. We are interested in diversification with other sectors like the power sector. I don't think hydropower is enough for this country, especially in the summer season. Maybe gas and renewable energy like solar energy can fill the gap. For solar energy, there are a lot of empty lands to set it up, I think, but solar is very expensive.

Tripop Boonmuan, President and CEO of Group of Mactex Companies

There needs to be trust in the market for investment to come in. It is also important to know how the government plans to support it. The investment from Myanmar citizens is also

crucial for the businesses here. How will Myanmar handle the economic growth? Business laws are important for stable investment.

Neville Daw, Director of Amara Investment Securities Company Limited

The Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance understand what they need to do. Myanmar needs to work for more development and in my opinion I think there should be a strict guideline for that. This, I think, will be beneficial for economic growth in the long run.

Ross Duu Hey, Chairman of Beyond the Box Communications Inc.

The media sector supports economic development as well so there should be more emphasis on promoting the media sector.

The media should be able to freely point out and comment on the areas that need fixing in the economy. The economy and the media should develop at the same rate.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Human Trafficking cases hit record high in Kachin

THE number of human trafficking cases increased in Kachin State this fiscal year, according to law enforcement authorities and the number of cases in Myitkyina District reached a record high.

"Chinese brokers have been entering Myanmar and making contacts with local human traffickers," said Police Major Aung Min Kyi of the anti-human trafficking police force unit. "Cases involve women sold into forced marriages in China. Two-thirds of the victims were female, most of whom were persuaded with false incentives."

From 2015 to September 2017, 48 trafficking cases were recorded in Kachin State, including 18 cases in Myitkyina.

Human trafficking cases are occurring mostly in



Police distributes a human trafficking awareness pamphlet to local resident in Myitkyina District, Kachin State. **PHOTO: MIN MIN OO**

Lwejel, Bhamo, Myitkyina and Mohnyin towns. Brokers target victims ages 16 to 25. Between 2015 and 2017, the police have

arrested 85 suspects and rescued 63 victims.

Police seek cooperation from the public in order to pre-

vent trafficking. Authorities are also participating in human trafficking awareness courses.—Min Min Oo ■

Species of nutrient blue-green algae conserved in Sagaing Region

SPIRULINA algae conservation is being conducted in Sagaing Region to prevent extinction and to protect the area's eco-system, according to a report in the City News on Monday.

The algae is rich in protein and widely used in traditional medicine and blooms naturally in lakes in Sagaing Region. Ministry of Industry has harvested Spirulina algae from four lakes and discovered that water pH level dropping due to fresh water

intrusion into Taungpyauk and Twintaung Lake spoiling the habitat for the nutritious algae.

Spirulina is considered a cyanobacteria considered to be a "superfood" due to its high protein and B-12 content. The European Space Agency has even considered using the algae as a potential food supplement for a manned mission to Mars.

Officials from the Ministry of Industry and the local and foreign experts conducted

field inspection tours of the lakes and decided to construct a 1,000-ft concrete canal at the main crack line of an earthen canal for water pumped from Butalin River in 2014.

This reduced the fresh water intrusion into the lake, resulting in reduction of the lake water level from 72 inches to 46.2 inches by July 2015, restoring the favorable conditions for algae formation.

The northern part of the lake is the main source of fresh water intrusion and the

Ministry of Industry had put in sand bags to prevent this.

Similarly, Yaekharr Lake, where Spirulina algae is also harvested, saw fresh water intrusion during the heavy rains of 2016 and 2017 from freshwater dams of nearby villages and entry of tilapia fish, resulting in the lowering of the pH level in the lake.

Only after dikes were built to prevent fresh water intrusion was the Spirulina algae harvesting restarted.—GNLM ■

Sluice gates to be constructed in Htantabin Township

SLUICE gates will be constructed between Ngebaw and Pae Inn Kalay villages in Htantabin Township, Yangon Region, said U Han Tun, Yangon Region minister for agriculture, livestock, forestry and energy.

"The agriculture farms from 20 villages were damaged

by flooding from Pwin Talan Creek in Htantabin Township. Therefore, we plan to build sluice gates between FY2016-2017 and FY2020-2021," he said.

After a survey, the minister will submit a proposal to the region government for funds to construct the Pwin Talan

sluice gate. U Han Tun replied to questions raised by U Aung Phone Kyaw San Oo, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative from Htantabin Constituency at the Yangon Region Hluttaw meeting on 11 September.

Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Depart-

ment dug a drain to prevent flooding in paddy fields, said U Han Tun. Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has already dug a 30 mile long drain in FY2017-2018.—Ko Moe ■

Nearly 100 fires reported across the country in August

A total of 96 cases of fire were reported across the country in August, leaving four people dead, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The Fire Services Department reported that there were 12 cases in Yangon Region,

eight in Mandalay Region, eight in Bago Region, 15 in Sagaing Region, six in Magway Region, five in Ayeyawady Region, four in Taninthayi Region and, three each in Kachin and Kayah states, one each in Kayah and Chin states, two in Mon State, eight in Shan State

and 20 in Rakhine State.

Two cases of arson were suspected in Sagaing, two in Bago and Magway regions, one in Yangon Region and three in Shan State.

Fires destroyed 1,007 houses and buildings, killing four people and leaving 103

people homeless.

Property damage caused by fires was estimated at Ks1.5 billion.

There are nearly 12,000 full-fledged fire fighters and about 300,000 auxiliary and volunteer fire brigade members across the nation.—GNLM ■

Real estate development sector leading draw for domestic investment

REAL estate is Myanmar's main draw for domestic investment, accounting for more than 20 per cent of total investments, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

Since FY1988-1989, more than Ks14 trillion of Myanmar citizens' investments has been recorded by the MIC. Of that total, real estate absorbed Ks2.8 trillion and 65 projects.

Transport and Communi-

cation was the second leading domestic draw with investments of Ks2.6 trillion and 45 projects, followed by manufacturing with estimated domestic investments of Ks2.5 trillion and 758 projects.

More than 110 enterprises were authorised by MIC in the hotel and tourism sector, which attracted Ks1.4 trillion. Estimated citizen investments of Ks932 billion were in construction. —Ko Khant ■



New factory in Thilawa SEZ expected to produce 100,000 tons of concrete piles a year

A SPUN concrete pile factory located in Thilawa SEZ (Zone A) in Yangon Region is expected to yearly produce 100,000 tons of pile with the use of Japan's technology, according to a report of City News, yesterday.

Japanese manufactured

spun piles can be used instead of reinforced concrete square pile for earthquake resistant building foundations. The Thilawa factory opened on 9 September as a joint venture between entities in Myanmar, Japan and Viet Nam under the name of VJP. The My-

anmar entity paid 40 per cent, the Japanese paid 55 per cent, and Viet Nam paid five per cent of a US\$15 million capital investment. Five categories of spun piles – 300, 350, 400, 500 and 600 will be produced, each ranging between four and 15 meters in pile diam-

eter. The factory is expected to produce tens of thousands of tons of piles. Myanmar workers are being trained in Japan and Viet Nam to work at the factory, which will create jobs in Yangon, said Dr Sone Han, managing director of VJP Co., Ltd.—GNLM ■

Bilateral trade with China hit US\$3.75 billion this FY

TRADE between China and Myanmar in past four months was worth an estimated US\$3.75 billion, including \$1.68 billion in exports and \$2.06 billion in imports, according to the Commerce Ministry.

