State Counsellor responds to violent armed attacks in Rakhine State

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said no accusations will be made at the present time about the recent armed attacks in Rakhine State because the government has not yet ascertained the cause. If there is ever receipt of relevant evidence, at that point the government will take it to trial, she said.

While responding to questions made by reporters at the joint press conference with the Netherlands Foreign Minister Mr Bert Koenders in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also sent a message to all countries across the world that the country is doing its best to deal with the cause and resolution of the violent attacks in western Myanmar by all legal means.

“The government is dealing with the current issue in Rakhine State exercising the rule of law so that the government can reach the best and most just settlement, said the State Counsellor.

She also said the Myanmar government is dealing with human rights issues, in particular investigating complaints over rights violations. Every country is being faced with human rights issues, she said.

The State Counsellor called on every individual to understand the meaning of human rights.

“In dealing with human rights issues, the government alone cannot solve this issue" she said. “It also requires the cooperation of the people”. The government is performing its duties for peace and stability of the country to the best of its ability, she added.

The Netherlands Foreign Minister replied that the official visit to the western part of Myanmar is of benefit to all civil society organisations. He added that the Union Government was solving the complicated issues as best as it can.

He also stressed the need to take adjustable and systematic approaches to solving ethnic issues and complicated disputes.

During its visit to northern Rakhine State on Tuesday, the Netherlands delegation could hold constructive discussions with locals, CSOs and responsible officials, he said.

“It is of great importance for humanitarian aid to reach people in trouble, especially we want to express our thanks to the Myanmar government for letting us open the embassy of the Netherlands”, Mr Koenders said.

Mr Koenders and his delegation from the Netherlands are in Myanmar to officially open the new Dutch embassy in Yangon. The Netherlands is not only interested in promoting trade with Myanmar, but also in investing in democratisation and improving the country’s human rights situation.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said they discussed promoting bilateral cooperation, noting the friendly relations Myanmar has had with the Netherlands since 1948 when Myanmar gained its independence.

Mr Koenders said the first part of their discussion included how to promote relations between the two countries and develop capacity building in implementing water resources management and related projects, he added. The two countries will also enhance existing cooperation in the agriculture and animal husbandry sectors, he said.

After visiting Myanmar, the minister will travel to Thailand, where he will take part in a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) with the European Union.—Myanmar News Agency
State Counsellor receives foreign guests

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Foreign Minister of Netherlands, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria, United Nations Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

At the meeting with the Netherlands Foreign Affairs Minister, they exchanged views on the bilateral relations and cooperation, peace process and transitional process in Myanmar, and the promotion of cooperation on agriculture and integrated water resource management between Myanmar and the Netherlands.

At the meeting with Mr. Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, they exchanged views on the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Luxembourg, and the peace process and transitional process in Myanmar.

At the meeting with Dr Michael Linhart, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria, they exchanged views on the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Austria.

At the meeting with Mr Stephen O’ Brien, United Nations Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, they exchanged views on matters pertaining to the Government’s initiatives in peace and national reconciliation, providing humanitarian assistance in Myanmar including Rakhine and Kachin States and ongoing cooperation between the Government the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

— Myanmar News Agency

Deepavali National Holiday to fall on 30 October

The Union Government announced yesterday that the Hindu festival of Deepavali, which is also known as Dewali, falls on 30th October and is a public holiday under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives foreign guests

U WIN MYINT, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, received Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Foreign Minister of the Netherlands at Zabuthiri Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

At the meeting with Dr Michael Linhart, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria, they discussed bilateral friendship and cooperation.

At the meeting with Mr Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, they discussed matters related to cooperation between governments, parliaments and peoples between the two countries.

— Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Luxembourg Foreign and European Affairs Minister

MAHN WIN KHAING THAN, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, received Mr Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, at Amyotha Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they discussed promotion of bilateral friendship between the two countries.

— Myanmar News Agency

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs receives Dy FM of Austria

U KYAW TIN, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Dr. Michael Linhart, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw at 13:00 hrs on 12 October 2016, and exchanged views on the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation in the areas of economy, education and culture.

— Myanmar News Agency
President U Htin Kyaw receives Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

President U Htin Kyaw received Mr Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they openly discussed matters on promotion of bilateral cooperation between the two countries, assistance from Luxembourg to Myanmar and transitional process to democracy in Myanmar. Present were Union ministers Dr Than Myint and U Ohn Maung and officials.—Myanmar News Agency

President U Htin Kyaw accepts credentials of Vietnamese, Cambodian, Egyptian ambassadors

President U Htin Kyaw accepted credentials of newly accredited ambassadors from Viet Nam, Cambodian and Egypt to Myanmar separately at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

H.E. Mr. SOK Chea, the newly accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Nay Pyi Taw, presented his credentials to the president.

Present on the occasions were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs H.E. U Kyaw Tin and Director-General U Ko Ko Naing of the Protocol Department.—Myanmar news Agency

Troops kills 10 violent armed attackers in area clearance operation in Maungtaw Tsp

WHILE conducting an area clearance operation near the village of Kyetyoepyin Village, Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State yesterday, troops of the Tatmadaw responded to an assault by armed attackers, killing 10 attackers and seizing a rifle.

