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Monday, 25 September 2017

Rally shows solidarity with State Counsellor



A large number of people gather at Maha Bandoola Park in Yangon, showing their solidarity with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI PANNITA (FULL STORY ON PAGE-3 >>)**



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Remains of Hindus found

Dead bodies found in the north-west of Yebawkya village, Maungtaw township , Northern Rakhine State

DEAD bodies were discovered buried in the earth pit, 1200 meter away in the north-west of Yebawkya village, Maungtaw township at 11:05 am on 24 September.

According to a villager of Hindu faith, a resident of Yebawkya village, who, neverthe-

less, was now in neighboring country made a contact by phone to U Ni Mal (a leader in helping Hindu people), a resident of 4 mile Maungtaw, now displaced to Sittway due to ARSA terrorist attacks, informing that about 300 ARSA terrorists had arrested and

took away about 100 men and women of Yebawkya village on 25 August and at about 1000 meter in the west of the village the ARSA terrorists killed the villagers except 8 women who were forced to covert to Islam and brought to Bangladesh.

He was currently staying

at the house of a Hindu in Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh, it was informed.

To confirm the information, the responsible group including U Ni Mal, U Shwe Ni, 3 villagers from Khamoungseik village and 4 villagers from Tamanthar village set out to Yebawkya village

at 7 am on 24th September.

They were searching around the area in separate groups and found the suspicious ground condition and offensive smell at about 1200 meters sin the north-west of Yebawkya village.

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Sittway opposes ARSA extremist terrorists

Win Min Soe (IPRD)

PEOPLE staged a peaceful demonstration in Sittway yesterday for the Government to take action in accordance with the law against the ARSA for their terrorist attacks.

The protest was led by Daw Ma Kyaut Sein, Chairman of Rakhine Alin Takhar library getting the permission.

Holding vinyl signboards and slogans condemning the terrorist activities, the demonstrators walked peacefully along Kyaung Tet street, U Uttama street, main road, clock tower circle, merchant street, Setyonesu street in Sittway and dispersed at 2:30 pm after arriving back to the starting place. ■



People in Sittway opposing ARSA extremist terrorists through peaceful demonstration. **PHOTO: WIN MIN SOE (IPRD)**

Myanmar migrant workers working in Thailand return

TOTAL 29 people including 27 men and two women Myanmar migrant workers working in Thailand returned to Myanmar passing through Kawthoung Border Gate on Saturday.

Head and officials of Kawthoung Township Administration Department and social

organizations welcomed the workers at Kawthoung Myoma jetty and treated with foods.

Officials from the public health department gave health care service and Department of Social Welfare in Kawthoung Township under Ministry of Social Welfare,

Rescue and Resettlement gave the transportation charges to the workers to go back their native.

So far, total 2295 having no legal documents Myanmar migrant workers returned to Myanmar through Kawthoung Border Gate. —Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) ■



Myanmar migrant workers arriving back home from Thailand. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)** ■

To export herbal medicine and dietary supplements, Certificate of Free Sale issues

DEPARTMENT of Traditional Medicine issued Certificate of Free Sale to four traditional medicine production businesses to export herbal medicine and dietary supplements, according to the Department of Traditional Medicine.

“Our department is trying to export Myanmar traditional medicine and dietary supplements by issuing Certificate of Free Sale (CFS). Certificates of Free Sale were issued according to the types of traditional medicines exported. Since 2009-2010 FY, three CFS to Shan Maw Myay production of traditional medicines, two CFS to Aba Hta pro-

duction of traditional medicine, two CFS to Royal Ruby production of medicine and 53 CFS to FAME Pharmaceuticals Co.,Ltd. so far” said U Win Han Deputy Director General of Department of Traditional Medicine.

The department of Traditional Medicine issues the recommendation certificates for importing raw materials for traditional medicines and 275 recommendation certificates were already issued so far. Moreover, the department is doing registration and production licenses recommendation for traditional medicine production businesses. —Shin Min ■

Heroin and drugs seized in Myintkyina

AUTHORITIES seized 10 soap cups of heroin weight of 100 kilograms, 1970 stimulant pills, two mobile phones and a motorcycle from Thaung Htike who is sitting at a café shop in Pamati ward, Myintkyina, with Aung Myint Oo and Myo Tun on 23 September.

Upon information, authori-

ties searched the house of Myo Tun lived in No 185, area no 3, Pamati ward, and found one soap cup of heroin (weight of 10 kilograms) hidden in fire wood under the house.

Action was taken against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances law.—GNLM ■

Rally shows solidarity with State Counsellor

A LARGE number of people gathered at Maha Bandoola Park in Yangon at 4 pm yesterday, showing their solidarity with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, declaring their support for her and her current endeavours.

The supports holding vinyl

portraying the large photos of the State Counsellor staged a rally in support of her efforts in solving the Rakhine crisis and her peace process to the accompaniment of the peace song performed by Pan Yae Lan (the way of the flower).

There were also talks by



A large number of people showing the solidarity with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI PANNITA**

PHOTO: ZAR NI



the men of letters, musicians and other artistes sharing wider public knowledge of the endeavours and work programs of the State Counsellor.

"We are gathering here as a show of our support for Mother Su (Mother Daw Aung San Suu Kyi) at this critical juncture. Our rally in support of her will help refute the baseless rumors while highlighting the truth on a brighter-scale. Time will stand witness to Our Mum's endeavours. And because of this really assistance for our country will come as truth shall prevail and misunderstanding

of some foreign countries and organizations shall be brushed off, said U Naing Lu, a movie actor.

Another supporter Ko Paing Ye Lu said, "We support the way the State Counsellor is doing things. We understand her and sympathize with her as she is taking extra care in handling the peace process and Rakhine crisis that put the country in a dilemma. We are holding this rally in support of the People's Leader to show that we always stand by her."

The four-point declaration of the civil societies of Myan-

mar citizen Muslims on their stance on the address made by the State Counsellor on 19 this month was also read out at the rally participated by the people together with the renowned persons of literature, music and political world and artists.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered address at the Myanmar International Convention Centre 2 in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on 19 this month. A very large number of people watched the program on the mega LED Board erected in front of the City Hall in Yangon. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Extreme level of UV index to be reached in eastern Shan State

MYANMAR former weather expert has warned that the ultraviolet (UV) index in Shan State (East) can reach extreme level on Monday.

"The level of the UV index in eastern Shan State is extreme," Dr. Tun Lwin, the former director general of the Myanmar Meteorology and Hydrology Department posted on his Facebook yesterday.

Dr. Tun Lwin also stated on his post that the UV index in other parts of Myanmar is expected to reach a very high level. It means that the UV index can be high nearly in the whole country after monsoon withdrew.

According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak to moderate elsewhere over

the Bay of Bengal on 24 September.

Concerning the outlook for subsequent two days, there is likely to have increase of rain in southern Myanmar.

Flood condition of Ngawun River

According to the (12:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Ngawun River has exceeded by about (3) inches at Ngathaing Chaung above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (3) days.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river bank and low lying area at Ngathaing Chaung of Ngawun River, to take precaution measure. —GNLM ■

Over 40 Entrepreneurs from Thai Tourism Attend Travelling Festival, Mon State

Opening ceremony of travelling festival in Mon State was held in the morning on September 23, at the Mon State Auditorium, to be convened for two days, during which guests will be granted to lodge at any hotels at special half prices. The festival was opened by Dr Aye Zan, Mon State Chief Minister, Daw Tin Ei, Mon State Hluttaw Speaker and responsible officials by cutting the ribbon.

U Hau Kyin Mone, director of Mon State hotels and tourism directorate said, "Being the first-ever held festival, it was convened in co-operation with departments and organizations. In Thailand, such a festival is held every year. During the trip in Thailand, we made a contact with entrepreneurs of Thai Tourism Agencies and held this festival. Most of the visitors who came to Mon State are those from Thailand. There are many visiting places which attract most tourists. The festival was designed for business-persons from home and abroad to know about it.

Under the guidance of Mon State Cabinet, the festival was co-sponsored by hotels and tourism department, State hotel and tourism federation, State Industrial and Merchant Federation and State Foodstuff Industry Entrepreneurs, attended by over 40 entrepreneurs from Thailand Tourism Industries, departmental heads and invited guests, over 600 altogether. Favorable transportation and weather, environment and landscape of great pleasure, Thanlwin River and beautiful beach of great attraction, abundance of cultural and religious edifices and Kyaikhthiyo Pagoda, a wonder of the world are inviting visitors increasingly year after year. In 2015, more than 0.15 million tourists visited Mon State, with 0.2 million in 2016 and over 0.13 million up to August 2017. Compared to the amount up to August 2016, it was found to have increased by 15 per cent, said U Hau Kyin Mone.

