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Authorities provide aid to people from Islamic community in northern Rakhine. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

in
Picture

Rice and cash provided to people in Maungtaung Township

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and State Minister for Social, Dr Chan Thar provided rice and cash assistance to residents in Maungtaung yesterday.
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Three police outposts burnt down by ARSA terrorists

During area clearance operations on 12 September, it was discovered that three security outposts in Maungtaung Township had been destroyed by fire, it was learnt yesterday.

Outposts in Mee Taik Chaungwa, Nant Thar Taung Chaungwa and Thinbaw Hla Chaungwa outposts were found to have been burnt to the ground, most likely by ARSA extremist terrorists, military sources said.

ARSA extremist terrorists began the latest wave of violence on 25 August, when the extremists made violent surprise attacks on over 30 police outposts in the Maungtaung region. Due to these attacks, government sources said, civilians, security forces, civil service personnel, Rakhine nationals, Hindus, Daingnet, Mro ethnic people and Muslims were killed and injured.

Most of the local nationals fled to safer places further south in Rakhine State, but hundreds of thousands of Muslims fled west toward the Bangladesh border. In the evening, security forces arrived at Tone Chaung Chaungwa outpost to clear the surrounding area and found two remote-controlled mines and a black suit with a mask attached on board a longboat 100 meters from the outpost.—Myanmar News Agency

Rakhine issue is an internal affair: Chinese Ambassador

China has offered its assistance to the displaced people in conflict areas in northern Rakhine, welcoming the Union

government's undertakings to provide assistance to the people.

Mr Hong Liang, the Chi-

nese Ambassador to Myanmar, conveyed the message to the government at a meeting yesterday with Dr Win Myat Aye,

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, in Nay Pyi Taw.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Day two of Myanmar Global Investment Forum

Min Min Zaw, Mi Mi Phyo

The second day of the Myanmar Global Investment Forum - 2017 was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre 2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, under the sponsorship of Myanmar Investment Commission and Hong Kong-based Euromoney International Investor (Asia).

At the forum, U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Commerce and Matthew Thomas, Banking and Capital Markets, Euromoney Institutional Investor, Asia Bureau Chief gave welcoming speeches. Discussions were made under the titles Will Myanmar Become a Production-Oriented Country?, Developing the Agricultural Sector into Modernisation, and Development of the Tourism Sector of the Nation. For the discussion Will Myanmar Become a Production-Oriented Country?, U Ko Ko Lwin, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Industry, said infrastructure must improve.

“Our country has great prospects for the production sector. For the time being, the production sector is decreasing, so it needs to be improved again. For



The second day of the Myanmar Global Investment Forum-2017 held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE THAN

the improvement in production sector, we need to have myriads of inputs. We must have adequate supply of electricity, water and raw materials. For those who would like to set up factories and mills, we must implement ‘one stop service.’ If respective zones develop, we firmly believe that job opportunities and the production sector will develop and we can protect imports slowly and slowly”, U Ko Ko Lwin said.

“Now we are giving out member cards for SMEs. Very

soon, the Government will form a SME Working Committee. If small and medium-sized entrepreneurs will invest, success will be achieved. The government will help them as much as possible, under the instructions of the State Leaders.”

Concerning the development of the tourism sector, Daw Ohnmar Khin, co-founder of Orchestra Travel and Sandoway Resort said, “In regard to travel and tourism, discussions were mainly made for investors from

home and abroad to invest in Myanmar. Moreover, we discussed the importance of sustainable tourism and eco-tourism. That is because it is of great importance how sustainable tourism and eco-tourism will be implemented after studying their developments, at the time when Myanmar is competing with other countries in tourism”. Then, she went on to say, “The hotel and tourism industry’s income exceeded more than last year’s estimated income — US\$2 million.

The present year’s income is estimated at \$3.5 million. The most important thing for the development of tourism in Myanmar is to improve infrastructures. There are many progresses in Tourism Law, rather than the former Tourism Law. The government is responsible to fulfil the needs of infrastructures. We must mainly implement PPP—Public Private Partnerships.”

Regarding modernising the agricultural sector, U Ye Tint Tun, director-general of the agricultural department said the private sector will be essential in improving farming techniques. “At today’s meeting, like the government implementing the development of the agricultural sector, we are discussing for private sectors as well to take part in implementation work. It is necessary for letting private sectors perform the tasks, rather than by the government only, in some spheres. Especially, we had to sell our produces as raw materials. We lack in the production of fine materials and value-added materials. So we need subsidies and technical aids to lift up value”, U Ye Tint Tun said. ■

Rice and cash provided to people in Maungtaw Township



Local residents accept rice and cash assistance provided by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and State Minister Dr Chan Thar in Maungtaw. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and State Minister for Social, Dr Chan Thar provided free rice and cash assistance to residents in Maungtaw, yesterday.

The delegation provided rice sacks to the people of Maw Ya Wati Village in southern Maungtaw in the morning.

The delegation also provided rice sacks to Kyauk Panu Village and Ks100,000 cash was transferred to the village leader of Kyauk Panu Village to buy the necessary foods.

The party provided rice sacks to the local people in Inn Din Village and returned to Sittway Township in the afternoon.

U Aye Tha Aung and his

party provided over Ks40 million to villages of Aung Zay Ya, Aung Tha Ya, Aung Mingalar, Phar Wutt Chaung, Laung Done in northern Maungtaw and villages of Maw Ya Wati, Kyauk Panu and Inn Din in southern Maungtaw during their two day visit, 12-13 September. —Min Htet Aung/ Tin Maung Lwin ■

More than 4,200 IDPs from local ethnic villages return home

As clashes abated between extremist terrorists from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and security forces yesterday, internally displaced persons from villages in Maungtaw and Yathedaung townships returned home, according to local authorities in Maungtaw.

More than 4,220 IDPs from 15 local ethnic villages in Maungtaw Township, five villages from Yathedaung Township and six villages from Buthidaung Township were escorted back to their homes, authorities said.

Since 25 August, when ARSA extremists launched a series of attacks on border guard outposts and an army camp, more than 90 armed clashes have occurred in

Maungtaw, northern Rakhine State, according to local police.

During this period, extremist terrorists burnt down houses in 45 places and killed security forces, civil service personnel, ethnic Rakhine civilians, other ethnic tribes, Muslims and Hindus.

The conflicts forced nearly 30,000 villagers to flee to Sittway, Maungtaw and Buthidaung. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims fled toward the Bangladesh border. Authorities warned locals in Maungtaw not to cooperate with or support terrorists, not to set fire to homes or properties and not to enter restricted areas as part of a new order issued last Saturday.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Armed conflicts should be eliminated to address human trafficking: VP U Henry Van Thio

VICE President U Henry Van Thio has called for eliminating armed conflicts in Myanmar to address human trafficking, stressing that eliminating armed conflicts plays a special important role in the government's anti-human trafficking endeavor.

The remark came at the ceremony to mark the fifth Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

"In conducting anti-human trafficking activities, root causes of human trafficking need to be effectively addressed," said the Vice President.

"Only when the state is stable and peaceful, social lives of people can be peaceful and they can be outside of the danger of human trafficking. Therefore, an emphasis must be placed on peace building which is directly related to reduction in human trafficking," he added.

He also warned that workers migrating elsewhere due to difficulties about their livelihood are facing the danger of human trafficking. Lack of good education also increases possibilities of being trafficked.

Myanmar has been suppressing and combating trafficking in persons as a national cause for over 20 years since 1997.

Human trafficking continues to be happening in Myanmar due to such causes leaving people vulnerable as shortage of employment opportunities, low income, natural disasters and armed conflicts.



Vice President U Henry Van Thio observes documentary photos at the ceremony to mark the fifth Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar is encountering forced marriages connected with China; labour exploitation and forced prostitution connected with Thailand; forced prostitution and forced begging connected with Malaysia and forced labour in the off-shore fishing industry connected with Indonesia; and labour exploitation and forced prostitution in Myanmar.

In order to suppress and combat the aforesaid human trafficking activities, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law has been promulgated and Anti Trafficking in Persons Police Division formed. Moreover, five-year plans have been drawn and implemented in a fashion involving all sectors. In this re-

gard, the third five-year plan spanning from 2017 to 2021 has been confirmed and approved. Implementation is under way of the four components comprising this third year plan, namely, policy and cooperation, prevention, prosecution and protection.

Myanmar ratified ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in January, 2017.

"It is still necessary to enhance effectiveness in taking actions under the Anti-money Laundry Law against money and assets obtained through human trafficking. Only then will human trafficking networks be uprooted," said Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

The bi-lateral Standard Operating Procedures related to repatriation, reintegration and rehabilitation of trafficked victims have been signed between Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of Myanmar and Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand.

Signing of the MoU between Myanmar and India has been initiated whereas the MoU between Myanmar and Thailand is under review.

In respect of recruitment of children as soldiers, the committee for preventing minors from performing military duties has been formed since January 5, 2004.

"Just as the Tatmadaw is

effectively undertaking measures to eliminate the child soldier issue, so also should other armed organizations do. This issue should be addressed with an emphasis on discussions in the peace process," U Henry Van Thio said.