After the violent exchange during yesterday’s 7 a.m. clearance operation in the village of Kyetyoepyin, armed attackers fled to the western part of the village.

While pursuing them, the troops were fought by the attackers with guns, swords and sticks. The troops will continue to conduct clearance operations not to make it easy for attackers to hide in nearby villages, for the sake of peace and stability in the area and for the protection of local residents.—Myawady

Armed men violently attack Kyikanpyin border outpost, set fire to 25 houses in Warpaik Village

VIOLENT armed men attacked the staff quarters of No.1 border post near Kyikanpyin Village, Maungtaw Township, and set fire to dozens of houses in Warpaik Village in the township yesterday.

About five attackers shot at the staff quarters from a distant hideout, but retreated when Tatmadaw troops fought back.

The attackers then set fire to Warpaik Village, destroying around 25 houses, before withdrawing in a southeast direction.

The attackers who were hiding in the village set fire to the homes when the troops of the Tatmadaw were conducting a clearance mission in the village.

The troops will continue to conduct clearance operations in nearby villages, it learnt.—Myawady

CELEBRATING OCTOBER AT SEDONA HOTEL YANGON

OKTOBERFEST (WEDNESDAYS IN OCTOBER)

Gather your loved ones, brush upon your yard then head over for Sedona’s Oktoberfest Celebrations on Wednesday every night in October.

Bring your family & friends to enjoy German delights such as Sausages, Schnitzel & Strudel! Leave some room for our delicious German desserts and course of our delectable free flow of beer, wine & soft drinks.

Time: 6.30pm to 10pm
Venue: DCuisine All Day Dining Restaurant

*Includes free flow of wine, beer & soft drinks.

SEAFOOD and BBQ BUFFET DINNER

Escape the everyday packed and noisy environment to enjoy a delicious, leisurely dining setting in a comfortable setting of DCuisine.

Indulge yourself, family and friends in our spectacular seafood selection with our wide selection of Seafood and grill items from the Cold buffet to the a la carte sections plus a selection of much more delicious dishes to choose from. Don’t forget to leave some room for our heavenly desserts.

Time: Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 6.30pm to 10pm
Venue: DCuisine All Day Dining Restaurant

*Includes free flow of wine, beer & soft drinks.
VP U Henry Van Thio inspects sites to hold 22nd Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition

VP U Henry Van Thio giving instructions to the union ministers and officials. PHOTO: MNA

ACCOMPANIED by Union ministers, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Chairman of the Leading Committee for 22nd Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions, inspected sites and lodging hostels for participants yesterday. On arriving at Ywa Taw camp in which contestants will lodge, the vice president was reported by responsible officials on accommodation, environmental sanitation, preparation of emergency health care service, transportation of contestants to designated places, situations on security and control of discipline, followed by the inspection of clinics and dining rooms.

Afterwards, the vice president and party visited Yezin University, Nay Pyi Taw, inspecting preparations for competition places. During the inspection, Vice President U Henry Van Thio stressed the need for systematic examination on food in protection against cholera disease, ensuring safety, security and transportation. The 22nd Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions — 2016 will be held from 18th to 25th October.—Myanmar News Agency

Residents in Maungtaw urged to restrain, not to believe false information

A governmental mission comprising Union ministers met with residents and departmental staff in Maungtaw yesterday, calling for not believing false information and for exercising restraint at a time when the state is facing instability.

At the meeting, local people pointed out the weakness of the rule of law in Maungtaw, urging the authorities to assist the local ethnic people in their livelihood and security.

They also urged the government to take severe action when they scrutinize the citizenship issue in accordance with the 1982 Citizenship Law and to enforce the monogamy law to be able to control the population in the area for the sake of the development.

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Soe said that the forces of the Tatmadaw are providing security to the local people, pledging that it would provide food to the people.

In response to the question on organizing militia in villages, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe said that he would submit the idea to the policy makers.

Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Hein Lin expressed thanks to the people for their cooperation in dealing with the current crisis, assuring that teachers and health staff in far-flung areas are in safe condition and they would be brought back to Maungtaw when the weather is fine.

The authorities have already collected a total of 285 teachers from villages in Maungtaw and another 104 teachers have returned home, he added.

Rakhine State Social Affairs and Housing Minister Dr Chan Tha said that authorities will distribute rice and edible oil to 35 villages in Maungtaw Township and will provide cash assistance to families of nine policemen who fell in fighting with armed attackers and to the injured.—Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to visit India on 16 October

At the invitation of His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will leave for the Republic of India to attend BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit to be held in Goa, India on 16 October 2016 and to pay a State Visit to the Republic of India to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Education Policy Commission holds its first meeting

THE NATIONAL Education Policy Commission (NEPC) commenced its meeting (1/2016) at the office of NEPC in Yangon yesterday, with the opening addresses by Dr. Myo Myint, chairman and Dr Nyi Hla Nge, vice-chairman of the commission.