There was more China trade over the land borders than over sea routes. Trade with China was worth \$10.7 billion in FY2016-2017, \$10.9 billion in FY2015-16, \$9.7 billion in FY2014-2015, \$7 billion in FY2013-2014, \$4.95 billion in FY2012-2013 and \$5 billion in FY2011-2012. Between 1 April and 1 September, values of border trade through China-Myanmar land points of entry was estimated at \$2.4 billion, \$72 million less than the same period last year.

Of Myanmar's five land crossings into China, Muse, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung saw declines in trade and Lwe-jel and Kanpiketee showed slight increases. —Ko Htet ■



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Security, not scandal, on agenda for Trump, Malaysia's Najib

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is set to welcome Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak to the White House on Tuesday, a meeting expected to focus on security issues while steering clear of a US investigation into a Malaysian corruption scandal.

The visit is important for Najib, who faces elections next year and wants to signal he is still welcome at the White House despite a criminal probe by the US Justice Department into a state fund called 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

Najib founded the fund, which is facing money laundering probes in at least six countries including the United States, Switzerland and Singapore.

He has denied any wrongdoing. The White House said it would not comment on the US Department of Justice in-



Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak. PHOTO: REUTERS

vestigation.

"Investing in a long-term relationship between our countries, that in itself provides a foundation for us to address issues of concern, and that

would include corruption and transparency," a White House official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Trump plans to talk with Najib about North Korea's nu-

clear provocations, and ways the United States and Malaysia could do more to halt the expansion of Islamic State in southeast Asia, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders told reporters on Monday.

The South China Sea will also be part of the talks, as will trade and investment, Sanders said.

Malaysia has increased military cooperation with the United States in the South China Sea, where it has overlapping claims with several countries.

"Malaysia is particularly anxious about the Chinese Navy's activities off the coast of Sabah and Sarawak where state-owned Petronas is pumping oil and gas," said Murray Hiebert, a southeast Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Najib had once enjoyed

close ties with Trump's predecessor Barack Obama, playing golf with the Democratic president in Hawaii in 2014.

But relations cooled over the 1MDB scandal. The Justice Department sued to seize some \$1.7 billion in assets it said were bought with misappropriated 1MDB funds.

The Obama administration had also become critical of a Malaysian government crackdown on the media and political opponents.

Najib, who has boasted about golfing with Trump, is less likely to hear about human rights issues from the Republican.

"With Trump in the White House and his administration's downplaying of human rights and democracy, Najib's handling of the opposition is not likely to be a focus of the White House meeting," Hiebert said.

— Reuters ■

US denies interference in Cambodia's domestic affairs

PHNOM PENH — The US ambassador to Cambodia on Tuesday took the unusual step of issuing a statement to deny allegations by the Cambodian government that the United States is interfering in Cambodia's domestic affairs.

In the statement, Ambassador William Heidt said that "on dozens of occasions over the past year" the United States has been "subject to intentionally inaccurate, misleading and baseless accusations."

"All of the accusations you have heard in recent weeks about the United States — every one of them — are false," he said. Earlier this month Kem Sokha, leader of the main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party, was arrested and formally charged with treason for allegedly conspiring with the United States to topple the government.

Commenting on Kem Sokha's arrest, Heidt said, "To be honest, I wasn't totally surprised when I learned this unfortunate news. But I was sur-

prised by the allegations against the United States in connection with Mr Sokha's arrest, made without a shred of serious or credible evidence."

"These are extraordinary allegations. The business of diplomacy is normally carried out with careful and respectful language, the kind of language I'm going to use today. Difficult messages are delivered privately first. Friendly nations seek ways to bridge differences," he added.

The US State Department on 5 September issued a statement expressing "grave concern" over the arrest, which it said appears to be politically motivated.

The arrest and an ongoing crackdown on independent media, including broadcasters and newspapers, in recent weeks are seen by observers as being part of the government's strategy for winning next year's general election, which is foreseen as the toughest to be faced by Prime Minister Hun Sen. — Kyodo News ■

Battered by cyclone, Philippines suffers flooding, landslides

MANILA — A cyclone dumped heavy rains in the Philippine capital, Manila, and nearby provinces on Tuesday, causing widespread flooding and landslides in some areas that killed at least two people, the national disaster agency said.

Financial markets, government offices and schools were closed and port operations in some provinces were suspended, it said. Several flights were cancelled.

The weather bureau said cyclone Maring, which was packing winds of up to 60 kilometres per hour (37 mph), made landfall in the morning over Mauban municipality in the eastern province of Quezon.

Romina Marasigan, a spokeswoman for the national disaster agency, said two teenaged brothers died from a landslide in Taytay, Rizal, 20 kilometres (12.43 miles) from Manila.

"Some residents unfortunately did not heed the advice of local officials to evacuate to safer grounds," she said in a media briefing.

Marasigan warned of more flashfloods and landslides as rains were expected to continue later in the day, before the cyclone moves back over the sea early on Wednesday.

Twenty-two passengers were rescued from a bus stuck in floodwaters in Pitogo town in Quezon, she said.

Local officials ordered the

evacuation of residents in some towns under floodwaters in Quezon, Laguna, Rizal and Batangas provinces, she said.

The weather bureau said it was also keeping an eye on typhoon Talim which was packing winds of up to 120 kph (75 mph), spotted moving toward the country's northern tip and to Taiwan. — Reuters ■



Residents use a makeshift boat to ferry commuters along floodwaters in Quezon City, Metro Manila as a storm sweeps across the main Luzon island, Philippines on 12 September, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Indonesian leaders get higher public trust this year: survey

JAKARTA — Indonesian public's trust in their president and vice president has increased to 68.3 per cent this year from 66.5 and 50.6 per cent in 2016 and 2015 respectively, a survey released on Tuesday said.

Results of the annual survey carried out by Cen-

tre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) on 23-30 August also showed an over 50-per cent public satisfaction with government's performance in three sectors of economy, legal and maritime.

"Physical development project through massive infrastructure

program was apparently seen and get appreciation from the people. Over 70 per cent have expressed their satisfaction with the development," CSIS Executive Director Phillips J Vermonte said.

The highest satisfactory rate was 75.5 per cent in maritime, followed by

64 and 56.9 per cent in legal and economy sectors respectively.

He said most of the respondents believed that the government is capable of improving public welfare and expanding infrastructure development.

The survey also noted that 89.2 per cent of

respondents are optimistic about the future of the country.

The survey was conducted among 1,000 people living in 34 provinces across the archipelagic country with a margin of error of 3.1 per cent, Phillips added. Indonesian President Joko Widodo

and Vice President Jusuf Kalla were inaugurated in October 2014 after winning over 53 per cent of votes in a presidential election earlier in the same year. President Widodo will seek reelection in 2019 with no apparent rival so far.—Xinhua ■

Australian scientists develop test to identify, help prevent blindness in diabetics

CANBERRA — A new eye test could help prevent blindness in millions of diabetics, after world-first trials of artificial intelligence-driven eye technology in Australia proved to be successful.

Scientists from Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) developed the technology, which analyzes diabetics' eyes for diabetic retinopathy — a degenerative eye condition which affects one in three sufferers.

Diabetic retinopathy can lead to blindness if left untreated, but the only test currently available takes up to six weeks. The technology developed the CSIRO takes just 30 minutes and early detection can help prevent unnecessary cases of blindness.

In a statement accompanying the research on Tuesday, Australia's Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science Arthur Sinodinos said the test will allow more Australians — and those around the world — to live "longer and happier lives."