In respect of elimination of forced labour, Myanmar has been a signatory country to International Labour Organization (ILO) since May 17, 1948 and undertaking its obligations.

With a view to enhancing effectiveness in taking actions against human trafficking, just as guidelines have been conveyed to prosecutors, so also the guidelines related to cooperation between the station police and Anti Trafficking in Person Task Force (ATTF) police have been published and distributed.

An initiative is in place to establish a special fund for supporting trafficked victims and enabling conduct of effective anti-human trafficking activities.

In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, a total amount of Myanmar Kyats 73,350,000 (Kyats Seventy Three Million and Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand) was given as financial support to 57 male victims and 291 female victims, totaling 348 persons.

In the current 2017-2018 fiscal year, a total amount of Myanmar Kyats 18,700,000 (Kyats Eighteen Million and Seven Hundred Thousand) has been given as financial support to 6 male victims and 23 female victims, totaling 29 persons.

—GNLM ■

Paper reading session for Rakhine State held

A paper reading session for the state of affairs in Rakhine State organised by the Research and Information branch of the Information and Public Relations Department, Ministry of Information was held yesterday afternoon at the Hall of Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint said that the situation in Rakhine State is very serious now, and the facts should be known about the Rakhine affair in more detail. For this reason, it was decided to

conduct research and a paper reading session. This paper reading was made with the intention to develop the knowledge of the staff of the department and to understand more about the current situations by listening to the reading of the papers by expert researchers.

The ceremony was chaired by Deputy Director General U Aye Kywe, who introduced the paper readers to audiences. U Kyaw Zin Soe, Director of the Research and Information branch, read the first section

of the paper on Rakhine State affairs and U Tet Tun Toe, assistant director of Research and Information branch, read the second section of the paper.

Officials responded to questions posed by attendees and staff of the Ministry. Present at the ceremony were U Aung Myo Myint, Director General of Printing and Publishing Department, U Kyaw Soe, Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise, and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint addresses the paper reading session for Rakhine State in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Union minister holds meeting with CCI in Ayeyawady Region

U KYAW WIN, the Union Minister for Planning and Finance and the chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission, met with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) and sister associations at Pathein Hotel in Pathein town, Ayeyawady Region on 13 September.

At the meeting, the union minister encouraged the merchants to carry out effective activities for the development of the small and medium enterprises. For promotion of exports, our government will seek contacts for foreign markets, he said. He also promised to provide manufacturing assistance to improve products' quality. The government is prioritizing the agricultural, SME and construction sectors this fiscal year.

The minister called for creativity in manufacturing of the pathein umbrellas and, Hala-wah dough. He also called on



Union Minister for Planning and Finance and chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission U Kyaw Win meets with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

the entrepreneurs to promote the collage industry.

The businessmen need to submit proposals through the MIC secretary office. The union minister provided solutions to problems faced by the CCI, developers, rice mill owners, Pi-

lawpinam association, Rubber enterprise association, bamboo and cane enterprise and pathein umbrella and traditional snack manufactures association.

Present at the meeting were the minister for the planning and finance, the minister of

municipal, the regional minister for industry, the departmental officials, Ayeyawady Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry chairman and members from the sister association, and 40 other participants. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Six locally made mines planted by ARSA extremist terrorists found

STARTING from early morning on August 25, extremist terrorists made violent surprise attacks on over 30 police outposts in Maungdaw region. Due to these attacks, innocent people, security forces, civil service personnel, Rakhine nationals, Hindus, Daingnet and Mro ethnic people including Muslims

were killed and injured. And most of local nationals fled to safer places.

On September 13 at 2 pm security forces from Ceti Pyin of region 11, in Yathedaung township returned from Pauk Pin Yin village of national ethnic people after delivering provisions and subsidies. On

arrival at Auk Nan Yar village at 3:10 pm, security found a plastic bag beside the road. Out of suspicion, the plastic bag was uncovered six locally made mines.

Tatmadaw and security forces provided provisions to 11 Bengali families amounting to 100 family members who re-

mained staying in the Bengali village, "Nga Yant Chaung", at 4:30 pm on September 12. The provisions included 3 rice bags, 1 bag of chilli, 1 fried fish bag, one pack of cooking oil and a pack of chicken meat stick. And, it has been learnt that 18 feeble Bengalis were given medical care. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Department of traditional medicine examines Myanmar Traditional Medicines

ACCORDING to the department of traditional medicine, 63 kinds of drugs were announced to be unfit for the public to take via state-owned newspapers, until 11 September 2017.

Traditional medicines have to undergo pharmaceutical quality control testing whether they are fit or not for consumption.

It has been learnt that there are altogether 13623 of

drugs registered and 2916 licenses have been allowed to produce traditional medicines.

For production, distribution and sale in markets, licenses for traditional medicines production are to be applied with brand label, bottle label and descriptions expressed in outer covering in detail attached—such as drug's name, its ingredients, applicable diseases, dosage amount, regis-

tration number, expiry date and so on.

After the acquisition of traditional medicine registration, license for producing medicine must be applied. Respective Region and State Supervision Committee inspect the industry and continue to submit examination record to the central traditional medicine supervision committee, allowing the industries to issue 3-year permits.

In case unregistered drugs, medicines unfit for consumption and those without permits are found, owners will be summoned to be warned or to make them sign not to commit further or to withdraw the medicines put on sale for market.

Traditional medicine law was promulgated by SLORC under law no 7/96, it was learnt. —Shin Minn ■



A file photo shows trucks run near 105-mile Muse border Trade Zone, northern Shan State. **PHOTO: PHOEO KHWAR**

Border trade with ITCs reaches Ks 16.2 billion

THE value of border trade by individual trading card holders was estimated at Ks16.2 billion as of 1st September, including exports of Ks1.3 billion and imports of Ks14.9 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myawady border trade had the largest amount of trade using the individual trade card system with trade worth Ks12 billion. According to Ministry's statistics, export value using the individual trade card system was Ks1.3

billion as of 1st September and imports were Ks14 billion.

Trade using the individual trade card system was estimated at Ks825 million at Tamu trade camp; Ks11 million at Muse border gate; Ks642 million at Tachilek trade camp; Ks56 million at Lwejel trade camp; Ks4 million at Chin Shwe Haw border gate; Ks901 million Kanpikete; Ks315 million at Kawthoung border town; Ks299 million at Reed border trade camp, Ks723 million at Mawtaung

gate, Ks78 million at Kungtung border trade camp.

Total trade using individual trade cards was Ks18.97 billion in FY2016-2017. The Ministry of Commerce authorised 292 individual trade cards in FY2012-2013; 261 cards in FY2013-2014; 317 cards in FY2014-2015; 146 cards in FY2015-2016; 248 cards in FY2016-2017 and 82 cards in as of 1st September.

Since its introduction to date, the ministry issued a total of 1,346 ITCs.— Zwe ■

Gandamar partners with Hirokei to promote IT

GANDAMAR Business Solutions, a distribution company with over 50 years of experience, signed an agreement to partner with Hirokei Myanmar Systems Company, a branch of Hirokei Company, to promote business information technology for retail, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The two companies signed

a partnership agreement at City Star Hotel in Yangon on 12 September. "We would like to provide proper technical services to retailers. Therefore, we decided to sign a partnership agreement. We will provide business solutions so that the proprietors can be informed in real time of their financial situations of their branch shops in Yangon, Man-

dalay and Nay Pyi Taw," said Mr. Gasper Kay, the Marketing Director of Gandamar Business Solutions.

In the first stage, the two partners will start to introduce Regi-Repo Cloud Reporting System to be track in real time of the financial situation of the restaurants and retailers in Oc-

tober.— GNLM ■

MFF urges government to offer better fisheries policies

MYANMAR Fisheries Federation (MFF) requested the government to lay down clear land use policies for fish farming enterprises, according to a report of Myanma Alinn on Monday.

Livestock businesses are facing with difficulties getting access to land," said U Htay Myint, the chairman of MFF. "We request the State to incorporate a permit to sell, mortgage, lease and transfer the land into 30-year-grant for livestock business."

Fisheries facilities also need better access to electricity and more and better equipped hatcheries, laboratories, cold storage and fisheries industrial special zones.

Fisheries policies also need reform. For example, there is no provision for mixed fisheries and crop farming—a sustainable practice which uses fish waste as fertilizer. "When fish farming enterprises are found to farm fish in agriculture land, they are fined Ks1 million an acre," said

U Naing Naing Lin, a livestock businessman. "Lack of clear land policy hurts the farming businesses. We want the government to formulate a plan for fish farmers to get access to loan plan by mortgaging fishing ponds."

Myanmar initiated its first fish farms in 1953 and drove a major expansion of the industry in 1970. Currently, there are a total of 450,000 acres of fish ponds across Myanmar.— Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

Kanyin Dam expected to generate five megawatts, irrigate 15,599 acres

KANYIN Dam is expected to generate five megawatts of hydropower and to irrigate 15,599 acres of rice and other crops in FY2016-2017, according to U Hla Kyaw Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, speaking at the facility on Saturday.