At the festival there are being over 20 showrooms opened.

U Chan Tun, festival convention committee (Mawlamyine Zone) said, "It took us some two years to convene this festival. In comparison with advantages and disadvantages experienced by all Regions and States, it was held. Transport businesses, souvenir shops, traditional foodstuff shops, tour guides and hotel business-men are presently gaining profits. In raining season, there used to be small amounts of visitors, with now almost hotels nearly houseful. We are greatly pleased to know that there will be similar events held in future."

It has been learnt that there are in Mon State 28 licensed hotels, 21 lodging houses, 1600 rooms in the said 49 lodging places, 10 tourism industries, 7 tour guides and 90 regional tour guides. There is now one information center each opened at Kyaikhthiyo Pagoda and in Mawlamyine, with security forces positioned in Mawlamyine and Kyaikhtho, for security for globe trotters. —MNA ■

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Germany to help Myanmar repair historic Manuha Temple in Bagan

GERMANY pledged to assist Myanmar repair Manuha Cave Temple, one of oldest temples in Bagan Ancient Cultural Zone, according to the Myawady Daily's report on Saturday.

U Aung Aung Kyaw, director of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan branch), said that north and west parts of ancient structure were naturally damaged and the repair will commence next January with the use of German technology. Germany is famous for its stones techniques and German authorities accepted the request of Myanmar government to renovate the ancient stone temple to restore the damaged parts back of their original condition.

The renovation project



Manuha Temple in Bagan. PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA.ORG

of ancient cave temple will take a long time. Nowadays, the Manuha Temple, which is located near Nagayon Temple,

Nanpaya Temple and Myazedi-Pagoda in Myingaba Village, is an active place of worship for Buddhists.

The history tells that the temple was built with the use of stones produced from the north of Tuyin Mountain.—GNLM ■

Foodstuff contaminated with chemical—formalin found out in Wakema Market

A surprise check was made on purified drinking water and foodstuff being put on sale in the market of Wakema township, Myaungmya district in Ayeyarwady Region as to whether they are fit for hygiene or not, finding foodstuff used formalin in making them and unregistered purified drinking water.

In examining the collected samples of foodstuffs, ver-

micelli and noodle produced by Mya Thidar food industry have been contaminated with formaldehyde out of 26 items, with 5 purified water factories in Wakema, Kyonmangay and Shwelaung found to have been unregistered. Those who produce for distribution of foodstuff unfit for health will be taken into legal actions, it was learnt. — Myanmar Digital News ■



A surprise check finds contaminated foodstuff. PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS

Myanmar hosts over 2m tourists this year, expects to exceed its target of 3.5m

MYANMAR hosted more than two million foreign tourists since this April and the tourist arrivals are expected to exceed its target of 3.5 million this year, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

According to a Sunday report of the Myawady Daily, the

number of international tourist arrivals is not expected to decline due to recent conflict that may have no impact on the ministry's target because the conflict-affected areas see very few numbers of visitors since before. Compared with the same period of last year, tourist

arrivals have increased to 22 per cent. The ministry clarifies the safety of visitors in local trips to international visitors through Facebook, You Tube and Twitter. Tour operators say that some tourists cancelled while some others suspended their tours to the country on account of

incidents in northern Rakhine State.

The government has already imposed travel bans on the conflict-hit areas before the outbreaks of conflict. Foreign travelers mostly visit Sittway, MraukU, Thandwe and Napali Beach.—GNLM ■

Thadingyut Online Bazaar to come on 3-4 October

THE Yangon's first ever Thadingyut Online Bazaar is planned to take place on 3 and 4 October (Tuesday and Wednesday) at promotion area of Hleden Center in Yangon, according to the Myawady Daily.

Event organizer Daw May Myat Mon said that the purpose of the event is to sell popular online food, cosmetics and clothing at a cheaper price, targeting populations who wish to buy something for elderly including

parents, guardians, relatives and teachers, a religious-based culture of Myanmar people during the Thadingyut, festival of lights.

"The famous online shopping sites will take part in the event through about 20 booths

with a plan to sell all goods at a special discount price," said Daw May Myat Mon.

The market festival will start at 10 a.m. and will close at 9 p.m. during the event period.—GNLM ■



Bamboo plantation in the Hlaing Yoma Mountain reserve forest. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Myanmar earns about \$5 million from export of bamboo

MYANMAR earned about US\$5 million from the export of bamboo-based products to foreign countries, according to a report of the Myawady Daily issued on Saturday.

U Kyaw Thu, chairman of Myanmar Rattan and Bamboo Entrepreneurs Association, said continuous efforts have been made to boost production of good quality bamboos and bamboo products to penetrate the international market.

With the aim of improving production techniques and es-

tablishing commercial bamboo plantations, cooperation will be made between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the aforementioned association.

At the present time, locally-produced bamboos and bamboo-based products have chiefly been exported to Bangladesh, Pakistan, South Korea and Singapore. As a natural composite material, Bamboo, are widely used as a construction material for scaffolding, bridges and houses.

Hotels and restaurants also buy bamboo-based products as decorated items.

A project on sustainable growth of Bamboo resources has currently been implemented with the collaboration of Thailand International Cooperation Agency since 2016. The three-year project will last until 2018.

Myanmar has 1.7 million hectare acres of bamboo plantations in Bago Mountain Range, Rakhine Mountain Range and Taninthayi Region.—GNLM ■

Import of capital goods by private sector decreases by \$96 million

THE IMPORT of capital goods by the private sector reached over US\$2.686 million this fiscal year, a decrease of \$96 million when compared to the same period of last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce's Friday report.

Between April and mid-September of this year, the government sector imported \$284 million worth of similar products from its trade partners, increasing \$184 million more than that of last year.

In the current FY, the total import value between Myanmar and international trade partners amounted to more than \$8.342 billion, including \$2.970 billion worth of capital goods, \$3.262 billion worth of intermediate goods and \$2.108 billion worth of consumer products.

According to the ministry, the total import figures are more than \$1.4 billion more than that of the similar period of the last FY.

Although the country saw

a decrease in the capital goods in the current FY, the imports of intermediate goods have increased by over \$826 million while consumer products rose by \$354 million.

For the time being, Myanmar continues to trade with Asian countries, ASEAN member states, island nations, Middle East countries and some European and African states, and other western countries mainly through by sea.—SweNyein ■

Exports by government sector increases by \$100 million

MYANMAR government exported over US\$1.8 billion worth of products this fiscal year, an increase of \$100 million than that of last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The government sector exported \$179 million worth of minerals, \$4.092 million worth of forest products, \$1.364 billion worth of manufacturing goods and \$259 million worth of other products between April and mid-September. This time last year, the government sector ex-

ported \$1.706 billion worth of the same products.

The government continues to develop the country's economy by encouraging private entrepreneurs. Over the five and a half month of this FY, the export value from the private sector also rose by \$664 billion compared with the similar period of last FY. According to the figures released by the ministry, the private exporters sold \$4.184 billion worth of goods including animals and fishery products.—Khine Khant ■

Growers reap handsome profits from sale of avocado fruits this season

ADVOCADO growers from Mandalay say they received healthy profits from the sale of the nutrient-rich fruits, this harvest time, according to a report of the Myawady Daily's Sunday edition.

Produced from PyinOoLwin, a scenic hill town in Mandalay Region, avocado fruits is normally sent to wide parts of the country after Thidingyut lighting festival in October. This year, the single-seeded avocados are available in domestic market starting

August. Based on size and freshness, the current prices of avocados in the market are between Ks200 and Ks600 per head. This time last year, the prices of avocado was Ks150-Ks350 per head.