In the opening address, Dr Myo Myint said: “The education sector is related to development of all other sectors. This formation of NEPC will help develop other sectors in return. This commission is a free institution which consists of scholars with a chairman and vice-chairman elected by all members, unlike the previous ones. Responsibilities to be performed by the commission include: laying down national education targets and educational principles; assignment of duties to newly-formed curriculum committee; assessment committee for national education status and quality assurance; consulting bodies for acquiring subvention from government and local administrative bodies; policy making for acceptance of monetary aids and subsidies from home and abroad; laying down policy on opening and closing schools; submission of reports on 6-month activities to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Union Government.

Afterward, the Director-General of the Education Ministry and related ministries discussed the implementation of education projects and legislation of educational policies. It is learnt that an educational process to be prioritized by NEPC will be discussed on 18 October.—MNA

Education Policy Commission meeting in progress. PHOTO: MNA

Drug trafficking fugitive brought to justice

A DRUGS fugitive on Tuesday has been brought to justice seven years after he went on the run, according to a police report.

Htay Aung, who is described by police as a major supplier of drugs, escaped from police while authorities arrested other suspected drug dealers at a shop in Myawady Ward in Monywa Township of Sagaing Region in 2009.

Acting on a tip-off, local police recently searched the same shop and arrested two people after they were found in possession of a cache of illegal stimulants. The two drug traffickers said they received those illegal drugs from Htay Aung. Police arrested the fugitive in Monywa Township. The suspect has been charged under Section 15/16 (c)/20 (a) and 21 of the anti-drug law and Section 512 of the Penal Code.—MyitMakha News Agency

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Htay Aung. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

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Fifty-two foreign enterprises approved by investment commission this year

FIFTY-two foreign enterprises were established in Myanmar as of mid-October this fiscal year, making investments of US$662.835 million, said U Aung Naing Oo, the director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) approved a total of 14 foreign investment businesses, according to Myanmar Investment Commission Meeting (18/2016) and (19/2016), with a total of US$278.958 million invested. Thirteen permitted foreign enterprises will be engaged in industrial businesses. The remaining business is an investment in transportation and communication. These fourteen permitted enterprises will create a total of 8,859 jobs.

In keeping with Myanmar Citizen Investment Law, Myanmar Citizen Investment was permitted in industrial business, with investments of US$3.827 million and Ks 946.7.442 resulting in 85 jobs according to MIC Meeting (18/2016).—Myint Maung Soe (MMAL)

Rice and broken rice exports fetch over US$177 million

THE export of rice and broken rice as of 30th September in the 2016-2017 fiscal year fetched over US$177 million, with a total volume of over 50,000 tonnes.

The export value of rice and broken rice in this fiscal year has slumped by over US$63 million when compared to that of a similar period in the last fiscal year, it is learnt from the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The export volume of rice and broken rice within six months of this fiscal year totalled 514,448 tonnes worth US$177.272 million, with the rice export volume of 387,000 tonnes worth over US$139 million and with the broken rice volume of over 127,000 tonnes worth over US$38 million, it is learnt.

During the last week of September, 7,717 tonnes of rice worth US$2.109 million were exported to China through Myanmar-China border trade camps. The export volume of rice slumped by 1,665 tonnes compared to that of the third week of September.

In a similar period, 1,480 tonnes of broken rice worth US$0.481 million were also exported to China through border camps.

During last month, 35,856 tonnes of rice worth US$13.193 million and 5,747 tonnes of broken rice worth US$1.868 million were exported to China. However, the export volume of rice and broken rice respectively declined when compared to a similar period of last fiscal year.—Ko Htet

Islands from Kyunsu Township designated as restricted areas for fishing

THE islands situated 15 nautical miles away from Sa Khan Thit village, Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region have been designated for the first time as restricted areas for fishing, it is learnt from Kyunsu Township Fisheries Department.

The territorial waters near Tharmyar Ama island and Wetphyu Taung island, 15 nautical miles away from the village, will be off-limits for fishing starting on 10th October. This action is being taken to protect the fisherfolk near these islands from being caught. Fish larvae that develop into fingerlings are hatched near the islands, it is learnt.

The department will conduct an awareness campaign at the places where the fishermen stop to rest, said U San Mhwe from the fisheries department.

It is the first time that the fisheries department has restricted the areas for fishing, posting warning signs along waterways. The fisheries department will place vinyl markers between these two islands to caution the fishermen to keep out of the restricted areas. Additionally, they will carry out patrols around the restricted areas to make sure there is no illegal fishing. Violators will face penalties.

To preserve the fish resources, locals need to participate in the effort. The activities protecting the aquaculture which will be carried out by the fisheries department in cooperation with FAUNA and Flora International (FFI) have been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, it is learnt.—Myitmakha News Agency

Master Card and Visa Card users of CB Bank can deposit a minimum of US$10

MASTERCARD and Visa card customers of Co-operative Bank (CB Bank) can now deposit a minimum of US$10 through Mobile Banking of CB Bank, it is learnt from an announcement released by CB Bank on 11th October.

Previously, MasterCard and Visa card users had to deposit a minimum of US$50. But they can now make deposit of US$10 into their accounts. However, they still need to initially deposit US$50 when opening the accounts, and can then pay US$10 into their accounts thereafter, it is learnt.

The money can be deposited into MasterCard and Visa through mobile banking with their own local currency accounts, after calculating the prevailing dollar price.