The deputy minister and his delegation also visited Ma Mya reservoir and farms in Danubyu Township, Ayeyawady

Region. During his visit, he asked local farmers about technical requirements and seasonal crops. Afterwards, he checked maintenance activity of river bank along Ayeyawady-Hinthada and east of Ayeyawady River.

The deputy minister and his delegation, including the Ayeyawady Region chief minister, also toured Myintha village in Kyaukhin Township.—MNA ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: **"Sunday Special"** အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာ ပါဝင်သည်

နေပြည်တော်
မြန်မာ့ရေးရာဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၀၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ယောသီရိမြို့နယ်၊ ခရစ်လမ်း၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဝဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၅၅၂၊ ၀၉၉၇၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

ပန္နလေး
လမ်း (၂၁ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၉၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲဓမ္မ ရောင်ရမ်း၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၅၈၁

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၀၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၅၇

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ရေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၁၂

တနင်္သာရီ
မြို့နယ် (၃-၁)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့နယ်လမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၇၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြန်မာ
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြန်မာမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
ရေကန်လမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရပ်သာလမ်း၊ မီးစက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျည်းမြင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး
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Trump, Malaysia's Najib skirt round US probe into 1MDB scandal

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump welcomed Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak to the White House on Tuesday, praising his country for investing in the United States while steering clear of an American 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).

Flanked by top advisers in the Cabinet Room, Najib told Trump that Malaysia Airlines would buy 25 Boeing 737 jets and eight 787 Dreamliners, and would probably add another 25 737s in the near future — a deal he said would be worth more than \$10 billion within five years.

Najib said Malaysia's Employees Provident Fund, a major pension fund, wanted to spend \$3 billion to \$4 billion on US infrastructure development.

Najib enjoyed close ties with Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, playing golf in Hawaii in 2014, but relations cooled over human rights issues as well as the 1MDB scandal.

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

The US Justice Department has said more than \$4.5 billion



US President Donald Trump welcomes Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak to the White House in Washington, US on 12 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

was misappropriated from 1MDB by high-level officials of the fund and their associates, according to dozens of civil lawsuits it filed last year.

The Justice Department sued to seize some \$1.7 billion in assets it said were bought with misappropriated 1MDB funds, but asked for a stay on its civil lawsuits in August because it was conducting a related criminal probe.

The White House had said it would not comment on the Justice Department investigation but a senior US official acknowledged it was unusual to meet with Najib while 1MDB was under regulatory scrutiny.

"It's a weird situation, no doubt," the official said, explaining that the administration has prioritized developing relations with Southeast Asia to counter "huge gains" China has made in the region.

Najib and his delegation stayed at the Trump International Hotel, according to several US media reports, but the White House dismissed questions about the stay.

"We certainly don't book their hotel accommodations, so I couldn't speak to the personal decision they made about where to stay here in DC," White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said.

In a speech to US business leaders, Najib said opposition politicians had blown the 1MDB scandal out of proportion in a failed attempt to topple his government.

"I know that some of you will have heard some less positive stories about the Malaysian economy, particularly about 1MDB," Najib said.

"Indeed, there was a campaign to deliberately sabotage the company — and undermine investor confidence in our economy — in a failed attempt to topple the government in-between election cycles."

He also said Malaysia's investigations into 1MDB revealed

there had been some "failings".

The US lawsuits had alleged \$681 million of the misappropriated funds from 1MDB was transferred to the account of "Malaysian Official 1", which US and Malaysian sources have previously identified as Najib.

A Malaysian government investigation has cleared him of any wrongdoing.

Najib's invitation to the White House was slammed by several rights groups who had urged the Trump administration to bring up Najib's record of cracking down on the media and others critics.

Trump sees Malaysia, a majority Muslim nation, as an ally in its fight against Islamic militancy. It is also wants it to cut ties with North Korea.

"He does not do business with North Korea any longer, and we find that to be very important," Trump said referring to Najib.

Ties between Malaysia and North Korea soured after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's half brother was assassinated in Kuala Lumpur this year. It was also discovered that North Korea was using Malaysia as a base for its arms export and other businesses, that funneled money to Pyongyang.

Before their meeting, Trump praised Najib for his tough stand on Islamic State.

"He's been very, very strong on terrorism in Malaysia, and a great supporter from that standpoint." —Reuters ■

Philippine president's Senate foes, allies vow to block budget cut for rights body

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's critics and allies in the Senate vowed on Wednesday to block a lower house move to slash the annual budget of a public-funded human rights agency opposed to his bloody war on drugs to just \$20.

The house, dominated by Duterte's supporters, voted on Tuesday to allocate a 2018 budget of just 1,000 pesos (\$20) to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), which has investigated hundreds of killings during the president's ferocious anti-narcotics crackdown.

Vice President Leni Robredo, who was not Duterte's run-

ning mate and has locked horns with him numerous times, said the lawmakers' move effectively abolishes the CHR, a constitutional body.

Duterte's signature campaign has left thousands of mostly urban poor Filipinos dead. Critics say the lawmakers are trying to retaliate against the CHR for pursuing allegations of executions by police during sting operations, which police deny.

The CHR is among the domestic and foreign rights groups that Duterte frequently admonishes, accusing them of lecturing him and disregarding Filipinos who are victims of crimes stem-

ming from drug addiction.

The upper house minority bloc, composed of six staunch critics of the president, will seek to restore the 678 million peso budget the government and a Senate sub-committee had proposed for the CHR.

Senator Risa Hontiveros described the plan to cut the budget to almost nil as "a shameless rejection of the country's international and national commitments to champion human rights".

Several allies of Duterte in the 24-seat chamber said they would scrutinize the house move and try to ensure the commission had a budget that would

allow it to work properly.

Senator Richard Gordon said the CHR had a job to do and should not be restricted.

"That is their role — to expose possible abuses," he said.

Another legislator, JV Ejercito said senators would not make the CHR impotent.

"The CHR is in the thick of things and very relevant nowadays and probably even next year and the years to follow because of what's happening," he said in a statement.

Duterte once threatened to abolish the CHR after its chief, Chito Gascon, sought to investigate alleged abuses by police

anti-drugs units.

Duterte on Tuesday appeared to distance himself from the lawmakers proposing the meager budget. He said CHR was constitutionally created and should probe whatever it wants, adding he was "not here to destroy institutions".

"He had it coming. He opens his mouth in a most inappropriate way. He knows nothing," Duterte said, referring to Gascon.

"The congressmen are really angry. I have nothing against him. Give them a budget for all I care, whatever he likes to investigate." —Reuters ■

North Korea defiant over UN sanctions as Trump says tougher steps needed

SEOUL/WASHINGTON — North Korea showed trademark defiance on Wednesday over new UN sanctions imposed after its sixth and largest nuclear test, vowing to redouble efforts to fight off what it said was the threat of a US invasion. US President Donald Trump said Monday's sanctions, unanimously agreed on Monday by the 15-member UN Security Council, were just a small step towards what is ultimately needed to rein in Pyongyang over its nuclear and missile programmes.

The North's Foreign Ministry said the resolutions were an infringement on its legitimate right to self-defence and aimed at "completely suffocating its state and people through full-scale economic blockade".

"The DPRK will redouble the efforts to increase its strength to safeguard the country's sovereignty and right to existence and to preserve peace and security of the region by establishing the practical equilibrium with the US," it said in a statement carried by the official KCNA news agency.

DPRK stands for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, North Korea's official name.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reacts during a celebration for nuclear scientists and engineers who contributed to a hydrogen bomb test, in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 10 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The statement echoed comments on Tuesday by the North's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, Han Tae Song, who said Pyongyang was "ready to use a form of ultimate means".

"The forthcoming measures ... will make the US suffer the

greatest pain it ever experienced in its history," Han said.

The North's Rodong Sinmun newspaper also accused South Korea of being Washington's "puppet", criticising Seoul's agreement with the United States to amend an existing bilateral

guideline that will now allow the South to use unlimited warhead payloads on its missiles.

The UN Security Council agreed to boost sanctions on North Korea, banning its textile exports and capping fuel supplies, and making it illegal for foreign

firms to form commercial joint ventures with North Korean entities. The UN resolution was triggered by North Korea's test of what it said was a hydrogen bomb. Damage to mountainous terrain at the North's nuclear test site in Punggye-ri seen in satellite imagery taken after the latest test was more extensive than anything seen after the five previous tests, the Washington-based 38 North project said. There was also activity at another location in the Mount Mantap site involving large vehicles and mining equipment that suggests "onsite work could now be changing focus to further prepare those other portals for future underground nuclear testing", said 38 North, which monitors North Korea.

The North accuses the United States, which has 28,500 troops in South Korea, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean war, of continual plans for invasion.