The avocado is widely consumed across the country because of its healthy benefits. The majority of women choose this kind of fruit to reduce their bad cholesterol as it contains healthy fats, potassium, carbohydrate and vitamins.—GNLM ■



Available @

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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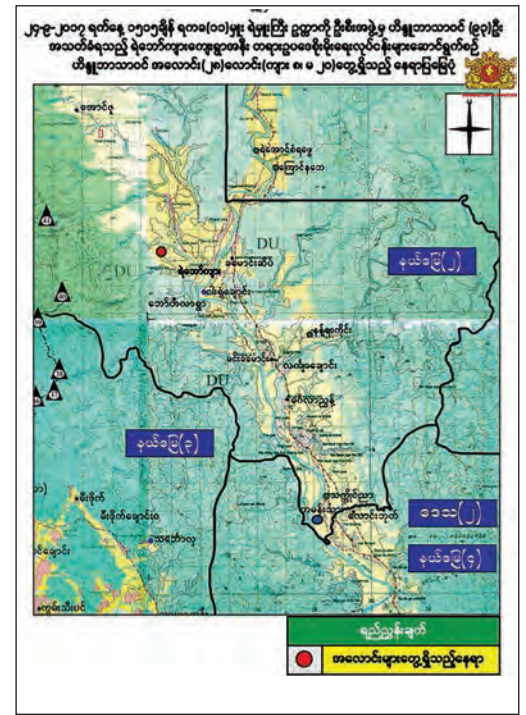
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| ● Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile) | ● City Mart (Junction Square) |
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| ● City Mart (Aung San Stadium) | ● City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin) |
| ● City Mart (47th street) | ● City Mart (Waizayandar) |
| ● City Mart (Yankin) | ● City Mart (Hledan) |
| ● City Mart (China Town) | ● City Mart (Myanmar Plaza) |
| ● City Mart (Myay Ni Gone) | ● City Mart (Junction 8) |
| ● City Mart (FMI) | ● City Mart (St. John) |
| | ● Ocean North Point (9 mile) |
| | ● Ocean Shwegonedine |



Remains of Hindus found



Remains of Hindus murdered by terrorists in Northern Rakhine State. **PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE**



Map showing where the remains are found.

FROM PAGE-1

They dug up the earth to discover two pits, each having 13ft. x 13 ft. and 10 ft apart from each other.

When they dug up the first pit at 11.30am 3 corpses were disinterred and 8 more corpses at 2pm and another corpse at 2.20 pm, altogether 12 bodies in

total were discovered. Digging continued to 2nd pit at 2.30pm dead bodies of 6 boys under 10 years of age, 2 bodies of male under 16 years of age, 8 bod-

ies of women above 16 years of age, 16 corpses in total were disinterred.

In total 28 dead bodies — 8 males and 20 females — were

discovered yesterday. Necessary investigation will be done and more searches also will be continued.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Remote-controlled pipe bomb found in N Rakhine



Photo shows pipe bomb defused by Security personnel. **PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE**



Abandoned houses on fire at a village in Maungdaw Township. **PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

SECURITY forces while on their duty to ensure the rule of law in Tinmay village-tract searched an empty house of Abu Kalaung, 45, and its compound at Ward 2 of Tinmay village at 4:30 pm on 23 September. They were acting on information.

While searching the compound they found a white plastic package containing a 9-in long 2-in diameter remote-controlled

pipe bomb buried at the place south of the house.

The security personnel defused the bomb and left the area as there was no unusual situation.

They filed a lawsuit against Abu Kalaung and cohorts.

The five remaining houses of Deelpara village in Maungdaw Township which was destroyed by fire caught fire on 23 Septem-

ber. The combined forces comprising security personnel while enforcing the rule of law in the surrounding areas of the village found the houses on fire. So they together with Township Fire Brigade put out the fire. About 150,000 worth of property was lost in the fire. The Maungdaw Township Police Force has filed a lawsuit against the suspects. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Illicit Trafficking of Wildlife and Animal Parts from 2006 to 2016

U Myint Thein, director of Forestry Department, Mandalay Region said that there were 210 seizures of illicit trafficking of wildlife and animal parts during the period 2006 to 2016 across the nation, according to the data collected by respective organizations.

Seizures were made mostly at check-points of border gates. The trafficking which went un-seized may have doubled the actually seized amount.

In that period Mandalay Region with 29 cases of seizure followed Shan State. Mandalay is the major transit camp for collecting the materials from upper, lower and central parts of Myanmar, the transporting them via Mandalay-Muse Road or Mandalay-Sagaing-Monywa-Gantgaw-Kalay-Tamu Road.

Being the economic hub for merchants and tourists from the neighboring country, Mandalay became a

dwelling place for them to purchase and collect wildlife and animal parts.

With the development of tourism, at eateries and restaurants in big cities including Mandalay and cities of bordering areas, sales of cuisines of the said wildlife have been found.

Similarly, at souvenir shops as well, sales of materials made of part of those animals can be seen.

In the chapter 5 of hunting law, the acquisition of license for hunting is included. Rules and regulations are described in detail in 2012 rules and regulations of hunting, it was learnt.

Yet, people failed to be well convinced of it and to abide by, till now. According to Daw Mya Thidar Aung, a responsible from WCS, animal parts are being still used in making commodities, cuisines and alternative medicines.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

US-backed forces capture big gas field in Syria's Deir al-Zor

AMMAN — US-backed forces said on Saturday they had seized a major natural gas field in Syria's Deir al-Zor province from Islamic State militants in rapid advances since the start of an operation earlier this month to capture areas east of the Euphrates river.

Commander Ahmed Abu Khawla told Reuters that the Conoco gas field was the first of its kind taken by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), an alliance of Kurdish and Arab militias, since it began an offensive earlier this month to capture the eastern province.

"This is the first gas or oil field in the campaign which we have liberated," said the commander of the group whose campaign is in parallel with an ongoing battle for the nearby Raqqa city.

The Conoco field is named for the American company which discovered the gas reserves and built a processing plant there. It has been the target of US strikes and was used to supply cooking gas canisters for household use. Before the conflict it supplied gas to power stations.

In Deir al-Zor, Islamic

State is battling two separate offensives, one launched by the SDF and the other by the Syrian army and its allies.

Syrian troops supported by Iranian-backed militias have also crossed to the eastern side of the river, increasing their presence in an area where US-backed militias have also advanced.

The assaults by the Russian-backed Syrian army and the US-backed SDF have at times raised fears of clashes that could stoke tensions between the competing world powers.

Islamic State's last major stronghold, the cities, towns and farms in the fertile strip along the Euphrates are fast becoming the focus of Syria's war.

Abu Khawla said the Syrian army and their allies were within four km (2.5 miles) of the SDF positions.

Russia said on Thursday it had warned the United States it would target areas in Syria where US special forces and US-backed militia were operating if its own forces came under fire from them, something it said had already happened twice.—Reuters ■

Somalia's Puntland region captures weapons-laden boat from Yemen

BOSASO (Somalia)— Somalia's semi-autonomous region of Puntland seized a boat loaded with weapons from Yemen in Saturday's early hours, the regional maritime police chief said.

Puntland authorities displayed dozens of anti-aircraft guns, machine guns, AK-47 rifles and dozens of boxes of ammunition seized from the boat after it was stopped in coastal waters off the Horn of Africa region.

The journey of the small vessel, known as Al Faruq, was tracked from Yemen by European maritime forces patrolling sea lanes off Somalia, Abdirahman Mohamud Hassan, the director general of Puntland maritime police force, told Reuters.

He said they had seized other boatloads of arms destined for Islamic State and al Shabaab militants active in Somalia though on this occasion

the cargo was believed to be owned by arms smugglers who would have sold them at local retail outlets.

"Today, we suspect traders own these weapons, but we shall investigate further," he said.

Puntland has been hit by heavy fighting in recent months as al Shabaab and a splinter group linked to Islamic State attacked government troops around the Galagala hills, 30 km southeast of the regional capital Bosaso.

In June al Shabaab overran a military base in the town of Af Urur in the hills area, killing 38 people, mainly soldiers. Unlike the rest of Somalia, Puntland rarely suffered from militant attacks before the recent surge in violence, mainly because its security forces are relatively regularly paid and receive substantial US assistance.—Reuters ■

Syria's Moualem says victory within reach, de-escalation zones temporary

UNITED NATIONS — Syria's foreign minister said on Saturday that victory was within reach in the country and that Damascus hoped de-escalation zones will help reach a cessation of hostilities.

"The liberation of Aleppo and Palmyra, the lifting of the siege of Deir Ezzor and the eradication of terrorism from many parts of Syria prove that victory is now within reach," Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem said in his speech to the United Nations General Assembly.

Russia, Turkey and Iran have been negotiating separately for months in the Kazakh capital Astana to try to reduce violence on the ground by creating de-escalation zones across the country, although those talks do not cover a long-term political solution to the six-year civil war.

Moualem, who praised as constructive the role of Russia and Iran, which back Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, said Syria



Deputy Prime Minister for Syrian Arab Republic Walid Al-Moualem addresses the 72nd United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York, US, on 23 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

was encouraged by the de-escalation zones and hoped they would lead to "an actual cessation of hostilities." Nevertheless, he said: "Syria reserves the right to respond to any violation by the other party. Syria also stresses that these zones are a temporary arrangement that must not vio-

late the territorial unity of Syria."