Account holders at CB Bank can now easily make use of mobile banking, which can facilitate remittance to other bank accounts, phone top-up, payment for online shopping, bill payment for car tickets, air tickets etc with the corporations linked with CB Bank.

Use of credit cards and mobile banking is slowly gaining acceptance.

“I am not used to utilising mobile banking yet”, said Ko Thha, a local merchant. “It is good the phone top-up can be bought with mobile banking. This system can also facilitate online payment. However, the withdrawal with ATM cards is sometimes disturbing because of the breakdown of ATM machines.”—Myitmakha News Agency

Nanpharlon gate reopened, businessmen doing well

NANPHARLON gate, which was shut down to ensure the security of the people living in the border areas of Myanmar and India, has been reopened to the relief of local businessmen. The Nanpharlon gate was closed after explosion in Moreh and a shooting in Tamu. Authorities from the two countries agreed to shut down the gate for security reasons, said Tin Wai, Police Superintendent from Tamu District Police office.

“We are very satisfied with the reopening of the gate because we are trading with the Nanpharlon market”, said the sellers.

However, some locals are concerned that another shooting or bombing will happen again, said Daw Khin Yadanar Moe, a local from Tamu. The gate between Myanmar and India was closed for six days, it is learnt.—Myitmakha News Agency

 Farmers plant paddy traditionally on a field at Pauktal Village, Bago Region. Photo: Thant Zin Win

Business

Local
South Korean army to create special operation aviation unit to infiltrate into DPRK

SEOUL — South Korea’s special warfare command is seeking to create an aviation unit to send commandos into the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) in times of military conflicts, local media reports showed on Wednesday.

The command is seeking to create a special operation aviation unit to infiltrate into the DPRK in times of contingency by securing its own aviation assets. The plan is based on a report submitted by the special warfare command to the National Assembly’s national defence committee. Lawmakers have been inspecting government offices for its regular session.

The special unit creation reportedly aims to allow the special warfare command to secure its own capability of dispatching commandos through its aviation assets without support from US Forces Korea (USFK) or South Korea’s aviation operation command.

Under the command is also pushing to create a special operation unit to carry out a strategically special mission.

What the special mission is hasn’t been known, but it was estimated by local news organisations that the mission is to eliminate the DPRK’s leadership and major nuclear facilities in the event of military conflicts.—Xinhua

Philippines invites UN rapporteur to probe drug-related killings

MANILA — The Philippines has sent an invitation to the United Nations rapporteur Agnes Callamard to probe the increasing number of drug-related killings in the country, a government spokesman said on Wednesday.

“He said that the Philippine government is urging Callamard to also look into the killings of law enforcers who were also killed in the campaign to eradicate illicit drugs. News reports said more than 3,000 suspects had been killed, some extrajudicially, in the fight against drugs since President Rodrigo Duterte took the presidency on 30 June. Duterte said there are at least 4 million Filipinos who are into drugs. He warned that if not eradicated, the Philippines will continue to be governed by narco-politicians. The Philippine senate and the House of Representatives have conducted investigations into the drug menace. The UN, US, European Union and other international human rights groups have criticised the Duterte administration for carrying out a bloody anti-drug campaign, prompting Duterte to lash at these critics. Despite the intense criticism, Duterte has vowed to continue his anti-drug campaign. As of 10 October, the Philippine National Police said that a total of 1,550 suspected drug users and pushers have been killed since 1 July. On the other hand, the police said at least 13 policemen and three soldiers were killed. The police also said that close to 800,000 drug suspects have “surrendered” since the campaign was launched.—Xinhua

Kitakyushu city to help China tackle air pollution

KITAKYUSHU — The city of Kitakyushu in southwestern Japan signed a memorandum of understanding with a unit of China’s Ministry of Environmental Protection to help the country combat air pollution. It is the first time that a Japanese municipality has signed such an agreement with the Sino-Japan Friendship Ship Centre for Environmental Protection, according to officials of the city, located in Fukuoka Prefecture on the island of Kyushu. Under the agreement, signed to coincide with an international conference on air pollution in China, the municipality and the Chinese government office will exchange information and personnel to address air pollution and improve urban environments. The Japanese Environment Ministry has embarked on a five-year project through fiscal 2018 to help tackle air pollution in China through personnel exchanges. Kitakyushu city has so far sent around 80 researchers to six Chinese cities to provide advice on how to limit air pollutants.—Kyodo News

Blackout occurs in parts of Tokyo, some gov't buildings affected

TOKYO — A temporary blackout occurred in some areas of Tokyo on Wednesday afternoon, affecting some government buildings in the Kasumigaseki District, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc. said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a news conference that power had been fully restored before 4 pm and the government was confirming the facts of the blackout.

Up to 350,000 households and buildings in a wide area of Tokyo, including Nerima and Minato wards were affected by the power outage, which the utility said may have been caused by a fire at a facility in Niza, near Tokyo. Police and firefighters said smoke was detected at the facility around 2:55 pm.