North Korea has also tested a missile capable of reaching the United States, but experts say it is likely to be at least a year before it can field an operational nuclear missile that could threaten the US mainland.—Reuters ■

China-ASEAN Expo opens in south China

NANNING — The 14th China-ASEAN Expo opened Tuesday in southern China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, highlighting trade and investment among China, ASEAN and other countries along the Belt and Road. The expo, "Co-Building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, Promoting Regional Economic Integration through Tourism," is in Nanning, capital of Guangxi. The four-day event attracted over 2,700 exhibitors, up 1.5 per cent from the previous event, while the number of buyers is expected to exceed 10,000, including about 4,000 international buyers, according to Yang Yanyan from the expo secretariat. The China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit also opened on Tuesday. The expo features 6,600 exhibition booths, an increase of

800 from the previous event. It includes 36 forums in fields such as industrial capacity cooperation, environmental protection, culture, transport and tourism.

A focus of this year's event is the Belt and Road Initiative, as a display area is dedicated to products from countries along the Belt and Road, such as Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan. Kazakhstan took part in the expo with a delegation of more than 200 people, as the first country along the Silk Road Economic Belt that was invited as a special partner.

The expo has helped China-ASEAN trade. China has expanded its export of electronic products, construction materials, power equipment, construction machines, as well as technology in new energy, high-speed trains and agriculture, to ASEAN mem-

ber states. The bloc's food, daily goods and bulk commodities are favoured by Chinese buyers.

Previous events attracted 584,000 business people and more than 38,000 projects. Bei Xianwen who started to sell Vietnamese shoes in China 16 years ago succeeded after the first China-ASEAN Expo in 2004. "I sold only around 20,000 pairs of shoes in 2001. But the event helped me break the ice. Now I have more than 30 shops in Guangxi and sell more than 100,000 pairs a year," Bei said. ASEAN is China's third-largest trading partner, while China is the association's largest trading partner. China-ASEAN trade reached 452.2 billion US dollars last year and the volume hit 277 billion US dollars from January to July this year. —Xinhua ■

Hong Kong to hold fireworks display to celebrate National Day

HONG KONG — The Hong Kong Commerce and Industry Associations announced on Wednesday that Hong Kong will hold a 23-minute fireworks display at the Victoria Harbour on 1 October to celebrate the 68th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland.

The National Day fireworks display will be organized by the Hong Kong Commerce and Industry Associations and produced by the Pyro Magic Multi-media Productions Ltd.

Chairman of the Hong Kong Commerce and Industry Associations Lo Kam-yam, who also chairs the fireworks

display organizing committee, said that the National Day fireworks display has eight scenes with each scene having its unique theme and fireworks synchronized to different background music.

The eight themes include "Set Sail," "Sail on," "Victorious Hands," "Journey" and "Love in Hong Kong," among others.

Wilson Mao, CEO of the Pyro Magic Multi-media Productions Ltd, said that the sixth scene — "Love in Hong Kong" — will display for the first time in Hong Kong a "3D heart" fireworks effect symbolizing a heart-to-heart bonding and building together a love-filled Hong Kong.—Xinhua ■

People who add fuel to the flame

Maw Lin

A slew of international news media are mistakenly posting on the internet that the Rakhine State affair is the violation of human rights or unfair suppression of a minority, who are different in race and religion. They are specifically trying to highlight that the said minority is stateless human beings without a hint of human rights. Citizenship policies were officially publicized by successive governments of this country that residents of Bengalis extraction would be acknowledged as citizens, if they did comply with the prescribed law. Practically, the Union Government has been exercising its authority according to these principles. The Union Govern-

ment has never claimed that the Bengalis in Rakhine State could not be granted any citizen rights.

The actual problem was that a group of ARSA extremist terrorists who were launching terrorist attacks in Rakhine State were not claiming citizen rights. Instead, they are just demanding that the Union Government acknowledge them as a national ethnic race by their desired name. On behalf of the so-called military leader of the ARSA extremist terrorists, a spoke-person disclosed, "Our original status as an ethnic race is required to be handed back to us." Such an expression of the word, ethnic means that they are claiming sovereignty pertaining to the area.

Why are the residents of Bengali extraction in Rakhine State claiming to be designated as an ethnic race? Though people of Indian and Chinese extractions had lived in the country for generations, no one made such a claim. Instead, they managed to peacefully co-exist with other national citizens, being satisfied with citizen rights granted. They never ever demanded for any privileges. ARSA extremist terrorists are making an attempt to carve out a part of the country, by claiming for rights of national ethnic people which do not completely concern them. Those who came to settle in Myanmar for generations, ipso facto, cannot become our national ethnic people. Any residents of

alien extractions who had lived here in Myanmar for generations are entitled to equally enjoy citizen rights, in the same way as other national ethnic people.

The demand of ARSA terrorists for national ethnic people's rights can be likened to the case of a guest who demanded inheritance from the landlord/ house-owner who granted him to stay. Even though the actual situations are quite self-evident, allegations that the Union Government has been violating the human rights of Bengalis in Rakhine State, without giving them any citizenship rights are, in fact, diverting people away from finding out the solution to the real problem. (Translated by Khin Muang Oo) ■

Trafficking In Persons And Forced Labor: Southeast Asian Scenario

By Helena Huang Yixin and Vincent Mack Zhi Wei/RSIS

In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly designated 30 July as the 'World Day against Trafficking in Persons (TIP)'. One key objective is to "raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking". What is the state of TIP and forced labour in Southeast Asia, and what is ASEAN doing about it?

SOUTHEAST Asia is currently the seventh largest global economy with a combined Gross Domestic Product of US\$2.4 trillion in 2015. It is also home to around 615 million people, making it the third-largest labour force in the world behind China and India. An active area for international and intraregional migration, the region creates opportunities for human trafficking and forced labour to take place.

The 2016 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons by The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes reinforced their previous findings that a person's socio-economic profile can be a determining factor in their level of vulnerability. Individuals living in poor or displaced and marginalised societies have a higher tendency to be targeted and offered false work prospects in other countries by traffickers or middlemen recruiters.

Growing Demand for Labor, Growing Vulnerability

Recruiters sometimes charge for the recruiting process, or engage in certain activities that force trafficked victims into situations of servitude. An example is when passports are confiscated and victims have to surrender to long working hours without proper pay, unable to return home.

According to the 2016 Trafficking in

Persons Report by the United States Department of State, many of the TIP victims identified in the Southeast Asian region are found in labour intensive industries, including in the fishing and seafood industries and in oil palm production.

The rising global demand for fish has caused an increased need for physical labour onboard fishing vessels. Over a short period of five years, the global per capita fish consumption has risen from 17 kilogram in 2011 to above 20 kg in 2016, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation. In the Southeast Asian region, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam are among the world's largest fish and seafood producers. Trafficked victims found in the fish and seafood industry have been identified as coming from neighbouring states, such as Myanmar, The Philippines, Cambodia and Laos. Manual labour is often needed on fishing trawlers out at sea for long hours and sometimes days, and in shrimp peeling sheds to prepare de-shelled prawns for ready global consumption. With the fishing vessel often out at sea, it is difficult for governments to monitor the working conditions onboard. Workers are sometimes tricked to work on vessels with little or no pay. Being constantly surrounded by water also means that escape is difficult for these workers.

Oil Palm Industry Next

In recent years, the global consumption of palm oil has more than doubled, particularly due to the cheap oil being an ideal raw material in the production of packaged food. As of 2012, Malaysia and Indonesia accounted for approximately 85 per cent of global palm oil production. The steady expansion of land cultivated for palm trees has caused an increase in the manual labour needed for the harvesting process, which is recruited both domesti-

cally and from neighbouring states.

In fact, research done by the Schuster Institute and Amnesty International discovered that the increased pressure in demand from consumers is responsible for driving up the numbers for forced labour in the palm oil industry.

Workers on oil palm plantations are not only involved in the cultivation and fertilising of palm trees. They are also responsible for harvesting fresh fruit bunches using long sickles and for collecting fallen loose fruitlets by hand. It is therefore not uncommon for the labour-to-land ratio for each worker to be 10 hectares of land. Labour abuses such as long working hours, passport confiscation, induced indebtedness, contract substitution and non-payment or underpayment of wages have been observed.

Due to the isolated nature of oil palm plantations and the outsourcing of recruitment, it is often difficult to detect labour abuse. This situation is further intensified when 'kernet workers' – helpers who have no direct employment relationship with the plantation companies – are hired to meet the harsh demands of harvesting the fruits in their prime condition.

Recent Efforts to Reduce Human Trafficking

In its effort to reduce human trafficking in the region, the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) was introduced and entered into force on 8 March 2017. As the only regional instrument associated with TIP, the ACTIP paves the way and provides guidelines for ASEAN Member States (AMS).

Since the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children was adopted in 2004, ASEAN states have been playing

their role in this regional plan. Thailand has implemented amendments to the Fisheries Act by installing Global Positioning Systems (GPS) tracking devices on Thailand-registered fishing boats to assist in the monitoring of fishing vessels.

Malaysia has taken measures to enhance its labour investigations and enforcement activities to ensure employers in the palm oil industry abide by their employment laws. Seven out of the ten member states now have domestic legislations targeted at the investigation and prosecution of TIP.