Earlier this month Russia, Iran and Turkey agreed to deploy observers on the edge of a "de-escalation" zone in Syria's Idlib province, which is largely under the control of Islamist insurgents. The move falls under a broader deal in which they would set up four such zones across Syria.

The de-escalation plan has eased fighting in parts of western Syria between rebel factions and government forces loyal to Assad. Assad has gained the military upper hand against an array of rebel groups, including some that have received backing from the United States, Turkey and Gulf monarchies. Critics have described the de-escalation plan as de facto partitioning of Syria after years of multi-sided conflict. Moscow, Tehran and Ankara deny this and say the zones will be temporary, although they could extend beyond the initial six-month term.—Reuters ■

Car bomber hits NATO convoy in Afghanistan, wounds five civilians

KABUL — Five civilians were wounded when a car bomber attacked a Danish convoy belonging to the NATO-led international mission in the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Sunday, security officials said.

Captain William Salvin, a spokesman for NATO's Resolute Support mission, confirmed an attack had occurred and said a team was on the scene to recover the vehicle.

"There are no Resolute Sup-

port casualties as a result of the explosion," Salvin he said in an emailed statement.

Afghan security officials said a car bomb had been used in the attack on the convoy.—Reuters ■



An Afghan official investigates a damaged Danish convoy at the site of a car bomb attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 24 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Approach towards the acquisition of self-management

Khin Maung Oo

AT one time when Myanmar was ruled as a military dictatorship, we had a Top-Down System. After the advent of the democratic government, this system was replaced by a Bottom-Up System. A Top-Down System is the one starting from or involving the people who have higher positions in an organization, so it may be said to be dictatorial in nature.

Yet, a Bottom-Up System is the one which starts with gathering details and information at the bottom level and then later moving on to more general principles to authoritative bodies at the top step by step. So, we may say it is democratic in behavior. Authorities from the top supervise the performances of those at the bottom, giving necessary help. As performances are individually made by those involved, effective achievements

have been gained. In this system, those at the bottom levels take great care and work hard. They wish to make sure that their work is of the highest quality. In this way the bottom-up system can reduce the burden for those at the top levels. Trying to make the system work with efficiency by pointing out weak points and providing necessary help can bring about success.

At such a time when our country is striving hard to make the democratic transition process a success, Bottom-Up Systems cannot be exercised yet in every sector of the national planning process. Instead, Top-Down Systems are still being used in some sectors. In fact, a Bottom-Up System is the bottom-orientated, or rather, people-orientated system, so it must be implemented to achieve absolute success.

In Myanmar, the practice of follow-

ing a leader without making any critical appraisals or judgments and complaints; the practice of performing a task only when they are told to do has been deep-rooted until now. A Bottom-Up System, the one self-managed at the bottom level is greatly in need. As Top-Down Systems are still in existence, the practice or culture of grasping and clinging to old systems and habits is still being cherished by those who would like to revive the bureaucratic red tape system. We feel strongly that we should lay stress on system change in every sector in our movement towards a democratic system.

Take for example the Emerald Green Project, self-managed by the people. This project has been implemented in over 9900 villages across Myanmar. It can be said to be the implementation of introducing the Bottom-Up System. The said Emerald Green Project had been

launched since 5 years ago, but it was not widely known among our people due to poor management.

Now that this public-orientated rural development project is being revised at different levels—township, district, region and state and union level annually, necessary changes and plans for effective performances are being made, to our great happiness.

We must welcome these rural development projects for the betterment of living standards and favorable income by implementing self-managed development plans after finding out actual necessities of villages. Likewise, provided that Bottom-Up Systems which can make the best use of people-oriented management styles becomes strong, prospects for Myanmar's development will be very good and we can be sure of success. ■

United we Stand

Khin Maung Myint

Our country have been in turmoils for nearly seven decades. I wonder how long we will have to endure all these hardships. Since our Independence, there never was a moment we can live without any worry and in absolute peace and harmony. With the advent of the much anticipated and coveted Independence, we had been faced with the threats of insurgencies, instabilities and above all, poverty, instead of the peace and prosperities that we had yearned for.

During my lifetime, I had been through the Second World War, which was a living hell with the constant bombings almost every night and day. On many occasions, we were caught between the two warring armies and it was a miracle that we survived. Though I was still young at that time, I can remember the hardships and dangers we were subjected to. Then after the war, we had thought that our future would be bright and peaceful, but that was not to be so.

Right after gaining Independence in 1948, we were faced with other dangers. There emerged the insurgencies, which are still present in the country today. Though at least unlike in the beginning,

they are now confined to the remote corners of the country. While most of the Regions are spared from the threats of the armed conflicts, most of our fellow citizens in almost every State are living in constant fear and are suffering from the consequences of the wars. I can realize and sympathize them for what they are subjected to, as I had been through such traumatic situations.

Although the successive governments had endeavored to convince all those armed groups to return to the legal folds and join hands with the authorities to work towards peace and harmony, there are still some obstacles hindering the attainment of absolute peace in the whole country.

Only when there is absolute peace and harmony, the country would be able to develop and prosper properly. The present government had embarked, whole heartedly on the peace process, which was begun by the previous administrations, with great determination and had made progress in the right direction to attaining peace and harmony. Some months ago there were encouraging signs of getting most of the stake holders in the process to sign the peace accord. In anticipation of that outcome, I wrote

an article, titled: "Peace is in Sight", in which, I had urged our compatriots, the national races, to discard our differences, grievances and misunderstandings, and to be united and work towards peace.

However, recently there popped up another trouble, though anticipated, but not expected to flare up so suddenly and turn rapidly into such a major crisis. It was instigated by some ARSA backed extremists.

As for the latest developments, the blame should be borne by the ARSA terrorists who mounted two major co-ordinated simultaneous attacks, within a short space of time, on the police outposts, and killed some police personnels and civilians in Northern Rakhine. The second offensive by the ARSA was more well coordinated, which in my opinion must be definitely masterminded by some outside collaborators, who are well experienced in such matters. A hastily recruited ragtag group of men would not be able to carry out such systematic attacks.

The most damaging of all is, the rebels managed to create a reign of terror in the Northern Rakhine area by massacring innocent people, including their own kind, who they suspected of collaborating with the authorities. They went on rampage, burning properties belonging to the ethnic races and also their own, to deceive the world at large, that it was the government troops doing them. Those atrocities led the people to flee from those areas.

I must say, they managed to achieve their objective. Most of the international communities and organizations fell for their deceptions. Thus they are making a big fuss out of those issues and blindly siding with the terrorists and so, they should also to be blamed. Last, but not

least are the fake and fabricated media reports, which are the root causes of all the misunderstandings, should be severely condemned.

The State Counsellor, on the 19th of September, gave a very comprehensive, clear and transparent, open and honest speech explaining the true situations. However, many international media and organizations turned deaf ears to the truths. They are still fueling the situations to make the matters worse by falsely accusing our government and the military of committing genocide, which was just absolute absurdity.

Even leaders from some Western countries ganged up with the supporters of the ARSA to call for the United Nations' intervention and took the case to the UN Security Council meeting. Thus the situations in the Rakhine State have become a National Cause. It's a wake-up call for every citizens of Myanmar to be united and rally behind the government.

At such a time, when our government is in the dire strait, with the international pressures, criticisms and threats mounting, every citizens, irrespective of race or religion and notwithstanding, which political party we belonged to, should be united and rally behind the government. As I had urged in my article mentioned above, I would like to again humbly request our compatriots to be devoid of all differences, grievances and misunderstandings based on the past histories and to be united and stand with the government to fend off all international pressures and threats. As the saying goes, "United we stand, divided we fall", let us be united like we did during our struggles for Independence, as our sovereignty is being threatened and our dignity is at stake. ■

Number of visitors to Wingabaw Elephant Camp increased by 80 %

THE number of visitors to Wingabaw Elephant Camp in Bago Region has increased by 80 per cent when compared with its opening in late 2016, said U Myint Soe, in-charge of the camp.

According to the Myawady Daily's Sunday issue, the camp hosts 50 visitors in average on every weekday beginning from this financial year. At the weekend, the number of visitors increased to about 100 the most.

Located near Wingabaw Village in Phayagyi Town, Bago Region, the elephant camp has been opened to the public since 3 November, 2016. The 86.2-acre wide camp is situated nearly 40

miles from Yangon. There are seven orphaned baby elephants plus 10 adult elephants.