In the Kasumigaseki district, where many central government offices are located, lights went out temporarily at the Finance Ministry, the Foreign Ministry and other buildings. Seibu Railway Co. suspended most train operations in the wake of the blackout, it said. The utility said the problem was nearly resolved by around 4:30 pm.—Kyodo News
Japan gov’t widens counter-cyberattack protection to more entities

TOKYO — The Japanese government decided on Wednesday to extend its counter-cyberattack monitoring of key government agencies to include nine government-affiliated bodies, including the national pension operator that saw more than 1 million sets of personal information leaked in a high-profile attack.

The government’s cybersecurity strategy task force selected the bodies for monitoring by the National Centre of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity, or NISC, in line with an amended cybersecurity law that came into force this month following its enactment in April.

Previously, the scope of monitoring was only government ministries and agencies.

“The government must steadily administer the amended law to thoroughly deal with cyber measures for these organisations,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Tuesday in meetinging of the task force Wednesday.

The Japan Pension Service, a special public corporation administered by the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare to oversee the country’s universal pension programme, came under a targeted email attack in May last year.

A review committee set up by the welfare ministry to look into the incident said the pension operator was not sufficiently conscious of the threat of cyberattacks and failed to prepare for them.

Suga also said on Wednesday the government is considering how to fortify Japan’s cybersecurity measures for crucial infrastructure in the lead-up to the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo.

On Tuesday, central banks and finance ministries in the Group of Seven industrialised nations hailed the G-7’s formulation of guidelines for financial institutions aimed at warding off cyberattacks.

The nonbinding guidelines call for institutions to clarify their personnel’s roles and responsibilities in dealing with the attacks, share information on attacks and threats with stakeholders in a timely manner and review cybersecurity strategy regularly.

The G-7 comprises Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States. 

—Kyodo News

Inflation seen cooling to one-year low in September — Reuters poll

BENGALURU — Inflation in India is expected to have cooled to a one-year low in September as good monsoon rains kept a lid on food prices, a Reuters poll showed, possibly giving more room to the central bank to cut rates again by the end of this year.

The recently formed Reserve Bank of India Monetary Policy Committee, under new Governor Urjit Patel, cut rates by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent in a surprise move earlier this month, after inflation hit a five-month low in August.

The latest poll of 30 economists showed retail inflation probably eased further last month to 4.80 per cent, the lowest since September 2015, from 5.05 per cent in August.

“The favourable impact of the monsoon is now coming through the system. We saw quite a strong deflation in terms of food prices in August. We expect that to continue in September as well,” said Tushar Arora, senior economist at HDFC Bank.

If the reading moderates in line with forecasts, it is likely to fan bets of further rate cuts this year and put the RBI in line with many other major central banks that are also loosening policy.

Another rate cut by the RBI would support government efforts to boost economic growth to above 8 per cent to create jobs for millions of unemployed youth.

“The RBI MPC has come out as a more dovish committee... We are expecting one more 25 basis points rate cut by the end of this fiscal year,” said Arora. “There might be a long pause after that, possibly due to a rise in rural demand and demand-side pressures in general next year.”

India’s central bank has softened its stance on the timeline for meeting its inflation goal and lowered the real interest rate target, giving it room to cut rates further.

However, economists in the poll expressed concern that prices could rise quickly after a pay hike for millions of government employees and pensioners.

Wholesale price inflation likely edged up to 3.89 per cent last month versus 3.74 per cent in August, the poll found.

—Reuters
Opinion

Matching challenges with demand

Khin Maung Aye

With the advent of the quasi-civilian government in 2011, the then president formulated a reform strategy that was aimed at transforming the country into a more modern, developed, democratic country. Since then, Myanmar has witnessed dramatic growth and development. Nevertheless, there is a general consensus that sustainable development requires structural reforms inclusive of reformation of labour market institutions. In fact, one important prerequisite for sustainable growth and development is transformation of labour market institutions, which are especially critical to effectuate inclusive and sustainable economic growth. The business environment needs to be enabled. Better employment opportunities offering decent remuneration packages, safe, healthy working conditions and strong institutional frameworks to attract FDIs as well as to effectuate export-led economic growth.

At present, however, labour market institutions are still rather weak in our country. This is the reason why the incumbent government has been committed to make further reforms of the legal framework, to provide support. Those institutions which are responsible for implementation and enforcement of the new laws and to promote capacity building for labour market actors in order that they can be effectively engaged in social dialogue.

In this regard, it is worth recalling that Denmark is noted for being a pioneer in the field of institutional safety and protection of workers (OSH). Furthermore, it has a proven track record of combining the promotion of workers’ rights with high productivity and economic growth through a particularly well-developed model of social dialogue. This being so, the previous government has decided to cooperate with the Danish government, in particular, signed an MoU last year that laid the foundation for strategic sector co-operation (SSC) on labour market affairs. In this function, a growth counsellor has been recruited and assigned to Denmark Embassy in Myanmar.

An SSC preparation project has been concluded with the result that a full SSC project was approved in 2015 with a focus on strengthening capacity of the Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department (FGLLID) to advise on, implement and enforce the OSH legal framework; improving OSH legislation to facilitate transparent, uniform and effective enforcement of the OSA legal framework, and the practice of social dialogue; and institutions which are responsible for implementation and enforcement of the new laws and to promote capacity building for labour market actors in order that they can be effectively engaged in social dialogue.