ASEAN - Moving Forward

To maximise the efforts in combating human trafficking in the region, governments need to continue to pay more attention to the push and pull factors in their own countries. Peoples of ASEAN need to feel secure and confident in their governments and of their future. When they do not perceive a desperate need to seek employment opportunities in other countries, their chances of being trafficked for forced labour decreases.

It is also important for ASEAN to persist in its engagement with civil society organisations and enforcement agencies to counter the trans-boundary nature of TIP. More international organisations and their networks must be utilised to provide education and support throughout the region. It is only with concerted efforts and increased transnational communication that the ACTIP can fulfil its potential in combating trafficking in persons in the Southeast Asian region.

*Helena Huang is a Senior Analyst and Vincent Mack an Associate Research Fellow at the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS) at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.



Union Minister Lt-General Ye Aung and party meet with students at Myoma monastery in Maungtownship in tour of inspection of rebuilding infrastructures in Maungtown. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Lt-General Ye Aung inspects rebuilding efforts in Maungtown

Roads and bridges in Maungtown which were destroyed in the terrorist attacks after 25 August are undergoing a rebuilding process.

Lt-General Ye Aung, the Union Minister for Border Affairs, and Lt-General Aung Kyaw Zaw from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) travelled to Maungtown yesterday morning to inspect the rebuilding processes of the Maungtown border fence, the Taungbazar-Piywet-Sinphyu Taung-Laungchaung-Warnat Yone roads and bridges.

The Union Minister also visited and gave words of encouragement and medicine to the Khami ethnic villagers who have fled their homes in

Sinphyutaung village in Buthidaung from ARSA extremist terrorists.

Afterwards, the Union Minister visited Wanet Yone village where Myo ethnic villagers live and provided them with medicine and food rations.

He also offered a Warso ceremonial robe and donations to Sayadaw Badnanda Sarainda in the village. In the afternoon, the Union Minister visited the Myoma monastery in Maungtown Township and met with students from Nanttartaung Parahitta monastery in Taungpyolett Township who are taking temporary shelter in Maungtown.

The Union Minister donated school uniforms, exercise books and food rations to the students

and provided other necessities to the teachers.

Afterwards, the Union Minister visited Nyaungchaung village in Maungtown where Islamic villagers lived and told them that stability was returning to the region and therefore the livelihoods of the people will return to normal.

Later, the Union Minister met with staff members of the Youth schools under the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department and the school for Women's vocational training. He expressed his gratitude and respect to the staff members for fulfilling their duties in Maungtown and conferred cash assistance to them.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

Vice President to attend 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

U Henry Van Thio, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will attend the general debate of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, to be held in New York, the United States of America. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Thura U Shwe Mann receives CEO of British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar



Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shakes hands with Chief Executive Officer Ms. Chloe Taylor. PHOTO: MNA

Chairman of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Ms. Chloe Taylor, Chief Executive Officer at British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar yesterday afternoon

at Hluttaw Affairs Building I-1, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the two officials discussed matters relating to British business in Myanmar and Myanmar's economic development. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Rakhine issue is an ...

FROM PAGE 1

"The stance of China regarding the terrorist attacks in Rakhine is clear; it is just an internal affair; the counterattacks of Myanmar security forces against extremist terrorists and the government's undertakings to provide assistance to the people are strongly welcomed," said the ambassador.

"China's help for the Rakhine crisis is just a social obligation. The president of the Chinese Entrepreneurs Association, the vice president of the oil and gas pipeline project and responsible personnel from the Kyaukphyu Deep Sea Port Project were

brought here together with him; the company wished to provide assistance to the displaced persons," he added.

"It was very disheartening for the country when (authorities) were accused of human rights violation following the counter-attack on the terrorists for the security and stability of the State. The State Counsellor had given instructions to not use unnecessary excessive force and to conduct operations in accordance with the law while clearing the areas," said Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye. The minister explained that the extremist terrorists attacked first in 2016 October and

again in 2017 August. The repulsive attacks of the government forces were falsely expressed in international media, resulting in pressure on Myanmar. Actually, those who suffered from the terrorist's attacks were minority ethnics, the minister said. "In the attacks, those being killed were ethnic minorities; in northern Rakhine, people of Islamic faith are the majority, and Rakhine and other ethnics were minorities." "Besides, the five people of Hindu faith who fled to Bangladesh were coerced to act as people of Islamic faith and give false statements to vilify the security forces. Those made-up stories were put into video coverage," he added. All the people of Islamic faith

5 people of Hindu faith who fled to Bangladesh were coerced to act as people of Islamic faith and give false statements to vilify the Myanmar security forces.

were not taking part in terrorist attacks. Islamic villages which want to live in peace were cooperating with the government. Humanitarian assistance was provided through the Red Cross Movement. There were coordination meetings between the government and Denmark, the United States, Britain, Australia and the European Commission, which were the donor countries for the Red Cross Movement works. Currently there are over 26,000 displaced persons in Sit-tway. Food, education and health services were already arranged. It was also arranged to return the refugees to their original places. The relief camps won't exist too long, the minister added.—MNA

France's Macron to present euro zone reform proposals on 26 September

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron will unveil more detailed proposals for reforms to the euro zone on 26 September, two days after Germany's federal election, a French diplomatic source said on Wednesday.

Macron wants a major leap forward in European cooperation. He has called for a euro zone finance minister and a euro zone parliament that would supervise a standalone budget for the bloc.

However, Macron's push for an ambitious overhaul of Europe's single currency bloc is running up against resistance in Berlin despite conciliatory public signals from



France's President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech during a press conference as part of his visit in the French Caribbean islands of St Martin on 12 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Earlier on Wednesday, the head of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, also poured cold water on part of Macron's plans, saying there should be a finance and economy minister at EU level but no separate euro zone budget or parliament.

Creating a finance minister for the EU rather than for the narrower euro zone, as proposed by Macron, is an attempt to prevent divisions among the 27 countries that will remain in the EU once Britain leaves in 2019, EU officials said. —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Spain calls to summon Catalan mayors over independence vote

MADRID — Spain's public prosecutor on Wednesday asked local authorities to summon over 700 Catalan mayors who have backed a referendum on regional independence which Madrid has branded illegal. The move ratchets up tension in a struggle over the vote, the day after the Constitutional Court suspended the second of two laws paving the way for it. So far, 712 municipal leaders have pledged to allow the use of public space for the 1 October vote, although the mayor of the area's main city Barcelona has not taken a definitive position. —Reuters ■

Swedish opposition party to call vote of no-confidence in PM

STOCKHOLM — Sweden's anti-immigration Sweden Democrat party on Wednesday tabled a parliamentary vote of no confidence in Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, demanding his resignation in the aftermath of a scandal over leaks of sensitive material. Lofven is almost certain to ride out the vote, which will take place on 15 September at the earliest, as the main, centre-right opposition bloc has said it will not give its support. —Reuters ■

Diplomat blasts US pollution charges against consulate as another Russophobic stunt

MOSCOW — Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has branded the charges against the Russian consulate general in San Francisco of violating garbage incineration rules a 'performance' expected to absolve the barbaric actions of Washington's intelligence services on the premises of a diplomatic mission.

"An anti-Russian performance in the United States is taking place," Zakharova said on her Facebook page. "The show running at the moment is called Russians Poison San-Francisco. Why? One of the reasons behind it is to excuse the barbaric actions by US secret services on the premises of the Russian consulate general."

Earlier, CBS said the authorities of one of San Francisco's districts notified Russia's consulate-general it was in breach of local garbage incineration rules. The notification did not mention the sum of the fine. The settlement procedure may last several weeks to several months. On 1 September, fire-fighting brigades were sent to the build-

ing of Russia's consulate-general when smoke was seen rising from the premises of the Russian diplomatic mission. It eventually turned out that the smoke was coming from the chimney of the Russian consulate-general. The US authorities closed down Russia's consulate general in San Francisco on 2 September. —Tass ■



The US authorities closed down Russia's consulate general in San Francisco on 2 September. **PHOTO: TASS**

Impact of French labour reforms will be felt in 12-18 months — minister

LONDON — The positive impact of a raft of labour market reforms introduced by French President Emmanuel Macron will be felt within 12 to 18 months, junior economy minister Benjamin Griveaux said during a visit to London on Wednesday. Speaking the day after one of France's three major labour unions staged demonstrations against the reform package, Griveaux said it was important to implement the plans early in Macron's five-year term so that the benefits could be felt by the French people as soon as possible. —Reuters ■

Saudis say time not ripe for international Yemen probe

GENEVA — The time is not right for an independent international inquiry into human rights violations in Yemen, Saudi Arabia's ambassador in Geneva said on Wednesday, responding to calls from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Since 2015, Saudi Arabia and its allies have been bombing the Iran-aligned Houthi movement which controls most of northern Yemen, including the capital Sanaa, in a conflict that has killed more than 10,000 people. The Houthis have in turn fired rockets towards Saudi cities and villages.

The Netherlands and Canada are backing a resolution at the UN Human Rights Council mandating an international inquiry, but Saudi Ambassador



Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights arrives at the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on 11 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Abdulaziz Alwasil said a national Yemeni commission would be in a better position to investigate.