"This advancement is a great example of the essential role science plays in finding innovative ways to help Australians live longer and happier lives," Sinodinos said. "With this world-first innovation, our scientists are at the fore-

front of using artificially intelligent technology to save people's eyesight and make healthcare more accessible for all Australians." According to the CSIRO's Professor Yogi Kanagasingam, who created the technology, early detection of diabetic retinopathy was the key to stopping blindness, and the new test would allow just a simple family doctor to diagnose the condition and start the preventative process.

"Patients at risk of this condition would usually be referred to a specialist for screening, waiting six weeks or more now it can potentially be done in a single 30-minute visit to a general practitioner (GP)," Kanagasingam said. "Early detection and intervention for diabetic retinopathy is key, and this new tool is the first step to help GPs prioritize patients for treatment."

"It could help avoid unnecessary referrals to public hospitals, potentially reduce waiting periods for patients and enable ophthalmologists to focus on patients needing treatment and surgery."

"It could also help reduce the financial impact of diabetes on the Australian economy, which is estimated to cost up to 14 billion Australian dollars (11.25 billion US dollars) a year."—Xinhua ■

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Let us participate in the nation-wide campaign against instigation of gory incidents

Khin Maung Oo

WITH a view to make the international community focus on events in the Buthidaung and Maungdaw regions in Rakhine State and promote increasing support for ARSA extremist terrorists, destructive elements were reported to have conspired to launch terrorist bomb blast attacks in big cities including Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay. Concerning the risk of terrorist attacks, on 5th September the Office of the State Counsellor issued a news release to warn against potential dangers of terrorists, in which it was described that

instructions had been sent to Region and State Cabinets to keep constant security awareness across the whole nation.

Following this news release, security measures were increased in the big cities as well as at the border gates, express ways, bus and railway stations, airports and market places by posting more security guards for constant monitoring.

It must be said that these arrangements have been effective to some extent.

On the other hand, terrorists will have to choose civilian areas with poor security measures as their

targets, so as for their aims to be successful, hence the need to constantly monitor their activities with full awareness.

Simultaneously, we are required to avoid possibilities of racial and religious agitations among our societies with full alertness and wise sense of judgement.

In other words, we must take care not to fall for the trick of these extremist terrorists.

According to "the Anti-Terrorism Law," promulgated in 2014, terrorists are defined as the ones who directly or indirectly commit a terrorist attack, or the ones who make an

attempt in the offence, or the ones who collude, instruct, or abet in the crime. Accordingly, we must inform the authorities concerned nearby if we find any suspicious activities, without delay. If someone is convicted of committing a terrorist attack, they must be sentenced to 10 years imprisonment or life imprisonment or death as the capital punishment.

Last but not least, we deeply urge our citizens to actively take part in the nationwide campaign against instigation of gory incidents, riots and conflicts in the nation, in case destructive elements attempt to harm our national sovereignty. ■

Wish you a happy Democracy Day

Dr. Khine Khine Win

SEPTEMBER 15 is International Day of Democracy. In order to raise awareness about the importance of democracy, various activities have been held on September 15 annually in many countries around the world by different organizations. In 2007, the United Nations resolved to observe 15 September as the international day of democracy and invited all members states, other regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to commemorate the day in an appropriate manner that contribute to raising public awareness about democracy.

The first International Day of Democracy was held in 2008 in Geneva by Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and highlighted the role of parliament as the cornerstone of democracy. As all parliaments are the key institution of democracy, there is an opportunity to emphasize the importance of democracy, the challenges it faces, as well as opportunities it offers by celebrating the day of democracy in parliament. It also provides an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world.

Democracy is a universally recognized ideal and is one of the core values and principles of the United Nations. Actually there is no exact definition of democracy but legal equality, political freedom and rule of law have been identified as importance characteristic of democracy. Democracy has emerged as a cross-cutting issue in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits since the 1990s and in the internationally agreed

development goals they produced. For instance "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" which was adopted by world leaders and affirmed "democracy, governance and rule of law are essential for sustainable development. Democracy, and democratic governance in particular, means that people's human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected, promoted and fulfilled, allowing them to live with dignity.

Everyone in democratic countries have to have basic knowledge of democracy. The four aspects of democracy are 1) elected form of government, 2) the rule of law, 3) respect of human rights and 4) freedom of express. Rights include freedom of speech and expression, freedom of religion and conscience, freedom of assembly, and the right to equal protection before the law. While the state protects the rights of its citizens, in return, the citizens give the country their loyalty. Citizens in a democracy enjoy the right to join organizations of their choosing that are independent of government and to participate freely in the public life of their society. Talking about the merits or advantages of democracy I would say that democracy can provide for changes in government without violence. In a democracy power can be transformed from one part to another by means

of elections. Here it should be noted that, when government is not of and by the people, it is not democracy. Democracy cannot simply be imported from abroad. Its establishment and preservation are dependent on popular struggles inside each country.

Bear in mind that there are some



points which frequently go wrong with democracy in practice. 1) Male domination of public life 2) Corruption among office-holders 3) Tyranny of the majority 4) Executive control over parliament 5) Lack of media pluralism and 6) Public apathy. We should avoid these points if we want to have strong democracy.

If the purpose of democracy is lost, most of citizens have no idea regarding the rights and responsibilities. So it is very important to raise awareness about the importance of democracy to each and every citizens of the country.

History teaches us that individual rights, societal and inter-state peace are best protected by democracies. According to Democracy Index 2016, almost one-half of the world's countries can be considered to be democracies of some sort. The Economic Intelligence Unit's, EIU's Democracy Index measures the state of democ-

racy by rating electoral processes and pluralism, the state of civil liberties, the functioning of government, political participation and political culture in more than 160 countries worldwide. According to EIU report, Norway is the world's strongest democracies, followed by Iceland and Sweden. Indeed according to Global Peace Index 2016, Norway rated world's most peaceful country too. This is a kind of proof that peace cause strong democracy considerably.

This year theme for democracy day is "Democracy and Conflict Prevention". It focuses on the critical need to strengthen democratic institutions to promote peace and stability. With the new focus on conflict prevention, the promotion of democracy is seen as the most important tool for preventing crisis and promoting security in many current state policies.

As you may know one of the goals of democratization is promotion of peace. Without peace and stability, there is no true democracy. Without democracy, there will be no human rights. Without human rights, we cannot hope for sustainable development. All things are interrelated.

To conclude, what I would like to highlight here is that being democratic is not enough, democratic countries must also have a deep love of liberty and abiding respect for the rule of law. I wish you a happy democracy day. ■

Reference :<http://www.un.org/en/events/democracyday/>
<http://www.ipu.org/idd/about.htm>



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and party provide cash and rice to families of security personnel and ethnic people. **PHOTO: MNA**

Assistance to families of security personnel and ethnic people killed by ARSA extremist terrorists

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and party together with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Chan Thar arrived in Maungtaw from Sittway and provided cash and rice to families of security personnel and ethnic nationals killed in attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists.

First, at the office of Maungtaw District General Administrative Department,

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and party met with departmental officials, local populace, families of security personnel and ethnic nationals killed in attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists and provided cash assistant and gave words of encouragement. Next, they went to Kyikanpyin No. 1 Border Police command headquarters in Maungtaw Township where families of two security personnel killed and one missing security personnel after

the attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists were provided cash assistant and security personnel and Tatmadaw personnel were each provided with Ks 2 million cash support. Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and party then went to ethnic villages Aungzeyya, Aung Mingala, Aung Thaya, Hpawitchaung, Laungdon in northern Maungtaw district and provided rice for families who remain in their respective villages. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Donations for displaced people to be used systematically

Dr Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, received Ms. Janet E. Jackson, UNFPA Representative for Myanmar, at the May Khalar Hall of the Ministry on Monday.