Let’s adapt to the theme for World Food Day 2016: “Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too”

Maung Maung

On 16 October 1945, 42 countries assembled in Quebec, Canada, to create the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Its three main goals are: the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; the elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all; and, the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

FAO celebrates World Food Day event each year on 16 October to commemorate the founding of the Organization in 1945. Events are organized in over 150 countries across the world, including Myanmar, making it one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar. These events promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure food security and nutritious diets for all. Thus, FAO has been set out various themes for the World Food Day each year on 16 October.

World Food Day’s theme for 2016 highlights on climate change and its impact on agriculture sector in terms of food security. The effects of climate change on our ecosystems are already severe and widespread, and ensuring food security in the face of climate change is among the most daunting challenges facing humankind. At the same time, the global population is growing steadily and is expected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050. To meet such a heavy demand, agriculture and food systems will need to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and become more resilient, productive and sustainable. FAO estimates agricultural production (crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture) will have to increase by about 60% by 2050 to feed a growing global population.

Agriculture sector of Myanmar provides the backbone of the country’s economy. However, the Global Climate Risk Index 2016 (German watch) considers Myanmar as one of the developing countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change between 1995 and 2014. For farmers, the unstable weather of recent years – both floods and droughts – has resulted in lost production and rising indebtedness.

Myanmar experienced several natural disasters outbreak in the past such as Cyclone Nargis in 2008, Cyclone Giri in 2010 and Cyclone Oman in 2015. These disasters are exacerbated by climate change and are increasing in frequency and intensity. Among them, Cyclone Nargis in May 2008 is the hardest hit and devastated the major rice bowl of Myanmar, in particular the Ayeyarwady, Yangon and Bago Divisions. The disaster also caused significant damages to the livestock and fisheries sector, on which the people of the delta depend upon for their livelihoods. The disaster killed more than 100,000 people and affected the lives of some 2.4 million people. This dreadful catastrophe had been given a huge lesson to Myanmar resulted from climate change. In fact, it was due to the lack of concerted action in building climate resilience, disasters preparedness planed proper emergency response system in Myanmar at that time.

Climate change is having a major impact on food security. Over 70% of the world’s poor rely on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihood. Many of the 800 million people suffering from chronic undernourishment are small-scale farmers, fishers and pastoralists who are hardest hit by higher temperatures and in weather related disasters. Without concerted action to build resilience, many of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable inhabitants will struggle to generate enough food and income to feed themselves and their families.

Achieving food security for all is at the heart of FAO’s efforts – to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. There, I would like to mention the definition of the term Food Security: “Food security exists when all people at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life” (World Food Summit 1996). Food insecurity is a main cause for poverty, hunger, malnutrition and chronic diseases exacerbating food and nutrition security of all people in many developing countries.

To be continued >>
Senior General responds to armed attacks in Rakhine State

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing responded to the ongoing violent attacks in Rakhine State, calling them “instigation-related occurrences, not religious disputes” at a meeting with Mr. Bert Koenders, the minister for Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

He stressed the importance of abiding by the existing laws of the country regarding the current issues in Rakhine State. “Tatmadaw is here to protect the citizens from depredation as a priority, and to co-operate with all countries in accord with international laws and regulations”, said the Senior General.

In answer to questions as to Tatmadaw’s attitude towards difficult situations that involve two different societies, a rise in disputes in Rakhine State and other challenges, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services replied: “Under colonial rule, the Bengalis from Bangladesh arrived Rakhine State as labourers and a lot gathered here in the state.

They did not go back to their origins, causing disputes with the locals. Rakhine local residents could not tolerate this, as that community did not follow Myanmar traditions. Those Bengalis did not undergo the process of 1982 citizenship law”.

He also pledged that the Tatmadaw will help them with the process to acquire the rights they deserve and to have those entitled to the law decided under the programme of UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees).”

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also received Ambassador of Norway to Myanmar Ms Tone Tennis yesterday, discussing peace making process in Myanmar.

At the meeting, Senior General stressed the importance of willingness of armed groups to achieve peace and to understand the nature of the democracy.

They also discussed the role of the Tatmadaw in peace making process in Myanmar and assistance from Norway to the peace making in the country.

At the meeting, Senior General also stressed the need for ethnic armed organizations to participate in the Union Peace Conference in 2017 based on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

“If the government’s commitment to restore law and order in the areas in Maungtaw Township, pledging to bring those who are involved in the violent armed attacks to the court.

At the meeting, Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint and U Thein Swe and Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu expressed their sympathy with the peoples as the local communities have anxiety for their security and livelihood due to the instability in the area.

The mission also expressed the government’s commitment to restore law and order to the areas in Maungtaw Township, pledging that the authorities have no tolerance to any form of violation of the justice and community peace.

The local Islam community also denounced the violent armed attackers, pledging their cooperation with the authorities for such kind of attacks not to happen in future.

Myanmar News Agency

Union ministers meet Ovadacariya Sayadaws in Maungtaw

A governmental mission comprising Union ministers and Rakhine State Chief Minister sought advice from Ovadacariya Sayadaws in Maungtaw yesterday, clarifying the efforts of the authorities for peace and stability in the area.