The admission fees for local visitor is Ks1,000 per head and Ks5,000 for those who want to ride an elephant while a foreigner have to Ks20,000 for elephant trekking.

Elephant bathing watch is also available between 7 a.m. and 8.30 p.m. daily. "We widely explain the natural characters and movements of the large mammal to the visitors while they visiting around the camp for observation purpose between 12 to 3 p.m. on a daily basis," said U Myint Soe.—GNLM ■



Mahouts seen cleaning elephants at the Wingabaw Elephant Camp near Yangon-Mandalay Highway. **PHOTO, THWE THWE TUN**

Banking and Finance Career Conference 2017



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

BANKING and Finance Career Conference 2017 was held at the Sedona Hotel on September 24th from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Over 1500 financial professionals attended both the conference and the job fair sponsored by the most influential of Myanmar's largest banks, insurance companies, investment firms, and other entities in the financial sector.

JobNet's Banking and Finance Career Conference 2017 featured experts from GIZ, United Amara Bank, Myanmar Tourism Bank, CB Bank, Max Global Investment, Myanmar's Society of Accountants, ACCA Myan-

mar, KIG, Win Thin and Associates, Global World Insurance, CB Insurance and more who shared their expert opinions on the pace of development for the country's financial services industry and what the future holds for financial professionals here.

For economic development in Myanmar, the banks and finance industry is continuing to accelerate growth in the market indicating a very significant increase in job opportunities in the future. This conference and job fair is the beginning of a partnership between JobNet and the industry to connect financial companies with the best of the

best financial professionals in Myanmar. Platinum sponsors were CB Bank, United Amara Bank, and MyWorld Careers. Gold sponsors were True Money, Myanmar Apex Bank and Wall Street English. Other participating companies were UMG, Myanmar Institute of Banking, Deloitte, Yoma Bank, and J-Sat.

JobNet's Banking and Finance Career Conference 2017 focused on what the next five years of banking will look like in Burma, sharing opinions on Myanmar's accounting and financial sector challenges and opportunities for the future. —GNLM ■

Cash assistance to families suffered from heavy rain in Chin State

Four houses of Lone Hot Village, Falam, Chin State were damaged by heavy rain on 23 September and the families who suffered damage were provided cash assistances yesterday.

Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Hlan Lwe followed by State hluttaw speaker U Zobwe, deputy speaker U Aung Than, members of state government and departmental officials met at Taung Zalut guest villa, Falam Town with family members of four households whose houses were destroyed by heavy rain

and gave words of encouragement. This was followed by presenting Ks 400,000 and aids each household from the state chief minister and party.

The state chief minister and party then inspected the construction of Falam airport (Surbone) implemented by the Department of Civil Aviation. After explaining the working situation by officials, the state chief minister gave instruction to finish in time and carry out eradication of occupational hazard and fulfilled the needs.—State IPRD ■



Chin State Chief Minister presents cash to a local. **PHOTO: STATE IPRD**

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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



An anti-US rally at Kim Il Sung Square is seen in this 23 September 2017 photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang, on 24 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Trump cranks up North Korea threats as Pyongyang holds anti-US rally

SEOUL/UNITED NATIONS — US President Donald Trump dialled up the rhetoric against North Korea again at the weekend, warning the country's foreign minister that he and leader Kim Jong Un "won't be around much longer", as Pyongyang staged a major anti-US rally.

North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho told the United Nations General Assembly on Saturday that targeting the US mainland with its rockets was inevitable after "Mr Evil Presi-

dent" Trump called Pyongyang's leader a "rocket man" on a suicide mission.

"Just heard Foreign Minister of North Korea speak at UN. If he echoes thoughts of Little Rocket Man, they won't be around much longer!" Trump said on Twitter late on Saturday.

Trump and Kim have traded increasingly threatening and personal insults as Pyongyang races towards its goal of developing a nuclear-tipped missile capable of reaching the United

States — something Trump has vowed to prevent.

Analysts say the escalation in rhetoric is increasing the risk of a miscalculation by one side or the other that could have massive repercussions.

North Korea's state-run television KRT aired a video on Sunday showing tens of thousands of people attending an anti-US rally at Kim Il Sung square in Pyongyang.

The North's official KCNA news agency said more than

100,000 people gathered for the rally on Saturday and delivered speeches supporting comments made by Kim earlier in the week.

"We are waiting for the right time to have a final battle with the US, the evil empire, and to remove the US from the world," KCNA quoted Ri Il-bae, a commanding officer of the Red Guards, as saying. "Once respected Supreme commander Kim Jong Un gives an order, we will annihilate the group of aggressors." —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Six people believed injured in suspected London acid attack

LONDON — Six people were believed to have been injured on Saturday after a group of males reportedly sprayed a noxious substance in a number of attacks in an area around a shopping center in east London, police said.

The incident was not being treated as terror-related, a police spokesman said. The attacks occurred near the Stratford Centre, in Stratford, police said. Earlier they had said the incident took place around the bigger Westfield shopping center which is nearby.

"A number of people have been reported injured at different locations - believed to be six people. We await further details," London's Metropolitan Police said in a statement. —Reuters ■

Magnitude 5.9 quake strikes off Mexican west coast

MEXICO CITY — A magnitude 5.9 earthquake struck off the Mexican west coast on Sunday, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said. The epicentre of the quake was 99 km south-southwest of Tonala, in Chiapas state. Mexico's capital was shattered by a magnitude 7.1 quake on Tuesday that flattened dozens of buildings and killed at least 307 people. — Reuters ■

US warns citizens of unrest in Iraq during Kurdish referendum

BAGHDAD — The US embassy in Iraq on Sunday has limited the movement of its personnel and citizens for the impending referendum on independence in northern Iraq, in particular in the disputed areas. "US Mission Iraq will temporarily limit personnel movements as a precautionary measure. In particular, US citizens should avoid travel into and within territories disputed between the Kurdish Regional Government and the Government of Iraq," the embassy said in a statement on its website. It said that US citizens are at "high risk for kidnapping and terrorist violence in Iraq." —Xinhua ■

France renews half of senate in test for Macron

PARIS — France on Sunday renews half of its senators' seats, in a vote that is important for President Emmanuel Macron's reform plans and will be a test of his declining popularity, just four months after his election in May.

Macron's Republic on the Move (LREM) is not expected to win majority, both because of the electoral system — only mayors and regional councillors elected before 17-month old LREM even existed vote, not the general pub-

lic — and because Macron has plans that are unpopular with many local councillors.

What is at stake instead, is whether LREM and allies will win enough seats to give Macron a three-fifths majority vote in both houses of parliament, which he needs for constitutional reforms, including plans to overhaul parliament.

There are 171 out of 348 senate seats up for renewal and the three fifth majority question may

not be immediately clear on Sunday as it might require talks with other groups, including some senators who would break away from The Republicans' conservative party to create their own faction, as they did in the lower house of parliament.

The election comes as Macron's approval ratings have dropped considerably in opinion polls, dragged down by labour reforms and planned budget cuts, including a decrease in

housing aid for students. Besides, a number of local officials are unhappy with Macron's plans to cut subsidies to local authorities.

LREM currently has 29 senators, who defected from other parties. It has set itself modest goals for Sunday, hoping to reach 40-50 senators, and will be counting on alliances with lawmakers from other parties to back the government on a case by case basis. —Reuters ■

Hopes for Mexico quake survivors dim as search enters sixth day

MEXICO CITY — Emergency workers searched by floodlight in smashed buildings for survivors of Mexico's deadliest earthquake in 32 years amid fading rescue prospects, five nights after the disaster and as President Enrique Peña Nieto urged Mexicans to turn their attention to rebuilding.

The search continued in a ruined office building in Mexico City's hip Roma neighbourhood and a five-storey apartment in historic Tlalpan after Tuesday's 7.1 quake toppled dozens of buildings and killed over 300 people.

The temblor, Mexico's worst since a 1985 quake killed thousands, may have left some 30,000 badly damaged homes in the adjacent states of Morelos and Puebla and economic losses of \$4 billion to \$8 billion (£2.9 billion to £5.9 billion).

But authorities called off efforts in the upper-middle class

Linda Vista zone, after pulling ten bodies from the rubble, while work at the Tlalpan-based apartment building was briefly halted on Saturday due to a magnitude 6.2 earthquake that shook southern Mexico and spread fear in the capital.

"In Tlalpan, there is still a possibility of finding people alive. It's URGENT," read a meme passed around Saturday on social networks.