"We are working together

to hopefully come to a compromise," Alwasil told reporters.

"We have no objection to the inquiry itself, we just have

a discussion about the timing, whether this is the right time to establish an international commission, with the difficulties on the ground," Alwasil said.

Saudi Arabia and its allies are waging their military campaign in support of the internationally recognised Yemeni government and they have the backing of the United States.

UN human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein has long called for an independent international inquiry into the conflict and says Yemen's National Commission is not up to the job of investigating the situation.

Zeid said on Monday there had been only "minimal" efforts at holding people to account in what the United Nations has branded the world's worst hu-

manitarian crisis.

For the past two years the 47-member Human Rights Council has rejected the Dutch demand for an international probe and backed the Saudi view that favours a Yemeni commission.

Alwasil said he again expected the Council to back its stance, adding that a locally formed commission would have better access and connections around the country.

The Saudi envoy said the international community should focus its efforts on gaining access for humanitarian personnel.

The Saudi-led coalition has also has set up a team to investigate civilian casualties. On Tuesday it said it had found a series of deadly airstrikes had been largely justified.—Reuters ■



Afghan policemen stand guard at the site of a blast in Kabul, Afghanistan on 13 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Suicide bomb near cricket stadium in Afghan capital kills at least two

KABUL — A suicide bomber blew himself up at a checkpoint near a cricket stadium in the Afghan capital Kabul on Wednesday as a match was under way, killing at least two people, officials said.

There were no immediate

details on the casualties but Tolo News Television quoted the Afghan Cricket Board as saying all players were safe.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility or details of the players.

Cricket, which spread from refugee camps in Pakistan, has become one of Afghanistan's most popular sports and the national team has become increasingly successful, raising the profile of the game.—Reuters ■

Turkey will take its own security measures after Russia defence deal, Erdogan says

ANKARA — President Tayyip Erdogan dismissed on Wednesday Western concern over Turkey's deal to procure an S-400 air defence system from Russia and said the NATO member will continue to take its own security measures.

"They went crazy because we made the S-400 agreement. What were we supposed to do, wait for you? We are taking and will take all our measures on the security front," Erdogan said.

Western governments have expressed concern over the deal as it cannot be integrated into the NATO system. Turkey has said that NATO allies had not presented a "financially effective" offer on alternative missile defence systems.

Erdogan said in July that the deal had been signed, although the deal appears to have been drawn out since then, due to issues over financing. Turk-

ish media quoted Erdogan this week as saying he and Russian President Vladimir Putin were determined that the agreement should proceed.

The decision to procure the Russian system comes as Turkey finds itself frequently at odds with NATO allies, particularly the United States and Germany. Ankara has been angered by US support for the YPG Kurdish fighters in the battle against Islamic State in Syria.

The US Pentagon said it had expressed concerns to Turkey about the deal.

"We have relayed our concerns to Turkish officials regarding the potential purchase of the S-400.

A NATO interoperable missile defence system remains the best option to defend Turkey from the full range of threats in its region," spokesman Johnny Michael said in a statement.—Reuters ■

Five militants, two soldiers, killed in Egypt's North Sinai

CAIRO — Five militants and two soldiers were killed on Wednesday in clashes that followed a failed attack on a security checkpoint in Egypt's strife-torn North Sinai province, a military spokesman said.

Troops were seeking some of the militants who fled the scene during the clashes, the spokesman said in a statement.

"One of the militants, wearing an explosive vest, attempted

to raid one of the security checkpoints and due to the vigilance of the security forces the terrorist was killed while the rest of the militants were dealt with," he said.

An Islamist insurgency in

North Sinai has gathered pace since mid-2013 when the military ousted Islamist president Mohamed Mursi after mass protests against his rule and the group leading it pledged allegiance to Islamic State a year

later.

Hundreds of soldiers and police have been killed since and in recent months the attacks extended to Coptic Christians, who make up 10 per cent of Egypt's 90 million population.—Reuters ■

Juncker urges EU to 'catch the wind in our sails'

STRASBOURG—European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker urged EU governments on Wednesday to take advantage of Brexit and an economic upswing to forge a tighter union at the heart of world trade.

In the EU's equivalent of a US president's State of the Union address, Juncker pledged to wrap up trade talks with Mexico and Brazil and proposed limiting China's ability to buy up European companies in infrastructure, hi-tech manufacturing and energy.

A veteran of dealmaking through decades of fractious European Union politics, Juncker said he had often despaired at the bloc. But he saw it now bouncing back, a decade after the global financial meltdown and ensuing euro zone crisis.

"The wind is back in

Europe's sails," Juncker told the European Parliament, citing recent faster economic growth than the United States.

"Now we have a window of opportunity, but it will not stay open for ever. Let us make the most of the moment: catch the wind in our sails."

Saying he regretted Britain's decision to leave the bloc in March 2019, Juncker called for the EU, the world's biggest trading bloc, to forge ahead with free trade deals as the United States under President Donald Trump takes a more insular turn.

"We will keep moving on because Brexit isn't everything, it is not the future of Europe," he said.

Following a July agreement for an EU trade deal with Japan, Juncker said the Commission — the bloc's executive arm —



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker addresses the European Parliament during a debate on The State of the European Union in Strasbourg, France on 13 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

would now open free-trade negotiations with Australia and New Zealand.

It would aim to conclude talks with Mexico and the South American trading bloc Mercosur, led by Brazil and Argentina, by the end of the year.

But he warned that the

EU was not "naive", and proposed a so-called investment screening framework to address concerns about a surge of Chinese takeovers in the bloc.

"We are not naive free traders. Europe will defend its strategic interests with an EU framework for in-

vestment screening," he said, enlarging on a position that is strongly backed by France but likely to irritate Beijing.

With the election in France of reform-minded President Emmanuel Macron in May, and with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the EU's pivotal leader, cruising to a fourth term later this month, Juncker's speech came as the bloc's key power tandem seeks to strengthen the euro common currency.

He renewed his call, also made by Macron, for a euro zone finance minister. But he stressed the EU did not need to create a new post, suggesting a senior European commissioner to coordinate economic policy across the euro zone.

Following the euro zone's near break-up during the 2010-2012 crisis, many economists argued

the currency area can only survive as a proper monetary union like the United States. Juncker also called for a euro zone budget but within the existing multi-annual EU budget, rather than a separate budget as Macron has proposed.

France has long sought a budget as a means to make fiscal transfers from richer to poorer euro zone states. While Juncker had warm words for Western Balkan states seeking to join the EU, he warned Turkey that its membership bid was failing because of President Tayyip Erdogan's broad crackdown following a failed coup attempt last year.

"Our union is not a state but it's still governed by the rule of law," Juncker said. "And that rules out membership for Turkey for the foreseeable future." —Reuters ■

Drones destroy child's drawing in Banksy protest at UK arms fair

LONDON — Military drones destroy a child's picture in British graffiti artist Banksy's latest work, the highlight of an anti-war art show in London which protests against one of the world's biggest arms fairs this week.

"Civilian Drone Strike" depicts three drones flying above a framed picture of a house which has been blown up. A crudely drawn little girl and her family pet look on in horror.

"Banksy is apparently offering a critique of the

military industrial complex by deliberately destroying a rather nice child's drawing" said Sam Walton, an organiser of the "Art the Arms Fair" show.

The work by the pseudonymous artist will be auctioned on Friday, with Banksy having set a reserve price of 10 pounds (\$13) on the picture. The auction is in support of the Campaign Against Arms Trade group and human rights charity Reprieve.

The east London art show has been organised in response to the Defence

and Security Equipment International 2017 (DSEI), a large annual military fair which is being held nearby and runs until Friday.

DSEI said over 34,000 would be attending its fair, including defence ministers and representatives from the armed forces. Security was tight at the DSEI event, which showcases military hardware from planes, armoured vehicles and guns to clothing and drones. On Wednesday British defence minister Michael Fallon addressed the fair.—Reuters ■



A demonstrator throws back a tear gas during a national strike and protest against the government's labour reforms in Nantes, France on 12 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

France insists it will go through with labour reform, day after protests

PARIS — French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said on Wednesday that he would pay attention to demonstrations against his planned labour reforms but pledged to push through with them, a day after protests took place nationwide.

Thousands of hard-left trade unionists marched through French cities on Tuesday to protest against President Emmanuel Macron's labour law reforms,

although turnout appeared lower than at demonstrations in previous years.

After weeks of negotiations, the government last month set out measures including a cap on payouts for dismissals judged unfair, and greater freedom for companies to hire and fire.

Philippe said that while he was paying close attention to the protests, the election this year had

nevertheless shown a willingness by French citizens to back the reforms.