At the meeting, Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint and U Thein Swe, Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs clarified the current measures taken by the authorities to bring the arms seized by the violent attackers back to the local authorities.

Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar Gazzette

Transfer of heads of service organizations

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>U Kyaw Swe Soe</td>
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<td>Computer University (Mandalay)</td>
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<td>Acting Director-General of Department of Technology</td>
<td>Promotion and Coordination</td>
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<td>Deputy Minister of Education</td>
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2. Dr Daw Win Aye | Rector |
| Rector of Computer University (Mandalay) | Promotion and Coordination |
| Department of Technology | Ministry of Education |

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Union Election Commission

Notification 19 / 2016
10 Waxing of Thadingyut 1378 M.E
11 October 2016

Letting Party for United Peasant Forces Rename Party for United Peasant Worker Forces

1. United Peasant Forces registered under registration No 99 in the Union Election Commission under section 9 of Registration Law of Political parties, tendered application to allow its name to be renamed Party for United Peasant Worker Forces.

2. Following legal scrutiny of its submission, the Union Election Commission agreed to accept it, announcing to acknowledge it name to be Party of United Peasant Worker Forces, with effect from 11 October 2016.

By order
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission
Russian jets resume heavy bombing of eastern Aleppo — rebels, monitor

BEIRUT — Russian jets resumed heavy bombing of rebel-held eastern Aleppo on Tuesday after several days of relative calm, a rebel official and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said.

Air strikes mostly hit the Bustan al-Qasr neighbourhood, Zakarya Malhi of the Aleppo-based Fastaqim rebel group told Reuters.

“There is renewed bombardment and it is heavy,” he said.

The Observatory said the death toll from bombing in Bustan al-Qasr, Ferdous and other neighbourhoods rose to at least 25, with scores of wounded. At least 50 civilians were killed by strikes on the rebel-held part of the city and nearby villages controlled by insurgents, residents and rescue workers said. In Bustan al-Qasr, residents said, the strikes hit a medical centre and a children’s playground.

The Syrian army, backed by Iranian-backed militias, also said it had consolidated its control of the al Jandoul traffic circle at a major road intersection on the northern outskirts of Aleppo.

Moscow and Damascus reduced air raids in the city before the 5 1/2-year old siege was lifted in late 2016 and the complete recapture of the Port of Yangon.

Before the 5 1/2-year long siege, the state reluctantly accepted Beltrame’s resignation. “It was 10 years of service, lots of wear and lots of pressure,” Pezão said.

Beltrame, 59, brought more stability to once-dangerous slums and paved the way for Rio, Brazil’s second-biggest city and a metropolitan region of more than 12 million people, to host the 2014 World Cup and the Olympic Games earlier this year.

He also increasingly criticised parts of the state and municipal governments for a lack of follow-through with public services, from basic sanitation to health and education, needed to build upon security advances and truly fold marginalized communities into Rio’s social fabric.

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 16th OCTOBER 2016 (FULLMOON of Thadiinkytt). Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAX CRUSADER VOY. NO (017N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAX CRUSADER VOY. NO (017N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV INWNA STAR VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INWNA STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC XIAMEN VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC XIAMEN VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (SP’ORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO (013)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO (013) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.10.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.M.I.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGOLOGISTICS PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
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### AIRLINE CODES

- **8M** = Myanmar Airways International
- **BG** = Biman Bangladesh Airlines
- **MH** = Malaysia Airlines
- **MU** = China Eastern Airlines
- **NH** = All Nippon Airways
- **SQ** = Singapore Airlines
- **PG** = Bangkok Airways
- **UB** = Myanmar National Airlines
- **VN** = Vietnam Airline
- **3K** = Jet Star
- **AK** = Air Asia
- **CI** = China Airlines
- **CL** = China Southern
- **DD** = Nok Airline
- **KA** = Dragonair
- **KE** = Korean Airlines
- **MI** = Silk Air
- **QR** = Qatar Airways
- **TG** = Thai Airways
- **TR** = Tiger Airline

### DAY

- **1** = Monday
- **2** = Tuesday
- **3** = Wednesday
- **4** = Thursday
- **5** = Friday
- **6** = Saturday
- **7** = Sunday

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WASHINGTON — U.S. President Barack Obama, highlighting his pledge to send people to Mars by the 2030s, on Tuesday announced further public-private efforts to build habitats that could help humans live long-term far from the Earth.

“We are working with our companies to advance ‘deep space habitats’ and create opportunities for companies to use the International Space Station’s docking port.Obama has previously sought to boost space travel to Earth’s neighbor some 35 million miles (56 million km) away. Like Earth, the so-called Red Planet also has seasons, and a 2012 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) mission found conditions there once supported microbial life, according to the US air space agency.

It would take about eight months to get there, depending on rocket velocity, according to NASA experts.

Efforts to fund the space program have faltered in recent years over concerns about fiscal priorities.

As part of the space habitat effort, NASA said on Tuesday it was entering the so-called “proving ground” stage to demonstrate and test various technologies over the next 10 years.—Reuters

Obama says work has begun on habitats to help humans reach Mars

### Tax sugary drinks to fight obesity, WHO urges governments

**GENEVA** — Governments should tax sugary drinks to fight the global epidemics of obesity and diabetes, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Tuesday, recommending industry swiftly branded “discriminatory” and “unproven”.