The government's response to the disaster is under close scrutiny ahead of a presidential election next year.

Frustration has grown among the thousands left homeless by Tuesday's quake with critics saying the government reaction pales in comparison to an outpouring of volunteer support, from rescue work to food donations. When Tuesday's quake hit, Mexico was already reeling from a 7 September earthquake



Members of rescue teams search for survivors in the rubble of a collapsed building after an earthquake in Mexico City, Mexico, on 24 September 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

that killed at least 98 people and was the strongest in the country in 85 years.

Aftershocks on Saturday spread fear among Mexico's traumatized population, and a plume of ash spewed from the Popocatepetl volcano in another reminder of the country's volatile geology. President Enrique Peña

Nieto sought to hit back against the criticism, highlighting government aid for survivors on a tour Saturday of Jiquipilas in the poor Southern state of Chiapas, which was badly hit by the 7 September quake.

"Be assured that the federal government is here, the state and local governments, supporting

you, hand in hand, to rebuild," he said.

But many Mexicans are wary of politicians using the quake to score political points, ahead of 2018 elections that are seen as a referendum on the Institutional Revolutionary Party's patchy record since returning to power in 2012. — Reuters ■

Germans start voting for new parliament as Merkel seeks 4th term

BERLIN — More than 61 million German voters were called to cast ballots on Sunday to pick their Bundestag, or federal parliament, on which a new government will be formed.

About 73,500 polling stations across the country opened at 8:00 a.m. local time (0600 GMT) and will be closed at 6:00 pm (1600 GMT).

Polling institutions will interview voters anonymously at the exit of selected polling stations, and will publish the initial results exactly after the election ends.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's CDU/CSU conservative alliance is expected to win most votes, which is set to hand Merkel a fourth four-year term as chancellor. It is also expected to see the far-right anti-immigration party Alternative for Germany (AfD) enter the parliament for the first time since World War II.

German election rule sets a five-percent-vote hurdle for parties to be elected in the Bundestag. According to opinion

polls in the run up to Sunday's election, six parties — counting Merkel's CDU and its Bavarian CSU sister party as one — are expected to win seats in the new parliament.

The other four parties are center-left Social Democrats (SPD), business-friendly Free Democratic Party (FDP), far-left party Die Linke, and Green party (Gruene).

In a chilly morning with

drizzle at a polling in Wedding Borough, one of the poorest and most ethnically diverse localities in Berlin, people coming to vote were mainly senior citizens, most of who were concerned about refugee issues and pension, but refused to elaborate their opinions.

"We work too long. We have to retire at 67 years old to get our pensions," a voter said anonymously to Xinhua. — Xinhua ■



Working staff help voters to cast ballot at a polling station in Berlin, Germany, on 24 September 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

Swiss voters reject raising women's retirement age

ZURICH — Swiss voters were set to reject raising women's retirement age to 65 in a referendum on shoring up the wealthy nation's pension system as a wave of Baby Boomers stops working, projections by broadcaster SRF showed on Sunday.

The package being decided under the Swiss system of direct democracy included making retirement between the ages of 62 and 70 more flexible and raising the standard value-added tax (VAT) rate from 2021 to help finance the stretched pension system.

Authorities pushing the first serious reform of the pension system in two decades had warned that old-age benefits were increasingly at risk as life expectancy increases and interest rates remain exceptionally low, cutting investment yields.

The government-supported plan sought to secure the level of pensions through 2030 by cutting costs and raising additional revenue.

Minimum pay-out rates would gradually fall to stabilize the mandatory occupational pensions system and workers' pension contributions would rise, while public pensions for all new recipients would go up by 70 Swiss francs (\$72.25) a month.

The retirement age for women would have gradually risen by a year to 65, the same as for men.

"That is no life," complained one 49-year-old kiosk cashier, who identified herself only as Angie. "You go straight from work to the graveyard."

The three-pillar Swiss pension system combines public benefits with employer schemes and voluntary savings plans.

Some critics complained that the higher retirement age for women and higher VAT rates were unfair, while others opposed expanding public benefits and said the reforms only postponed for a decade rather than solved the system's financial woes. — Reuters ■

Britain must stay in EU's single market after Brexit: Labour lawmakers

LONDON — Britain's main opposition Labour Party must commit to staying in the European Union's single market after Brexit and put an end to Prime Minister Theresa May's "destructive Brexit", several of its lawmakers said on Sunday.

At the beginning of the party's annual conference, Labour lawmakers and trade union leaders wrote an open letter to their leader, calling on Jeremy Corbyn to "go further" than his current position to press for being part of the single market during any transition after Britain leaves in March 2019.

After months of sticking to a position little different from the governing Conservative Party's pursuit of a clean break with the EU, Labour changed tack last month by saying, if in power, the party would press for full access to the single market during a transition - something that could continue beyond.

"We have watched with dismay as the government has used a narrow referendum result to justify an extreme approach to



Britain's opposition Labour party leader Jeremy Corbyn arrives at a television studio to appear on the BBC Andrew Marr politics programme during the Labour party Conference in Brighton, Britain, on 24 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Brexit," the lawmakers said in a letter published in Britain's Observer newspaper.

"So at our conference this week, Labour should commit to

staying in the Single Market and Customs Union - ruling out no options for how to achieve this."

Labour's earlier move was aimed at increasing pressure on

May, weakened after losing her party's majority in parliament in a June election she did not need to call and struggling to unite her own party over Brexit.

But Labour is also keenly aware that many of its supporters, especially in northern and central England, voted for Brexit and want controls on immigration which many blame for stretching public services, such as hospitals and schools.

Corbyn, who says he is preparing for government, told the BBC he was listening to those members of the Labour Party who want to keep the closest possible ties with the EU, but he did not say whether he would change the party's policy.

Instead, he said he believed a transitional period with full single market access should last for as long as is necessary and offered some support for continued migration.

In the letter, Labour lawmakers attacked the Conservative Party's "damaging promise to cut net migration to the tens of thousands". "Labour must be clear: migrants are not to blame for falling wages, job insecurity, bad housing and overstretched public services," the letter said.—Reuters ■

Italy's 5-Star names youthful new leader as election nears

RIMINI, (Italy) — Italy's anti-establishment 5-Star Movement which is riding high in opinion polls has named 31-year-old Luigi Di Maio to lead it into parliamentary elections early next year, which could see the maverick party win national power.

Di Maio, deputy speaker of the chamber of deputies, is the party's most prominent and popular politician and had been groomed for the leadership in recent years by 5-Star's founder, the 69-year-old comedian Beppe Grillo.

Boyish looking and usually immaculately turned out in suit and tie, Di Maio presents a moderate image in striking contrast to Grillo, who is famous for his raucous tirades against Italy's ruling elite.

"You have given me an enormous responsibility ... I assure you I'll carry it out with discipline and honour," Di Maio told supporters on Saturday at the party's annual gathering in the Adriatic coastal town of Rimini.

"I promise I will form a government team to be proud of for the first time in our history."

Grillo, who has so far acted as 5-Star's de facto chief, is now



5-Star movement founder Beppe Grillo (L) and Luigi Di Maio hold the banner of the movement during a gathering in Rimini, Italy, on 23 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

expected to gradually withdraw from the limelight.

"I will always be like a dad for all of you but I am old," he told the gathering on Friday.

Di Maio has taken tough stances on law-and-order and immigration and is widely seen on the right of the party which says traditional left-right labels have no meaning.

He won by a huge margin over seven rivals in an online vote of 5-Star's members held on Thursday and Friday, reflecting the movement's credo of inter-

net-based direct democracy.

His election was considered a formality because the other candidates were all little-known figures, mostly local councillors.

Di Maio won 83 per cent of the vote. The only people seen as having any chance against him decided not to run, opening the party up to accusations of failing to run a proper contest.

Di Maio will now try to put that criticism behind him as he gears up for a crucial period ahead of elections due by May

next year.

5-Star has a narrow lead in most opinion polls, which give it around 28 per cent of the vote, just ahead of the ruling Democratic Party.

However, that would not be enough to give it a majority in parliament unless it allies itself with another party, something it has so far always refused to do.

The right-wing Northern League and Silvio Berlusconi's conservative Forza Italia (Go Italy!) each have around 14 to 15 per cent.

5-Star, founded by Grillo as a protest movement nine years ago, bases its appeal mainly on a campaign against corruption and vested interests in Italy.

Its policies include the introduction of universal income support for the poor, green energy and increasing the budget deficit to fund investments in infrastructure.