"I am listening and I am paying attention. But let me allow myself to state that the French, when they vote, also have a right to be treated with respect. And the reform that we are putting in place, it was announced by the President at the time of the election," he told France 2 television. —Reuters ■

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|--------------------------|--|
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- (25-9-2017) (12:00) Noon |
| (b) COMMODITIES & VOLUME | - TEAK LOGS ABOUT (2090) TONS
- TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (386) TONS
- HARD WOOD LOGS
- PADAUK LOG (147) ABOUT TONS
- PYINKADO/KANYIN/HNAW/THITYAR/
- INGYIN/YEMANE/THINWIN
- ABOUT (10721) TONS |
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Singapore names first woman president, raising eyebrows over election process

SINGAPORE — Singapore named a former speaker of parliament as the multicultural city-state's first woman president on Wednesday while critics expressed dismay that other candidates were disqualified and the election went uncontested.

Aiming to strengthen a sense of inclusivity, Singapore had decreed the presidency, a largely ceremonial six-year post, would be reserved for candidates from the minority Malay community this time.

The returning officer declared Halimah Yacob, 63, elected on Wednesday after nominations closed.

Of the four other applicants, two were not Malays



Former speaker of Singapore's parliament, Halimah Yacob, arrives with her husband Mohammed Abdullah Alhabshee to submit her presidential nomination papers at the nomination centre in Singapore on 13 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

and two were not qualified to contest, the elections department said on Monday. Halimah had automatically qualified because she held a senior public post for over three years.

If the election had been held, all citizens would have been eligible to vote.

Several critics went online to protest against the stringent eligibility

rules, which include a stipulation that a candidate from the private sector should have headed a company with paid-up capital of at least S\$500 million (\$370 million).

The prime minister's office said it had no comment on criticism of the election process.

"It would have restored some of the lost moral authority by her winning against credible opponents through popular votes," said opposition politician Yee Jenn Jong in a blog post.

"She is, after all, a veteran in elections and has won handsomely in the four general elections she stood in." The rights group Association of Women

for Action and Research (AWARE) said it hoped "more will be done to improve access to politics for all of Singapore's women".

"Unfortunately, the process that led to this outcome has not reflected our hopes," it said in a statement posted online.

Displays of dissent are rare in Singapore, one of the richest and most politically stable countries in the world. It has been ruled by the People's Action Party (PAP) since independence in 1965 and the current prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong, is the son of the country's founding father Lee Kuan Yew.

In the 2015 general election — held months

after the death of Lee Kuan Yew — the PAP won almost 70 per cent of the popular vote and swept all but six of parliament's 89 seats.

The incoming president, who is to be sworn in on Thursday, appeared unfazed by the controversy.

"Although this is a reserved election, I'm not a reserved president," Halimah said in a speech at the election nominations office. "I'm a president for everyone."

"Whether or not there is an election or no election, my promise is to serve everyone and I will serve with great vigour, with a lot of hard work, with the same passion and commitment." —Reuters ■

Exhibition juxtaposes pop icons and traditional Japanese paintings



A scroll piece featuring a bird by Ito Jakuchu (1716-1800) and virtual pop singer Hatsune Miku is on display in an exhibition in Kyoto on 13 September, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

KYOTO — A unique exhibition opened on Wednesday in Kyoto, featuring famous anime and manga characters as well as other icons of Japanese pop culture drawn in the style of traditional Japanese paintings.

The exhibition, titled "We will inherit Japan," shows a total of 35 pieces by local artists that incorporate characters such as "Black Jack" created by the late manga artist Osamu Tezuka and virtual pop singer "Hatsune Miku" in replicas of traditional works by Rimpa-style artists and Ito

Jakuchu, an 18th-century painter.

The event at a Takashimaya department store in Kyoto's Shimogyo Ward was planned by Shinya Yamada, chief of local textile firm Toyowado, who wondered what kind of works Rimpa-style artists would have produced if they had painted manga and anime characters.

A scroll piece featuring a Jakuchu bird and "Hatsune Miku," a singing android, contrast the long hair of the "Vocaloid" character and the bird's tail.

Another piece puts together doctor Black Jack

and three crows drawn by Rimpa-style artist Suzuki Kiitsu.

"We are hoping that the exhibition will expand the age bracket of art fans by adding anime enthusiasts to conventional museum visitors," said Yoshiyuki Hosomi, 63, head of the Hosomi Museum, which supervised the artworks.

The exhibition is scheduled to run through 25 September free of charge. A Takashimaya department store in Tokyo's Shinjuku district will host the event next January. —Kyodo News ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ZI JING SONG VOY. NO (36)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ZI JING SONG VOY. NO (36) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.9.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 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.

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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.

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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.

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Australian comedian Rebel Wilson wins record \$3.7 million in damages for defamation

MELBOURNE — Australian comedian Rebel Wilson won A\$4.6 million (\$3.7 million) in damages on Wednesday after a global magazine publisher was found to have defamed her in a string of articles which led to her losing out on Hollywood movie roles.

The Supreme Court of Victoria ordered Bauer Media to pay Sydney-born Wilson, best known for her roles in the Pitch Perfect films, A\$650,000 in general damages, including aggravated damages, plus A\$3,917,472 in special damages, the highest ever for a libel case in Australia.

"The damage suffered by Miss Wilson warrants a substantial damages award to vindicate her and nail the lie," Justice John Dixon said, reading out a summary of his judgement.

He said aggravated damages were justified due to Bauer Media's "unprecedented" global reach and its decision to run a string of articles which claimed

Wilson had lied about her age, real name and some childhood events, even after it knew the allegations were false.

"The allegations were based on information from a source who required payment and anonymity and whom the editor considered had an axe to grind," Dixon said.

He said Bauer Media had "kept the story alive for days" for its own profit, knowing the allegations in its Woman's Day magazine would be picked up by other entertainment media worldwide, and as a result, Wilson missed out on a number of film roles.

The damages awarded were based on the judge's estimate that she had lost out on three lead or co-lead roles, each worth at least A\$6.2 million (3.7 million pounds), ascribing 20 percent of the lost earnings to Bauer Media's articles.

Wilson, who received the judgement in the middle of the night in Britain, said on social me-



Australian comedian and actor Rebel Wilson reacts as she leaves the Victorian Supreme Court in Melbourne, Australia on 15 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

dia she was "extremely grateful" for the record sum the judge had awarded her.

"Today was the end of a long and hard court battle against Bauer Media who viciously tried to take me down with a series of false articles," she said.

"To me though, this case

wasn't about the money," she said, adding she plans to give away the money to help some Australian charities and the Australian film industry. Bauer Media said in a statement on its website it was considering the judgement.

The previous record for damages in a defamation case in Aus-

tralia was A\$2.3 million, two legal experts said.

"Most observers of the case are surprised at the quantum of the judgement, and I would expect that it would be appealed," said Peter Bartlett, a partner at law firm Minter Ellison. —Reuters ■

Filmmakers seek uplifting tone with disability tale 'Breathe'

TORONTO — Andy Serkis, perhaps best-known for his role as Gollum in the Lord of the Rings trilogy, intentionally avoided a sombre tone in his directorial debut "Breathe", he said on Tuesday.

The film, which had its world premiere in Toronto on Monday night, is inspired by the parents of producer Jonathan Cavendish, Robin and Diana (played by Andrew Garfield and Claire Foy), who defied medical convention after Robin was paralysed by polio in his 20s and later blazed a trail as disability rights advocates.

"We took licence, and I took licence with elevating it and slightly lifting it," Serkis said at a news conference following the premiere where it received three standing ovations, including one for the real-life Diana who was in attendance.

Early reviewers have been more critical, however, comparing the film unfavourably to "The

Theory of Everything", a biopic about Stephen Hawking for which Eddie Redmayne won an Oscar in 2015.

"This is very much a crude copy, its noble intentions hobbled by a trite script, flat characters and a relentlessly saccharine tone that eventually starts to grate," a reviewer at the Hollywood Reporter wrote.

The pair are portrayed falling in love in an idyllic English countryside scene at the opening before honeymooning in Kenya and discovering they are expecting a child, Jonathan, just before Robin's early-onset polio hits.

They later enlist a friend to create the first battery-powered mobile respirator mounted on wheelchair and then push for them to be made widely available to those with polio.

"The essence of Robin and Diana was not drab in any sense, it was not murky or grey or sombre, it was bright, they burned

bright," said Serkis, who also drew a personal connection to the film. His father was a doctor; his mother taught disabled children, and his sister has multiple sclerosis.

"This is a template of how any human being can deal with suffering, struggle and limitation," actor Garfield said on the red carpet, later saying it was "strangely enjoyable" to play a character unable to control his body beyond facial expressions.

The Toronto International Film Festival is seen as an important stop for filmmakers showcasing their work in the long Hollywood awards season that culminates with the Oscars in March.

Serkis has also directed a Jungle Book film currently in post-production. Following its Toronto debut, "Breathe" will open next month's London Film Festival before a broader October release.—Reuters ■

Lure of Dick Cheney role led Christian Bale to his latest metamorphosis

TORONTO — Actor Christian Bale was in Toronto to promote his latest film "Hostiles" at the film festival, but it was his heavier frame and bleached eyebrows in preparation for his role as former US Vice President Dick Cheney that grabbed the spotlight. Bale, 43, said he swore he would not undergo another extreme physical transformation to play a character. But the lure of playing Cheney in "Backseat" and some arm twisting from filmmaker Adam McKay finally persuaded the actor to harness the transformation.