At the meeting, the UNFPA Representative said a project to boost participation of Myanmar youth, especially females, to improve their language, communications and internet technology skills would be implemented. Ms. Jackson said aid for Rakhine residents will be made. "Negotiations have been made with the Rakhine State government for providing humanitarian aid to Rakhine State. We have already had subsidies in our hands to provide commodities. We would like the Ministry to approve the proposal to be submitted by us, the 'Peace Building Fund' for Myanmar youths, women and girls to be able to participate in peace process. In implementing the suggestions of the Rakhine State Advisory Commission, we



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye accepts cash donated by Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi. **PHOTO: MNA**

intended for the emergence of youths with capabilities in information technology, command of the language and communication skills."

The Union Minister replied to the UNFPA Representative concerning the situation on provision of humanitarian aid in Rakhine State by the Ministry, programmes on all-round development festival for youths to be held in Yangon and approval of the proposal of Peace Building Fund of UNFPA.

The ceremony for donating money to fulfill the urgent needs for displaced local ethnic people

due to the recent extremist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), which has been termed a terrorist group, was held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday evening.

At last night's event, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye accepted Ks14.163 million donated by Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education, on behalf of the Education Ministry and Myanmar Teachers' Federation, presenting a certificate of honour to Dr Myo Thein Gyi. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung inspects reconstruction and resettlement in Maungtaw



Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung inspects border fences, fence circuit and access road along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung went to Buthidaung to carry out a ground survey for the resettlement of displaced persons and reconstruction in Maungtaw yesterday.

The Union Minister accompanied by Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Phone Tint were welcomed by Lt-Gen Aung Kyaw Zaw, the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), who has been in Maungtaw and officials. Local authorities clarified situation of roads, bridges, and border roads damaged in the attacks of ARSA extremist terrorists.

The Union Minister together with Lt-Gen Aung Kyaw Zaw then went on to inspect condition for rebuilding roads and bridges on

Buthidaung-Ngakyitaut-Kahtihla-Pyinkaung road. After that, the Union Minister met with Muslim people in Ngakyitaut village and stressed the importance of living peacefully for regional stability.

Afterwards they provided food and assistance to local people in Taungbaza high school, Ngayantchaung village tract, Buthidaung Township, who were returning to their respective places. In the evening when they arrived at Taungpyoe town, northern Maungtaw, the authorities encouraged local people and provided foods.

Afterwards, the authorities inspected the border fences, fence circuit and access road along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border. —Myanmar News Agency

Some return to Rakhine homes, China backs Myanmar

FROM PAGE-1

But China came out in solidarity with its neighbour yesterday. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a briefing in Beijing that "the international community should support Myanmar in its efforts to safeguard development and stability".

Myanmar's foreign ministry said shortly before the U.S. statement was issued that Myanmar was also concerned about the suffering. Its forces were carrying out their legitimate duty to restore order in response to acts of extremism. Even as some villagers in Rakhine return home, violence and intimidation con-

tinued. On Monday, Muslim villagers arrested six ARSA terrorists armed with machetes on Monday who had entered a Muslim village and abducted a resident.

Ali Khan, who was abducted by the terrorists, said that he was tied and left in a house of the former administrator of the Kanyitan Village and was told his throat would be slit if he did not give information on the name of his father and storage places for rice bags. The six ARSA extremists will be brought to justice, said local authorities.

Authorities say nearly 30,000 Buddhist villagers have also been displaced, fleeing to towns to the south. —Reuters, MNA

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

Norway's right-wing government wins re-election fought on oil, tax

OSLO — Norway's tax-cutting Conservative Prime Minister Erna Solberg declared victory on Tuesday after a parliamentary election, narrowly defeating a Labour-led opposition with her promises of steady management of the oil-dependent economy.

The win is historic for Solberg, whose supporters compare her firm management style to that of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, because no Conservative-led government has retained power in an election in Norway since 1985.

"It looks like a clear victory," for the centre-right, a beaming Solberg told cheering supporters in Oslo just after midnight (2200 GMT), following Monday's voting.

"Our solutions have worked. We have created jobs," she said, but warned, "We have some challenges ahead. ... Oil revenues are going to be lower. We all must take responsibility."

The ruling minority coalition of her Conservatives and the populist Progress Party, together with two small centre-right allies, was set to win a slim majority with 89 seats in the 169-seat parliament, according to an official projection with 95 per cent of the votes counted.

"It's a big disappointment," opposition Labour leader Jonas Gahr Støre said, conceding defeat for his party that has been a dominant force in Norwegian politics for a century.

Solberg, 56, plans more tax cuts as a way to stimulate growth for Europe's top oil and gas producer. Støre had argued for tax increases to improve public services such as education and healthcare for Norway's 5 million citizens.

The oil industry could be affected by the vote, because Solberg will need support from two green-minded, centre-right allies to ensure a majority to pass legislation in parliament.

One of the two parties, the Liberals, wants strict limits on oil and gas exploration in Arctic waters.

Solberg's Conservative Party was set to lose three seats to 45 in parliament, making her more dependent on outsiders' help and perhaps heralding a less stable government. And the head of the other small party, the Christian Democrats, warned Solberg he would not automatically back every government decision. "We will not give a guarantee for the next four years," party leader Knut Arild Hareide said.

"They (The Liberals and the Christian Democrats) will support Solberg as prime minister; but the question is whether they get a firm agreement or if there is cooperation on a case-by-case basis," said Elisabeth Ivarsflaten, a professor in comparative politics at the University of Bergen.

"Then it may be a weaker government," she told Reuters.



Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg during a news conference in Oslo, Norway on 12 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The Norwegian currency, the crown EURNOK=, strengthened slightly following the first projections after falling sharply earlier in the day on weaker-than-expected inflation data. For much of the year, Labour and its allies were favoured by pollsters to win a clear victory, but support for the government has risen as the economy gradually recovered from a slump in the price of crude oil, Norway's top export.

Unemployment, which a year ago hit a 20-year high of 5 per cent, has since declined to 4.3 per cent, while consumer confidence is at a 10-year high.

Solberg has won credit for the upturn with a no-nonsense style of management. Norway's economy also has the cushion of a sovereign wealth fund worth

almost \$1 trillion, the world's biggest, built on income from offshore oil and gas.

"Regardless of which government we get, the challenge will be to use less oil money," said Erik Bruce, chief analyst at Nordea Markets. "There is broad consensus about the outlook for the sovereign wealth fund and the Norwegian economy, which means a tighter fiscal policy."

The sovereign wealth fund has wanted to invest in unlisted infrastructure to boost its return on investment. Finance Minister Siv Jensen has twice said no to the request over the past two years, citing political risk. That stance is unlikely to change now that the government has been re-elected. —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

British, Canadian PMs set for talks on Bombardier-Boeing spat

ST JOHN'S, (Newfoundland) — British Prime Minister Theresa May and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will meet in Ottawa next week and are set to discuss a crisis between US firm Boeing Co and its Canadian rival Bombardier, a source close to the matter said on Tuesday.

The source, who declined to be identified because of the sensitivity of the situation, said the two leaders would hold talks on 18 September. Boeing has launched a potentially damaging trade action against Bombardier, which is a major employer in both Canada and Britain.

—Reuters ■

Spain's Constitutional Court suspends second law linked to Catalan referendum

MADRID — The Spanish Constitutional Court has suspended a Catalan law outlining a legal framework for an independent state, a court source said on Tuesday, an expected move after it suspended a law approving an 1 October independence referendum last week.