Di Maio will need to broaden the movement's appeal and soothe barely disguised resentment among some 5-Star lawmakers over his predominant role in the party, culminating in his overwhelming election as leader.—Reuters ■

Part from airplane taking off hits car in Osaka, no one hurt

OSAKA — A part weighing around 4.3 kilograms fell off a plane that was taking off Saturday from Kansai International Airport and hit a car driving on a road in Osaka, according to the transport ministry.

No one was injured in the incident. The ministry will send safety inspectors to look into the cause of the mishap, judging that it could have triggered a serious accident, officials said.

A panel fell from a KLM Royal Dutch Airlines plane that took off at 10:40 am Saturday for Amsterdam, according to the Osaka bureau of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. The panel struck the car on a road in the central part of Osaka where there are a number of shops and apartment buildings. It smashed the window of the vehicle, in which there were two female occupants. One of them called the police, the bureau and other sources said Sunday.—Kyodo News ■

Fears of dam collapse add to Puerto Rico's misery after hurricane



A car submerged in flood waters is seen close to the dam of the Guajataca lake after the area was hit by Hurricane Maria in Guajataca, Puerto Rico, on 23 September 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

SAN JUAN, (Puerto Rico) — Puerto Rico's governor met mayors from around the ravaged island on Saturday after surveying damage to an earthen dam in the northwestern part of the US territory that was threatening to collapse from flooding in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

Some 70,000 people who live downstream from the compromised dam, which has formed a lake on the rain-swollen Guajataca River, were under orders to evacuate, with the structure in danger of bursting at any time.

"We saw directly the damage to the Guajataca dam," Governor Ricardo Rossello said in a Spanish-language Twitter mes-

sage on Saturday while reinforcing his request that people leave the area as soon as possible.

"The fissure has become a significant rupture," Rossello said separately at a news conference on Saturday.

The US National Weather Service said on its website the dam was still in danger of failing and triggering life-threatening flash floods. "Stay away or be swept away," it warned.

Meanwhile, people across the island were struggling to dig out from the devastation left by the storm, which killed at least 25 people, including at least 10 in Puerto Rico, as it churned across the Caribbean, according to

officials and media reports.

"To all Puerto Ricans, please know we will get back up," the governor tweeted as he met mayors in the territory to identify their most urgent needs. "Together with the mayors, as one government.4Puerto Rico"

In a development that could help the recovery effort, the Port of San Juan reopened, according to a Twitter message from the agency that operates it, allowing ships to unload supplies.

Severe flooding, structural damage to homes and virtually no electric power were three of the most pressing problems facing Puerto Ricans, said New York Governor Andrew Cuomo during a tour of the island. "It's a terrible immediate situation that requires assistance from the federal government — not just financial assistance," said Cuomo, whose state is home to millions of people of Puerto Rican descent. "It is a dangerous situation today and it's going to be a long-term reconstruction issue for months," Cuomo, a Democrat and potential 2020 presidential candidate, told CNN. —Reuters ■



Planes of the Lufthansa airline stand on the tarmac in Frankfurt airport, Germany, in 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Lufthansa seen offering to pay 200 million euros for Air Berlin assets

FRANKFURT — A Lufthansa (LHAG.DE) bid price of 200 million euros (177.18 million pounds) to buy assets from insolvent Air Berlin (AB1.DE) plus 100 million euros to meet operating costs is roughly correct, a source familiar with the talks said on Sunday.

The newspaper Bild am Sonntag earlier reported the figures, citing sources close to the proceedings.

The newspaper said that there could be three months between signing

a purchasing contract and implementing the transaction because German and European competition authorities would need to vet any deal.

After it filed for insolvency last month the Berlin government granted Air Berlin a 150-million-euro bridging loan to keep the airline flying for three months. On Thursday Air Berlin's creditor committee said it would talk to Lufthansa and Britain's easyJet (EZJ.L) as possible buyers for the carrier's assets, giving three weeks

for negotiations.

The source told Reuters that slots at Duesseldorf airport are among the assets that Lufthansa and easyJet both want.

Sources familiar with the matter said last week that Lufthansa was bidding a three-digit-million sum with the offer covering parts of Air Berlin, its leisure subsidiary Niki and regional unit Luftfahrt Gesellschaft Walter.

Lufthansa itself has only said it has made an offer for parts of Air Berlin. —Reuters ■



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Models parade in front of Milan's stock exchange at the end of the Salvatore Ferragamo Spring/Summer 2018 show at the Milan Fashion Week in Milan, Italy, on 23 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Ferragamo strolls through Milan daisy garden under the stars

MILAN — Models for Italian luxury group Salvatore Ferragamo strolled through a garden of daisies in the heart of Milan on Saturday evening to wrap up the city's fourth day of fashion week.

Fulvio Rigoni, director for Ferragamo's women's ready to wear, showcased his spring summer 2018 collection on a

lawn under the stars, set up for the occasion in front of Palazzo Mezzanotte, the stock exchange in Italy's fashion capital.

"No two women are the same and I wanted to celebrate women's individuality and style, vivid colours..." Rigoni said. For this reason the collection included pieces with assorted textures, prints, shapes and

"attitudes", a style note said.

Rigoni said he was inspired by the famous women, like Greta Garbo, Brigitte Bardot and Marilyn Monroe, who had worn Ferragamo's shoes in the past.

Long floaty dresses, asymmetrical skirts, flared trousers and pencil designs evoked different eras with designs in emerald green, deep purple and

geranium pink.

Models wore snake skin patterns with matching vests or skirts under silk ruffled shirts, laser cut short cocktail coats over high boots, A-line dresses and panelled satin tops and dresses with plunging backlines.

The looks were matched with peep-toe sandals with gold-

en chunky heels and capri sandals laced up with silk foulards and small leather bags with thin geometric bracelet-like handles. In the finale, models, followed by Rigoni, walked away from the garden-turn-runway to the steps of the stock exchange, whose facade was used for a light show by German designer Ingo Maurer. —Reuters ■

Colin Firth gets dual Italian citizenship after Brexit vote

ROME — British actor Colin Firth, who has often played the role of a quintessential Englishman in his many films, has become an Italian citizen, Italy's Interior Ministry said.

"The very famous actor, who won an Oscar for the film 'The King's Speech', is married to a citizen from our country and has often declared his love for our land," the ministry said in a statement.

Firth said he would remain a dual national, adding that his Italian-born wife would also be seeking British nationality.

"We never really thought much about our different pass-



Actor Colin Firth arrives at the 2017 Film Independent Spirit Awards in Santa Monica, California, US, on 25 February, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ports," the actor said in a statement. "But now, with some of the uncertainty around, we thought it sensible that we should all get the same," he added, in an apparent reference to last year's British vote to leave the European Union.

Firth has been married to Italian film producer Livia Giuglioli since 1997 and the couple live with their two sons in Britain.

Unlike some other EU countries, Italy and Britain both allow dual nationality. "My wife and I are both extremely proud of our own countries," Firth said. A number of EU countries, including Germany, France and Ireland, have reported a surge in British citizens seeking a new nationality in the wake of the Brexit vote. —Reuters ■

Aaron Carter checking into rehab to 'improve his health'

LOS ANGELES — Singer Aaron Carter has entered a treatment facility to improve his health.

Carter decided to enter the rehab just months after he opened up about his sexuality and addiction issues.

"Aaron has decided to enter a facility to improve his health and work on his overall wellness. He is going to do this privately and focus all his attention on being the best person and performer possible. "He is grateful for the support and love from his fans and looks forward to coming back stronger than ever before," Steve Honig, the singer's representative, told People magazine. The news comes the day after police were summoned to his home for a welfare check after a neighbour called author-

ities after a concerning FaceTime conversation.

Hours after he decided to enter the facility, Carter took to Twitter to inform about the same to his fans. "My loved ones, I would like to tell all of you that I will be disappearing for a while to work on myself. I would also like to announce that I am releasing a gift to you on 27 October.

"In time for Halloween, a new version of 'I Want Candy.' 4 weeks later, I will be releasing my first single from my new album, LOVE. I'll see you soon looking amazing and ready to play all my new songs LIVE. Most importantly, my stressors haven't subsided with family and this year has been crazy and I need some time off from all of it," he wrote.—PTI ■

New Generation of Glamour Who Inherits Myanmar Puppet in Mandalay



A Myanmar puppet performance in Mandalay. **PHOTO TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)**

Provided that genuine Myanmar arts are to be exhibited in the international sphere, Myanmar Orchestra and Puppet will occupy the top place on the totem pole of Myanmar traditional arts. Globe trotters are more interested in genuine Myanmar classical songs rather than Myanmar modern music which are mostly exotic versions. Among them, they like most Myanmar

puppet to the accompaniment of Myanmar orchestra.