"I don't know why I'm doing that again. I kept on saying I can't do that again, but it's Adam McKay ... and the bastard went and wrote a really good script," Bale told Reuters at the premiere of "Hostiles" at the Toronto International Film Festival on Monday.

"I kept on trying to find reasons about how to say no and he

always had an answer for me ... I eventually went, 'Damn it. He's right. I've got to do it, I've got to do it,'" he added.

Bale is known for physically transforming himself for his roles, losing more than 60 pounds and foregoing sleep to achieve a skeletal look for 2004's "The Machinist" before then bulking up to play Batman in Christopher Nolan's "Dark Knight" trilogy. The actor told film trade publication Variety that he has "just been eating a lot of pies" to prepare for playing Cheney in "Backseat," which will follow the former vice president's influence and impact during his years in President George W Bush's administration. In director Scott Cooper's western period drama "Hostiles," Bale plays army captain Joseph J Blocker, a reluctant escort for a dying Cheyenne war chief returning to his tribal lands.—Reuters ■

Cinemas prepare to host Democracy Film Festival



Grand Cinema in Meikhtila. PHOTO: CHAN THAR



Mingala Ciname in Magway. PHOTO: MAGWAY TOWNSHIP IPRD

CINEMAS nationwide are preparing to host the Myanmar Democracy Film Festival on 15th September.

The Myanmar Democracy Film Festival will be launched on 15th September, showing five films at 47 cinemas nationwide from 15 to 21 September.

People can enjoy the films free of charge on 15th September. The festival will be held in honour of the International Democracy Day and is designed for developing spirits and habits of the democratic society in youths.

Among them, the special five films are “Glittering With Gold in the Sunlight”, “The Great Myanmar”, “The Day with Blue Sky”, “Thara Saw Hti,” and “Demo Yatkwet”. —GNLM

the Sunlight”, “The Great Myanmar”, “The Day with Blue Sky”, “Thara Saw Hti,” and “Demo Yatkwet”. —GNLM

the Sunlight”, “The Great Myanmar”, “The Day with Blue Sky”, “Thara Saw Hti,” and “Demo Yatkwet”. —GNLM

Film Festival

Thara Saw Hti
Dimo Yat-Kwet
Blue Sky Day
Glittering With Gold in the Sunlight
The Great Myanmar

The five 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

Princess Kako leaves to study at University of Leeds through June

TOKYO — Princess Kako, a granddaughter of Emperor Akihito, departed on Tuesday for Britain where she will study at the University of Leeds as an exchange student until June next year.

While attending the university in northern England, the 22-year-old second daughter of Prince Akishino and Princess Kiko will take courses in

such fields as performing arts and psychology at the School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies, according to the Imperial Household Agency. The princess, a junior at International Christian University in Tokyo, will stay at a school dormitory while studying in England. This is her first extended overseas stay

since her homestay in the United States in the summer of 2013, when she was a freshman at Gakushuin University in Tokyo. She later quit the school and enrolled at International Christian University, her older sister Princess Mako's alma mater. The University of Leeds, established in 1904, is a world top 100 university and one of the

largest higher-education institutions in Britain, according to the school's website. Princess Mako, who became engaged to her longtime boyfriend Kei Komuro early this month, studied at the University of Edinburgh in Britain from 2012 to 2013 as an exchange student when she was a junior at ICU. —Kyodo News ■

MRTV Programme Schedule (14-9-2017, Thursday)	
6:00 Am ♦ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	3:15 Pm ♦ Myanmar Series
7:00 Am ♦ Breakfast News	5:05 Pm ♦ NHK Programme “Observing Newts” (The Mechanism of Regeneration)
7:35 Am ♦ NRC Programme	5:15 Pm ♦ Analysis for Myanmar Movie
8:35 Am ♦ Their Region, Their Life	5:35 Pm ♦ Socio Economic Scenes
9:20 Am ♦ Beautiful ASEAN	6:20 Pm ♦ Football Magazine
9:35 Am ♦ ASEAN Spotlight	6:35 Pm ♦ Current Affairs
10:30 Am ♦ MRTV Worker's Programme	7:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series
11:00 Am ♦ Documentary	8:00 Pm ♦ News/ International News/ Weather Report
12:30 Pm ♦ Teleplay (Part-4)	8:35 Pm ♦ Light of hope
1:00 Pm ♦ Myanmar Movie (Part-1)	♦ TV Drama Series
2:10 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series	♦ Talk on Old Film

Myanmar earns semifinal spot by beating Vietnam in AFF U18

KyawZin Lin

Myanmar advanced to the semifinals of the AFF U-18 Championship by beating Vietnam, one of ASEAN's strongest football teams, 2-1 yesterday at Thuwunna Stadium.

The match was an extremely important one for Myanmar, and the fans helped the home team with lots of cheering during the closely contested match.

Vietnam scored the opening goal during the first minute of play when Nguyen Hong Son buried the ball into the net.

Myanmar tried to get into the game, but Vietnam played confidently during the first half.

Vietnam lost focus in the second half as the Myanmar footballers improved their attacking, with Myanmar star players Pyae Sone Naing, Win Naing Tun and Myat Kaung Khant showed their speedy play throughout the second half.

At 74 minutes, a long pass over Viet Nam defenders from Pyae Sone Naing allowed Kaung Khant to score, prompting the Myanmar fans at Thuwunna Stadium to erupt in cheers.

Viet Nam struggled to regain focus on the game in which



Myanmar U-18 footballers celebrating the victory in Thuwunna Stadium yesterday as Myanmar secures 2017 AFF U-18 semifinal. **PHOTO SOE NYUNT**

only a draw would be enough for them to make the semifinal.

But four minutes before the end of the match, Myanmar

scored the winning goal when Lwin Moe Aung sent the ball into the opponent's net at 86 minutes mark.

The win allows Myanmar to advance to the semifinals as the second-place finisher in Group B. Indonesia finished

first in Group B play. Myanmar will face Malaysia in a semifinal match on Friday at Thuwunna Stadium. ■

Indonesia beats Brunei, advances to AFF semifinals

KyawZin Lin

Indonesia got their third victory in Group B play at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday by beating Brunei 8-0 to secure their place in the semifinal stage of the AFF Under-18 Championship.

The Indonesian footballers played actively throughout the match, getting many goal opportunities.

Brunei, who was already out of contention, tried their best not only for pride but also to show that their game tactics were improving with each match. Indonesia got its first goal just 42 seconds after the start of the match when Muhammad Rafli Mursalim used

some deft manoeuvres on Brunei defenders and scored a brilliant goal.

Indonesia was in full control of the game, adding two goals by Egy Maulana Vikri at 18 and 22 minutes, two by Witan Sulaeman at 40 and 67 minutes, two by Rafli at 42 and 45 minutes and one by Hanis Saghara Putra at 68 minutes.

Indonesia had the easier of the exchanges by virtue of facing Brunei, which had only won one match at the AFF tournament. Host Myanmar and Malaysia will battle for the semifinal slot on Friday as Indonesia will play Thailand for the semifinal at the same Stadium on the same day. ■

Magical Messi leads Barca rout of Juventus

BARCELONA — A mesmeric Lionel Messi scored twice as he inspired Barcelona to a 3-0 win over Juventus to get off to a flying start in Champions League Group D on Tuesday avenging last season's quarter-final elimination by the Italian champions.

Messi broke the deadlock on the stroke of halftime by playing a slick one-two off Luis Suarez and arrowing the ball beyond Gianluigi Buffon, finally getting the better of the veteran Italian in his fourth game against him.

The Argentine was also the catalyst for the second goal, forcing Juve to scramble the ball off the line and allowing Ivan Rakitic to shoot into an empty net in the 56th minute and add to his strike against Juve in the 2015 final.

But Messi was far from done. For his second and Barca's third he received a pass from Andres

Iniesta and ripped more holes in a depleted Juventus defence before lashing beyond a dejected Buffon, scoring his seventh goal in three games.

Juventus, who were missing five key players including defensive warrior Giorgio Chiellini, looked a shadow of the team that beat Barca 3-0 on aggregate last season to reach the final, and have conceded seven goals in their last two games in the competition over two seasons.

Like Barca, Juve arrived at the game with three wins from three in the domestic league and with their own Argentine Paulo Dybala also in electric form with five goals in three games.

But their long list of absences, which also included Mario Mandzukic, Claudio Marchisio and Sami Khedira, proved costly. Miralem Pjanic did man-

age to trouble Barca goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen in the first half but the Spaniards, who have been facing instability off the pitch but look fresh and confident on it under new coach Ernesto Valverde, did most of the talking.

Messi gave the Italians nightmares from the word go, but captain Andres Iniesta was also in electric form, while record signing Ousmane Dembele had an impressive full debut, making for a party atmosphere at the Nou Camp to accompany the show put on by their relentless Argentine talisman.

"When we play at this speed it's very difficult to play against us," Rakitic told reporters.

"Barca don't change coaches very often but now we have new ideas and we're very happy with how things are going." —Reuters ■