The Constitutional Court, the country's highest authority on constitutional matters, has suspended both laws while judges consider whether they breach the 1978 constitution. —Reuters ■

Indian priest kidnapped in Yemen has been freed — Oman

DUBAI — An Indian priest kidnapped by gunmen in Yemen last year has been freed, Oman's state news agency ONA said on Tuesday, posting a picture of him appearing in good health.

Father Tom Uzhunnalil was abducted in March 2016 when four gunmen attacked a care home in Yemen's southern port city of Aden. —Reuters ■

Russian embassy in US slams remarks on searches at diplomatic missions as mockery

WASHINGTON — The Russian embassy in the United States considers comments made by the US Department of State on the searches at Russia's Consulate General in San Francisco and trade mission in Washington as "pure mockery," says a statement published on the embassy's website.

US State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said earlier that the US personnel had "toured" the Russian diplomatic facilities. She also

used the word "walkthrough."

"We consider the comments mad by US State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert on the searches at the Russian Consulate General in San Francisco and trade mission in Washington, which she referred to as a "tour", as purely mocking," the embassy pointed out. "In fact, these are unprecedented steps contrary to bilateral conventions, international law and the US domestic legislation as well," the statement adds.

The embassy also wanted to know if there were any guarantees that the US special services "will not raid" other Russian diplomatic facilities "or diplomatic offices of other countries." "If diplomatic immunity is so easily revoked by the US, then what are we to expect next?" the embassy said. On 31 August, Washington demanded that Moscow close down its Consulate General in San Francisco and the trade mission in Washington, as well as its New York branch, by 2 September.

The Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying that these facilities were Russia's property and had diplomatic immunity. Moscow considers the seizure of its diplomatic property to be a hostile action and calls on the US authorities to immediately return it. On 5 September, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that the Foreign Ministry had been instructed to file a lawsuit over the seizure of the diplomatic property with a US court. —TASS ■

American al Qaeda suspect to face trial on US terrorism charges

NEW YORK — An American citizen will go to trial in federal court in Brooklyn on Tuesday on charges that he supported al Qaeda and helped prepare a 2009 car bomb attack on a US military base in Afghanistan.

Muhanad Mahmoud Al Farekh, 31, has pleaded not guilty to charges that include conspiring to murder Americans and use a weapon of mass destruction, and supporting a foreign terrorist organization. If convicted, he could face life in prison.

Jurors were scheduled to hear opening arguments in the case Tuesday morning. US District Judge Brian Cogan is presiding over the trial, which is expected to last two weeks.

US prosecutors in 2015 accused Al Farekh, who was born in Texas, of conspiring to support al Qaeda by traveling with two fellow students from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada to Pakistan with the intention of fighting against American forces.

They also charged that Al Farekh helped prepare a vehi-

cle-borne explosive device used in a 19 January, 2009 attack on a US base in Afghanistan. The base was not identified.

Prosecutors have said an accomplice detonated one device, while Al Farekh's fingerprints were found on packing tape for the second device, which another accomplice carried but failed to detonate.

One of the other university students Al Farekh traveled with in 2007, Ferid Imam, has also been indicted, though his whereabouts are unknown.

Prosecutors said Imam provided training at an al Qaeda camp in Pakistan in 2008 to three men later found guilty of plotting a bombing attack in the New York City subway system.

Authorities have said that before going to Pakistan, Farekh and Imam frequently watched videos promoting violent jihad, including online lectures by Anwar Al-Awlaki, the US-born, Yemen-based militant preacher affiliated with al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula who was killed in a US drone attack in 2011.—Reuters ■

Russian Islamic State fighter sentenced to hang in Iraq

BAGHDAD — A Russian Islamic State fighter was sentenced to death by hanging in Iraq on Tuesday, authorities said, a rare conviction of a foreign militant on terrorism charges.

The unnamed man was captured after running out of ammunition in western Mosul, a spokesman for Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council said in a statement.

"The Russian was a member of Daesh operating in Mosul since 2015," he added, using an Arabic acronym for the Sunni Muslim militant group.

Thousands of foreigners have been fighting for Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

Security and aid officials told Reuters over the weekend that Iraqi authorities were holding 1,400 foreign wives and children of suspected militants — most from Turkey, others from former Soviet states including Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and Russia.

Iraqi forces, backed by US-led coalition allies and Kurds, retook Mosul in July following the group's occupation of the country's second largest city in 2014. The Sunni militant group still controls territory in Iraq and is expected to revert to more conventional insurgent tactics such as bombings as its self-proclaimed caliphate falls apart.—Reuters ■

Iraqi parliament rejects Iraqi Kurdish referendum — lawmakers

BAGHDAD — Iraq's parliament voted on Tuesday to reject an Iraqi Kurdish independence referendum planned for 25 September, authorising the prime minister to take all measures to preserve Iraq's unity, a lawmaker said.

"Kurdish lawmakers walked out of the session but the decision to reject the referendum was passed by a majority," Mohammed al-Karbouli said.

Kurdish lawmaker Majid Shingali said Kurds would reject

the decision.

"This decision has no value and we will not implement it," he told Reuters. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's government had previously rejected the referendum as unilateral and unconstitutional.

The United States and other Western nations fear the September vote in Iraqi Kurdistan could ignite a new conflict with Baghdad and possibly neighbouring countries, diverting attention from the war against

Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria.

Turkey, along with Iraq, Iran and Syria, also opposes the idea of Iraqi Kurdish independence, fearing separatism could spread to their own Kurdish populations.

Kurds have sought an independent state since at least the end of World War One, when colonial powers divided up the Middle East and left Kurdish-populated territory split between modern-day Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria.—Reuters ■



Hezbollah and Syrian flags flutter on a military vehicle in Western Qalamoun, Syria on 28 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hezbollah declares Syria victory — report

BEIRUT — The Syrian government's powerful Lebanese ally Hezbollah has declared victory in the Syrian war, dismissing remaining fighting as "scattered battles", a pro-Hezbollah newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The comments by Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah mark one of the most confident assessments yet by the government side as it regains swathes of territory in eastern Syria in a rapid advance against Islamic State.

Referring to President Bashar al-Assad's opponents, Nasrallah said "the path of the other project has failed and wants to negotiate for some gains", the al-Akhbar newspaper cited him saying at a religious gathering.

"We have won in the war (in Syria)...and what remains are scattered battles," said Nasrallah, whose Iran-backed group has sent thousands of fighters to Syria to support Assad.

A source familiar with the contents of Nasrallah's speech confirmed al-Akhbar's report.

Backed by Russia and Iran, Assad has crushed numerous pockets of rebel-held territory in the western Syrian cities of Aleppo, Homs and Damascus over the last year, and he appears militarily unassailable in the six-year-long conflict.

Ceasefires brokered by Russia, Turkey, Iran and the United States in remaining rebel-held areas of western Syria have freed up manpower on the government side, helping its advance east into the oil-rich province of Deir al-Zor.

The eastward march to Deir al-Zor, unthinkable two years ago when Assad seemed in danger, has underlined his ever more

confident position and the dilemma facing Western governments that still want him to leave power in a negotiated transition.

Government forces last week reached Deir al-Zor city, the provincial capital on the Euphrates River, breaking an Islamic State siege of a government-held enclave and a nearby air base. In a televised speech last month, Assad said there were signs of victory in the war, but that the battle continued.