Myanmar traditional culture of puppet is being conserved in Mandalay, by teaching it systematically, with a view to presenting it as the glamour in the midst of the world countries by making youths train the arts in every available hour. It is the glamour for youths to value and maintain the Myanmar culture. Puppet is

the kind of art which attract the attention of audience with its forms of dancing.

According to the saying that vitality of puppet toys exists in the left hand of puppeteer, toys are made to activate with fingers. Training is practiced with the style of walking and picking up the rosary beads of pearl by using only a string. Afterward, the style of turning the neck

around—turning head right when moving the left leg forward, or vice versa, has to be trained.

With the development of skill in making toys walk by strings, dancing styles have to be practiced. Then essential styles of dancing of moving forward, martial arts and fundamental music need to be studied. Styles of dancing in the form of ogre

and zawgyi can be danced by manipulating only a string. From then, dancing by the use of 12 Puppet was regarded in ancient time as the high-class royal terpsichorean arts.

It is the glamour for Myanmar Arts to see youths of new generation studying Myanmar Puppet as the heritage at present, in Mandalay. — Shwe Nadi (Myitnge) ■

Basic vocational sewing training conducted

A basic vocational sewing training was conducted in Pyin Pone Gyi, Southern Command, Bago Region on Thursday morning organized by Small-Scale Industries Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Daw Ngwe Ngwe Wah Dep-

uty Director gave the opening speech and Daw Win Lae Ngwe an instructor of the training explained the curriculum of the training.

One month training, from 21 September to 20 October was attended by 15 women trainees. — Shwe Win (Pyay) ■



PHOTO: SHWE WIN (PYAY) ■

Bronze bust of Myanmar music researcher and conductor Sein Bo Tint to be set up in Kyaiklat

Bronze bust of Myanmar music researcher and conductor Sein Bo Tint made in Mandalay is now completed.

The bronze bust will be set up at Kyaiklat, a native town of Sein Bo Tint for the public to visit. The meeting for opening ceremony to put the bronze bust was held on 20 September at Thabin office in Kyaiklat Township. The bronze bust of famous Myanmar

music researcher and conductor Sein Bo Tint will be placed near U Pyone Cho statue 9x10 streets in Kyaiklat Township.

The opening ceremony of the bronze bust will be held on 13 November (Myanmar National Day) with entertainment of Myanmar musical troupes from Yangon, Mandalay and Kyaiklat.—Tin Win Lay (Kyimindine) ■



Bronze bust of Myanmar music researcher and conductor Sein Bo Tint. **PHOTO: TIN WIN LAY**

Seven & i begins donation of unexpired food items to needy families

TOKYO — Seven & i Holdings Co. has started donating unexpired food items left at its Ito Yokado supermarket in Tokyo to needy families through a charity.

According to Seven & i, the company is planning to expand the activity to a wider area, as it will also help reduce food waste.

Poverty has become a serious social issue in Japan, with the relative poverty rate standing at 15.6 per cent in 2015. The figure includes people in all generations living in households with an income below 50 per cent of the national median level.

The pilot food drive began

at the Ito Yokado Hikifune store in Tokyo's Sumida Ward in July. The unsold items before expiration are sent every Tuesday to Second Harvest Japan, a nonprofit food bank in Tokyo, which delivers them to families in need and welfare facilities. —Kyodo News ■

U Zaw Zaw conferred AFF football goodwill award

U Zaw Zaw President of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) was awarded the ASEAN Goodwill Award at the Asean Football Federation (AFF) Football Awards Ceremony 2017 that was held at the Sofitel Hotels & Resort in Bali, Indonesia.

The ASEAN Goodwill Award is conferred biennially to an individual for outstanding achievements on or off the pitch towards the Asean Football Federation. "Among the football supporters of all AFF activities throughout the year, U Zaw Zaw did best in philanthropic work", said an official from AFF.

"Football is our soul. It is



MFF president U Zaw Zaw (Left) seen at a press conference in Bali, Indonesia. **PHOTO MFF**

our family and health. We need to work together for the ASEAN family. We cannot be successful if we do not work together," said U Zaw Zaw during the ceremony.

U Zaw Zaw has acted as the president since 2015 and he did brilliant sustainable development for Myanmar's football according to MFF.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Myanmar to play China today in AFC U-16 Championship

Kyaw Zin Lin

As AFC U-16 Championship Group H qualification match, Myanmar U-16 national football team will play against China U-16 national football team today 6 pm at the Thuwunna Stadium.

A prepress conference for AFC U-16 Championship qualifiers held yesterday at Myanmar Football Federation meeting hall.

Myanmar, China, South Korea and the Philippines head coaches attended it.

"As we, Myanmar host the Championship, we welcome all the contestants to our land. My boys are already trained not only in local but also in Thailand. As our competitors are giant teams we have prepared our best to get proper result said," Myanmar U-16 Head Coach U Nyi Nyi Latt

during the prepress conference.

"We have started the training since this February. We also chose the best players from our U-15 local leagues. I also noticed that Myanmar young footballers also possess many brilliant skills," said China U-16 Head Coach Liu Jun Wei.

South Korea will also play the Philippines in an early match today at the same stadium. ■

Wozniacki wins back-to-back Pan Pacs titles in 7th final of year

TOKYO — Former world No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki continued to build on her strong track record at the Toray Pan Pacific Open on Sunday, ousting Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in straight sets to defend her title — her first of the season.

Wozniacki, currently ranked sixth and seeded third in her 10th consecutive Pan Pacific Open appearance, joins a select list of Martina Hingis, Gabriela Sabatini and Lindsay Davenport as players with three or more titles at the tournament. Hingis is the all-time leader with five championships.

Wozniacki, who also won the Pan Pacs in 2010, took her record in Tokyo to 26-7.

It was also seventh time

lucky for the 27-year-old Dane, who had reached six finals this season but lost them all. With Sunday's 1 hour, 14 minute victory over her Russian opponent at Ariake Colosseum, Wozniacki, who played in her 49th career final, has now won at least one title every year since 2008.

"It was my seventh final of the year," Wozniacki said. "Obviously after a while, it gets harder and harder to win that last one but I just went out there, stayed focused and stayed aggressive from the beginning."

"I've won here in the past and it's a great court where I have great memories so I'm very happy."—Kyodo News ■



Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark celebrates after defeating Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia 6-0, 7-5 in the final of the Toray Pan Pacific Open at Tokyo's Ariake Colosseum, on 24 September 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Barca, Real and Atletico all win in La Liga



Barcelona's Luis Suarez celebrates their second goal scored by Girona's Gorka Iraizoz at Estadi Montilivi, Girona, Spain, on 23 September. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

MADRID — Barcelona opened up a four-point gap at the top of La Liga, maintaining their 100 percent start as they cruised to a 3-0 victory at Catalan rivals Girona on Saturday.

An own goal either side of the break and a Luis Suarez strike in his 100th league appearance for the club 21 minutes from the end were enough for Ernesto Valverde's team to secure the points in the first-ever league meeting between the sides.

Having seen Atletico defeat Sevilla 2-0 to move into second place and a Dani Ceballos double help an unconvincing Real to sneak past bottom-of-the-table Alaves 2-1 earlier on, Barca made light work of their oppo-

nents, even if two of their goals were fortunate.

"There was pressure on us given the results in the other games and the atmosphere here today," Valverde said. "It's a derby, a great atmosphere and we needed to play with our heads as well as our hearts."

"We needed to combat Girona's enthusiasm and we got the job done. Of course, I'm delighted with how things are going — I'm not going to complain when we win. I'll do that when things aren't going well."

Real returned to winning ways following their shock 1-0 defeat to Betis in midweek as two first-half goals from Ceballos in his maiden league start for the

club sandwiched a Manu Garcia header for hosts Alaves.

There were missed chances at both ends in the second half. Cristiano Ronaldo, who is yet to score in La Liga this season, and Alaves substitute Alfonso Pedraza both struck the woodwork twice, while Sergio Ramos fired over an open goal late on.

However, Zinedine Zidane's side hung on to claim a third-league win of the season and move on to 11 points.

Second-half strikes from Yannick Carrasco and Antoine Griezmann helped Atletico to leapfrog Sevilla into second place. They remain unbeaten with four wins and two draws after six games.—Reuters ■