US-backed militia fighting under the banner of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have in recent days launched a separate offensive against Islamic State in Deir al-Zor province. The SDF, which is dominated by the Kurdish YPG militia, is also waging a campaign to capture Raqqa city from Islamic State. It has avoided conflict with the Syrian government.—Reuters ■

Russia's export of naval hardware may go up to \$40 bln by 2025

MOSCOW — Russia's export of naval hardware in 2017-2025 may reach \$40 billion, Russian presidential aide for military-technical cooperation, Vladimir Kozhin, has told TASS in an interview.

"Currently we have the full range of naval technologies on offer: submarines, frigates, patrol ships, speed boats and mine sweepers. There are all reasons to expect that share of naval technologies in our export structure will be growing. According to our estimates, in 2017-2025 Russia's export of naval hardware may be up to \$40 billion," Kozhin said.

He explained that for the time being naval technologies came second after aircraft, ground systems and air defense weapons.

"This concerns the annual amounts and the effective contracts. I believe that this trend will be changing because the prospects of marketing these armaments are very good," Kozhin said.

Practically any littoral country needs its own effective naval force, he believes.

"Some countries' existing



There are all reasons to expect that share of naval technologies in Russia's export structure will be growing, the presidential aid for military-technical cooperation said. **PHOTO: TASS**

fleets require upgrading. Without a naval force it is impossible to protect the maritime border well enough or fight against piracy and poaching. Many countries have realized that protecting their offshore areas is entirely their own business. Naturally, there is great interest in naval technologies

around the world and it will keep growing. We are holding many talks with various countries. Some are our traditional partners, for instance, India and China. Also, there are Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, a number of African countries and so on and so forth," Kozhin said.

Kozhin said that some countries would like to purchase Russia's military equipment right away but could not do so due to financial constraints.

"We are discussing and analyzing various payment mechanisms," he added. —Tass ■

White House social media director fooled by fake hurricane video

WASHINGTON — As powerful Hurricane Irma roared into Florida with strong winds and heavy rains on Sunday, misleading and outdated footage has fooled many Internet users, including White House social media director Dan Scavino.

Scavino, a close aide to US President Donald Trump, on Sunday tweeted a video of what he initially claimed a flooded Miami International Airport during Hurricane Irma.

"Sharing #HurricaneIrma on social media with President @realDonaldTrump & @VP Pence hourly. Here is Miami International Airport. STAY SAFE!!" he wrote.

However, Scavino was quick to delete the erroneous post after Miami International Airport debunked it, saying that the video was not actually taken in Miami.

Several users said the video appeared to be a clip on 31 August and was taken at the Mexico City Airport during an earlier storm which caused widespread damage in the Mexican capital.—Xinhua ■

Venezuela Supreme Court has staged effective coup — jurists' group

GENEVA — Venezuela's Supreme Court has progressively dismantled the rule of law, becoming an instrument of President Nicolas Maduro's government in what amounts to a coup against the constitutional order, an international human rights group charged on Tuesday.

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) said the top court had undermined human

rights and infringed the Constitution through a series of rulings since December 2015.

In two rulings in March 2017, the Supreme Court of Justice "effectively claimed legislative powers for itself, depriving the National Assembly of its Constitutional powers and granting sweeping arbitrary powers to the executive," it said.

"These decisions amount to

a coup d'état against the Constitutional order and have ushered in a new reign of arbitrary rule," Sam Zarifi, ICJ Secretary General, said in a statement.

Judges on the Supreme Court are mainly from the ruling Socialist Party and/or former officials of the government of Maduro, the Geneva-based jurists' group said. Maduro denies accusations of a power grab, say-

ing his actions — including the creation of an alternative constituent assembly that has granted itself lawmaking powers — are aimed at restoring peace after months of protests and violence. Zarifi said the Supreme Court of Justice "has issued its decisions based on political considerations and ideological and party loyalties to the executive power". The ICJ report, "The Supreme Court

of Justice: an instrument of executive power", was issued on the sidelines of the UN Human Rights Council which began a three-week session on Monday. UN human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini said on Monday that Venezuelan security forces may have committed crimes against humanity against protesters and called for an international investigation.—Reuters ■

German prosecutor demands life for neo-Nazi suspect Zschaepe

MUNICH, Germany — A German prosecutor urged judges on Tuesday to give a sentence of life imprisonment to Beate Zschaepe, the main surviving member of a neo-Nazi gang accused of murdering 10 people, most of them immigrants, over seven years from the year 2000.

Prosecutors say Zschaepe was part of the National Socialist Underground (NSU) group

which killed eight Turks, a Greek and a German policewoman.

Zschaepe, 42, has denied taking part in the murders with two friends who killed themselves in 2011 when police discovered the gang by chance. But she has, through her lawyer, said she felt morally guilty for not stopping them.

Judges have yet to give a verdict.

"The accused is criminally fully responsible for her behaviour," said federal prosecutor Herbert Diemer, calling for Zschaepe to be given a life sentence for 10 murders.

He described Zschaepe as an "ice-cold, calculating person", adding that there were no mitigating circumstances.

Zschaepe, 42, listened impassively, resting her chin on

her hands.

Prosecutors said in July that four years of hearing evidence had shown that Zschaepe was a "co-founder, member and accomplice" of a terrorist organisation.

The group had carried out "the most violent and infamous terror attacks" — including two bombings and 15 bank robberies — since the end of the Red Army

Faction's two-decade spree in 1991, in which 34 people are estimated to have been killed.

Although the NSU murders were carried out by Zschaepe's two friends, Uwe Mundlos and Uwe Bohnhardt, both now dead in what is believed to have been a murder-suicide, she played a major role behind the scenes, according to prosecutors. —Reuters ■

Thailand suspends international flights by some Thai airlines

BANGKOK — Thailand's military government has suspended international flights by Thai airlines that have not received new operator certificates from the country's aviation body, a spokesman said.

The measure will affect 12 airlines which together have a market share of only 2 percent and so will have little impact on the

country's tourism-dependent economy, the head of the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) said on Tuesday. Thailand's aviation industry has been under scrutiny after the UN's International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) downgraded the country in June 2015, giving it a red flag for missing a deadline to resolve significant safety con-

cerns. The government's move comes ahead of an ICAO's visit to Thailand next week.

"They want to see a strict measure. The government had to order CAAT to suspend operations of airlines which did not pass assessment," government spokesman Sansern Kaewkumnerd told reporters.

The Thai military junta often invokes executive power, known as Article 44, to clear bureaucratic hurdles. CAAT was set up in 2015 by the military government to tackle flaws in commercial aviation. It is tasked with auditing and recertifying Thai commercial airlines to make sure they are in line with ICAO standards. Chula

Sukmanop, director general of CAAT, told Reuters the suspension will affect 12 airlines, including Orient Thai Airlines and Thai Vietjet Air. "It's not that they failed the assessment, but the assessment has not been completed yet," Chula said.

"They can resume their flights as soon as they pass the assessment," he

said, adding that the two airlines are expected to resume their international flights as soon as next month. The suspension is expected to be lifted for the other airlines by 31 January, 2018, Chula said.

The two airlines named were not immediately available for comment when contacted by Reuters. —Reuters ■

Japan's Abe to launch \$17-bln Indian bullet train project as ties deepen

NEW DELHI/TOKYO — Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will lay the foundation stone for India's first bullet train in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state this week, in a tightening of ties just days after New Delhi ended a dangerous military confrontation with China.

The move by Abe, who starts a two-day visit to India on Wednesday, highlights an early lead for Japan in a sector where the Chinese have also been trying to secure a foothold, but without much success.

Modi has made the 500-km- (311-mile-) long high-speed rail link between the financial hub of Mumbai and the industrial city of Ahmedabad in western Gujarat a centerpiece of his efforts to showcase India's ability to build cutting-edge infrastructure.

The leaders will launch the start of work on the line on Thursday, India's railways ministry said in a statement.

"This technology will revolutionize and transform the transport sector," said Railways Minister Piyush Goyal, welcoming the prospects for growth brought by Japan's high-speed "shinkansen" technology.

In Tokyo, a Japanese foreign ministry official told reporters, "We would like to support 'Make in India' as much as possible," referring to Modi's signature policy to lure investors in manufacturing.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pose in front of a Shinkansen bullet train before heading for Hyogo prefecture at Tokyo Station, Japan on 12 November, 2016, in this photo taken by Kyodo. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

"And for that, we want to do what's beyond the Mumbai-Ahmedabad line and achieve economies of scale."

India would make "all-out efforts" to complete the line by August 2022, more than a year earlier than planned, the government said this week.

Japan is providing 81 percent of the funding for the 1.08-trillion-rupee (\$16.9-billion) project, through a 50-year loan at 0.1 per cent annual interest.

Ties between India and Japan have blossomed as Modi and Abe increasingly see eye-to-eye in countering growing Chinese assertiveness across Asia.

Japanese investment into India has surged in areas ranging from au-

tomotives to infrastructure in the remote northeast, making Tokyo its third-largest foreign direct investor.

India and Japan are also trying to move forward on a plan for New Delhi to buy Japanese amphibious aircraft — ShinMaywa Industries' US-2 — in what would be one of Tokyo's first arms transfers since ending a self-imposed embargo.

Tokyo hopes that by gaining a head start on rival exporters of rail technology such as China and Germany, its companies will be able to dominate business in one of the most promising markets for high-speed rail equipment.

In 2015, China won a contract to assess the feasibility of a high-speed link between Delhi and Mum-

bai, part of a network of more than 10,000 km (6,214 miles) of track India wants to set up, but little progress has been made.

Bullet train critics say the funds would be far better spent to modernise India's slow and rickety state-controlled rail system, the world's fourth largest.

But a \$15-billion safety overhaul has hit delays as a state steel firm proved unable to fill demand for new rail. —Reuters ■

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by the Department of Public Health & Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for the supply of Non Control Items, Transportation Equipment, Office Equipment, Furniture, Machinery & Equipement in the (2017-2018) Budget year.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supplying Division Office No(4), Ministry of Health and Sports Commencing from (15.9.2017).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office. not late than (16-10-2017) 14:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph /telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Phone No.067-3411510, 067-3411544, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Procurement and Supply Division
Ministry of Health and Sports

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (022)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (022) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.9.2017 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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.9.2017 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

Established by
Daw Lwin Phyu Thant

Future Life Education
Training Center

To contact
Phone: 09964292467
09254316076

May Shin Sein takes part in activities along with global participants in Guayaquil

By Sandar Soe

May Shin Sein, a Miss United Continents 2017 Myanmar, who represented by Myanmar has carried out several activities around Guayaquil city with her participants from the global. Delegates visited the Ajecuator plant and they learned more about the production process of bottled water. AJE's product portfolio is complemented with brands such as Cielo, Cifrut, Pulp, BIG Fresh, Sporade and Volt in the water and juices categories.

All the contestants will fulfill the agenda of photo shoots, filming, fashion shows, festivals and a tour in different parts of the Pearl of The Pacific. Together with misses from America, Africa, Asia and Europe visited the official sponsors of the event; besides they walked around touristics and emblematics places of the Pearl of the Pacific.

During their tour activities on 10 September, a small group of delegates, including W May Shin Sein, Myanmar representative contestant, participated in a filming at the unique tourist spot, one of their tour activities destinations. The Seminario Park also known as "Parque

de las Iguanas" (Iguana Park) for the large population of iguanas in the place, it has a natural charm because of the trees and artificial lagoon in which swim different colored fish. When they posted for photos, they all brought their national flags and waved them with pride.

Contestants also visited at at Fashion KER'S clothing store. The Fashion KER provided the sportswears that the contestants will wear at the rehearsals. The beauty queens from different countries will have to learn more about the history of this popular company in Guayaquil.

One of the activities for 2017 contest is that delegates will participate in a 5K run on 16th September. The aim of the event is to promote a healthy lifestyle and it will take place in Machala city, known as the Banana Capital of the World.

The host of the event will take place on September 23th at the Convention Center of the city and will announce the final results of the contest on this day. The Miss United Continents content is sponsored by Municipality of Guayaquil, mainly targeting to promote the tourism at the city. ■



May Shin Sein,
a Miss United
Continents 2017
Myanmar.



Winning Myanmar young Chefs, 1 Silver - 15 Bronze medal Wards & 4 Diploma, MCA Thailand Culinary competition 2017

One Silver Awards & 15 Bronze Medals & four Diplomas were awarded to young Myanmar Chefs of Myanmar Chefs Association at Thailand's Food & Hotel - TICC challenge. MCA sponsored 14 Myanmar Chefs of Mandalay, Kawmu, Ngapali Beach in Rakhine and Yangon to Bangkok for international culinary challenge 2017.

Among 8 countries the

Myanmar MCA teams of Mandalay, Kawmu, Ngapali Beach in Rakhine and Yangon with 13 chefs and MCA secretary Daw Khin Khet Khet Khaing achieved a remarkable culinary result at the international culinary stage with Sittway Chef Ye Nanda Khin fetched the highest, with a Silver Medal in Street Food Fine Dining.—GNLM ■

UAB and Visa to collaborate on UAB Visa Credit Card

United Amara Bank, one of the biggest private banks in Myanmar, launched its international UAB Visa Credit Card yesterday.

UAB was established in 2010 and in February 2017 was estimated to have an asset of KS 845 billion. In September 2017, UAB won the Trade Finance Program Award for "Leading Partner Bank in Myanmar" from Asian Development Bank.

The credit cards are divided into three categories: Classic, Gold and Platinum. Mr. Christopher Loh, the Executive Advisor of UAB Bank, said that with the launch of these credit cards, their customers will be able to shop both at home and abroad without the need to carry around cash notes. "You will also get discounts and other benefits from merchants who are connected to Visa," he said.

Mr. Arturo Planell, the Country Manager for Visa in Myanmar, said the increasing



The launching of international UAB Visa Credit Card. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

widespread use of financial products like Visa creates secure transactions both local and abroad. "Customers who use the UAB Visa Credit Card will join the millions of other Visa users around the world in shared security, convenience and international transactions," he said.

Mr. Loh expressed his de-

light in collaborating with Visa and said UAB Bank is working on better value retail banking for its customers.

The credit card can be used for travel and online transactions and purchases. Credit card holders can also use the card when they have unexpected or emergency expenses.—GNLM ■



Blue Sky Day film for Myanmar Democracy Film Festival

By Khin Zarli

Blue Sky Day, one of the movies that will be shown at the Myanmar Democracy Film Festival, is based on a story of an ethnic family from a village in Bhamo District, Kachin State. The movie shows that peace is essential for democracy, and without understanding and trust between the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed groups, ethnic nationals will not get a true taste of democracy.

The movie was written by Htat Aung (Bhamo) and the script by Moon Mya Myint Mo. It is directed by JZ Dun Luwun. The main actors are Academy Ye Aung, Nay Min, Si Phyo, JZ Dun Luwun, Academy May Thinzar Oo, Thinzar Wint Kyaw, Ja Hsai Ein and NT Hsai Hnwe and is being produced by Moon Myanmar Media under the guidance of the Ministry of Information. The following are the voices of the movie's participants.

Director JZ Dun Luwun

"When approached by Moon Myanmar Media and the Ministry of Information to direct Blue Sky Day that will be shown at the Myanmar Democracy Film Festival

Day, I readily accepted, as I'll be able to depict the Kachin people and Kachin State on our own. There were many difficulties in making this movie. It was made with great effort to have an understanding between the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed groups. As I'm a Kachin, I have to make sure that Kachin do not misunderstand me by being between the two (Kachin and Tatmadaw). The movie is about ethnic nationals and the life of Tatmadaw personnel, so the actors and actresses were especially selected to be realistic. Details need to be worked out so that all actors and actresses were appropriately included in the scenes. As the movie was made in accordance with the essence of the festival title of democracy, please encourage us by coming to the show".

Actor Nay Min

"We did our best in creating this movie. But when the movie was completed, some scenes where we did our best were not included for various reasons, like censor and other matters. I would like to apologise in advance to the audience. If the audience likes what they saw, we'll be very happy. But if they don't like it, we would like to say that we have done our best and if there were mistakes or the story is not connected in some parts, it is because of those cut scenes". ■

Scenes from Blue Sky Day film. PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG WIN

Film Festival

Thara Saw Hti

Dimo Y

The Day with Blue Sky

Glittering With Gold in the Sunlight

The Great Myanmar

Nga Ea

The six films will be shown at the cinemas nationwide.

Date - (15-9-2017) to (21-9-2017)
Time - Schedule at Cinemas
Place - Designated Cinemas



Performing Art Entertainment

Film, Music and Performing Art
Prominent artistes will perform

Date - (18-9-2017) to (19-9-2017)
Time - 7:00 pm
Place - National Theatre

Anyeint Contest

Khitthit Kyeemon

Lu-Nge Star

Shwe-Nyar-Myae-Ye Kyae-Pwint-Myar

Phue-Thit Kyae-Sin

Zwe

Mann Star

Sagawah Myay

Model Har

Anyeint 8 Troupes will compete in the Contest



Date - (20-9-2017) to (21-9-2017)
Time - 6 pm
Place - National Theatre



Malaysia, Thailand advance to Group A semifinals at AFF U-18 Youth Championship

MALAYSIA and Thailand played to a draw yesterday in a Group A match at the 2017 Asean Football Federation (AFF) U-18 Youth Championship 2017 at Thuwanna Stadium, Malaysia's Nik Akif Syahiran Nik Mat scored the opening goal at 49 minutes mark, and Thailand's captain, Kritsada Kaman, scored the equaliser at the 62-minute mark.

Among the six teams in Group A, Malaysia and Thailand advanced to the semifinals, earning 13 points each. Malaysia advanced as the winner team of Group A, earning a +10 goal difference, while Thailand advanced as the runner-up, earning a +7 goal difference.

There were 11 teams divided into two groups. Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Cambodia, Timor-Leste and Laos comprised Group A, while Viet Nam, Myanmar, Indonesia, Brunei and the Philippines comprise Group B. The final matches of Group B will be held today.

After playing three matches each, Viet Nam is at the top of the table with nine points, while Myanmar and Indonesia are close behind with six points each.

Indonesia will play Brunei at 3pm and Myanmar will play against Viet Nam at 6pm today at Thuwanna Stadium, Yangon.

— Kyaw Zin Tun ■



Malaysian footballer Muhammad Faizal Hafiq Omar, 17 chased by Thailand footballer Narakorn Noomchansakool, 12 in yesterday's competition at Thuwanna Stadium. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar footballer Win Naing Tun best goal scorer at AFF U-18 Youth Championship

WITH seven goals so far, Myanmar football player Win Naing Tun is currently the best goal scorer at the Asean Football Federation (AFF) U-18 Youth Championship 2017.

Myanmar's striker has garnered seven goals in three matches, with four goals against Brunei and three goals

against the Philippines.

Indonesian player Egy Maulana Vikri and Myanmar player Myat Kaung Khat are the second best goal scorers with four goals each. Egy Maulana Vikri scored two goals against Myanmar and two goals against the Philippines, while Myat Kaung Khat scored one

goal against Indonesia and three goals against the Philippines.

Win Naing Tun and Myat Kaung Khat are both 17 years old from the Team Phoenix Football Club in Myanmar. Indonesian player Egy Maulana Vikri, 17, is from the PPLP Rangun Football Club in Indo-

nesia.

Malaysians Hadifayyadh and Akhyar Rashid, Indonesian Feby Eka Putra, Singaporean Danial Mustaffa, Thai player Yuthpichai Lertlum and Viet Nam's Tran Van Cong are the third best goal scorers in the tournament with three goals each so far.

In last year's AFF Youth Championship, Australian player George Blackwood was the best scorer with six goals.

At the 2015 AFF Youth Championship, Thailand's Worachit Kanitsribampen was the most prolific scorer with six goals. —Kyaw Zin Tun ■

Champions League 'a big objective' for PSG, says Emery

GLASGOW — Paris St Germain manager Unai Emery believes his side face increased pressure to deliver success in the Champions League following their transfer splurge ahead of the season.

PSG signed Brazil's Neymar for a world record fee of 222 million euros (\$265.40 million) during the off-season and also recruited Kylian Mbappe on loan from AS Monaco.

Mbappe is expected to make his move permanent in 12 months for a reported 180 million euros.

PSG have never won the Champions League title, nor made the semi-finals since 1995, but expectations have risen since they were bought by Qatari Sports Investment

in 2011 and won four of their six Ligue 1 titles since then.

They have not, however, progressed beyond the quarter-finals in Europe's premier intercontinental club competition since the acquisition and Emery said those results now take precedence.

"I know it is a big objective for the club, but we are doing and feeling well, the players are doing well but I know it will be difficult," Emery told reporters ahead of their clash with Scottish champions Celtic.

"I know I have a lot of responsibility because I have a lot of good players at my disposal and there are some good teams in the Champions League, and Celtic is one of them.

"I don't know (if PSG are

favourites), but with the players and quality we have we should get close this year."

PSG would be wary of Brendan Rodgers's Celtic side, who are unbeaten in 54 domestic matches.

The Scottish side failed to reach the Champions League knockout stages last season but picked up two draws against Pep Guardiola's Manchester City.

"Preparation is everything. We have prepared well all week but we must give Celtic the respect they deserve," Emery added.

"We are aiming to go far. The atmosphere is incredible and they try to share the pressure together. It will be difficult but we are ready."

—Reuters ■

Allardyce rules out Palace return after De Boer sacking

LONDON— Former Crystal Palace manager Sam Allardyce has ruled himself out of a return to Selhurst Park, following Frank de Boer's sacking just four Premier League games into the season.

The South London side dismissed De Boer on Monday following their worst start to an English top-flight campaign for nearly 100 years.

Allardyce, who steered Palace away from relegation last season before resigning in May, confirmed he spoke to club chairman Steve Parish but said he was "not ready".

"I wouldn't feel comfortable taking a manager position, I am enjoying my life too much," Allardyce told Sky Sports on Monday. "I spoke to Steve (Parish) late this afternoon and said that for me, I wouldn't be ready to come back.



Crystal Palace manager Sam Allardyce. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

"He didn't offer me the job, he just asked me, 'What are your thoughts?' I told him that at this moment in time, I wouldn't want to go back in." According to British media, Former England boss Roy Hodgson is set to replace De Boer before they host Southampton in the league on Saturday. —Reuters ■