A 20 per cent increase could reduce consumption of sweet drinks by the same proportion, the WHO said in “Fiscal Policies for Diet and Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases”, a report issued on World Obesity Day.

Drinking fewer caloric sweet drinks is the best way to curb excessive weight and prevent chronic diseases such as diabetes, although fat and salt in processed foods are also at fault, WHO officials said.

“We are now in a place where we can say there is enough evidence to move on this and we encourage countries to implement effective tax on sugar-sweetened beverages to prevent obesity.” Temo Waqainala, of WHO’s department of Noncommunicable Diseases and Health Promotion, told a briefing.

Obesity more than doubled worldwide between 1980 and 2014, with 11 per cent of men and 15 per cent of women classified as obese — more than 500 million people, the report said.

“Smart policies can help to turn the tides on this deadly epidemic, especially those aimed at reducing consumption of sugary drinks, which is fueling obesity rates,” former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg, a WHO ambassador for noncommunicable diseases, said in a statement.

The global soft drink market is worth nearly $70 billion in annual sales. 2016 could be the year of the sugar tax, as several large nations consider levies on sweetened food and drinks to battle obesity and fatten government coffers.

The US-based soft drinks industry’s lobbying arm — whose members include Coca-Cola Co, PepsiCo Inc and Red Bull — strongly disagreed with what it called “discriminatory taxation.”—Reuters

A competitor prepares to go in front of judges at a casting call for the second season of the reality television program “Dance Your Ass Off”, during which overweight or obese contestants hope to lose weight by dancing, in New York in 2009. Photo: Reuters
Trump assails US House speaker Ryan, McCain as ‘disloyal’

WASHINGTON — Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump lashed out at US House Speaker Paul Ryan and other “disloyal” Republicans on Tuesday and vowed to campaign in whatever style he wants now that the party establishment has largely abandoned him.

Trump, in a barrage of stinging Twitter posts, condemned the Republicans who have backed away from his White House run, deepening a dramatic rift that the party over his struggling campaign for the 8 November election. “It is so nice that the shackles have been taken off me and I can now fight for America the way I want to,” Trump said on Twitter, adding he would engage Democratic rival Hillary Clinton on his own terms.

Describing “disloyal” Republicans as more difficult than Clinton, he said: “They come at you from all sides. They don’t know how to win — I will teach them!”

A string of Republican officials and officeholders have distanced themselves from Trump since a 2005 video surfaced on Friday showing him braying crudely to a reporter about groping women and making unwanted sexual advances.—Reuters

Clinton opposition to Asia trade pact ‘close call’ — hacked emails

NEW YORK — Hillary Clinton’s campaign was worried about the “hard balance” she would need to strike as the presidential candidate prepared to oppose a Pacific trade pact championed by President Barack Obama that she once supported, according to emails published on Tuesday by WikiLeaks.

This is indeed a hard balance to strike,” Schwerin wrote in the email to a handful of top advisers, “since we don’t want to invite mocking for being too enthusiastically opposed to a deal she once championed, or overclaiming how bad it is, since it’s a very close call on the merits.”

The campaign declined to verify the authenticity of the latest batch of Podesta emails released by WikiLeaks. Podesta told reporters on Tuesday that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had begun investigating the “criminal” hack of his emails published by WikiLeaks as part of a broader political hacking probe. The US government last week formally accused Russia of hacking Democratic Party organisations in an effort to influence the presidential election, a charge Russia has denied.

As a result, Clinton campaign officials and supporters have warned that such email releases could include fraudulent or misleading documents among genuine emails.

Clinton’s October 2015 announcement on the TPP came just a week before the first debate in her primary race against US Senator Bernie Sanders, a vocal opponent of the deal. Key Democratic constituencies, such as progressives and organised labour, have also criticized the pact.

Clinton had previously declared she would not support the TPP, a main tenet of Obama’s strategy that began when she was his secretary of state from 2009 to 2013, explaining that she wanted to wait to assess the final negotiated terms.

“I accept the position we’re taking but she has generally been more pro-trade than anti,” Clinton strategist Joel Benenson responded to the draft from Schwerin.

“We’re opposing this, don’t we want to say something generally about ensuring American manufacturers can compete around the world?”—Reuters

German leader calls for Ethiopia to open up politics after unrest

ADDIS ABABA — German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged Ethiopia on Tuesday to open up its politics and ensure police do not use heavy-handed tactics against protesters, after more than a year of unrest that rights groups say has led to about 500 deaths.

Merkel, who spoke at a news conference with Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, also backed by foreigners. The United States expressed concern on Tuesday about the state of emergency. State Department spokesman John Kirby said measures that restore order but deprive people of rights like freedom of speech and assembly are a “self-defeating tactic that exacerbates rather than addresses the grievances.”

Kirby said the US administration encouraged the Ethiopian government to take action on land rights, electoral reform and other issues raised by the protesters, as suggested by President Mulatu Teshome Wirtu in a speech on Monday.

“We’re obviously very concerned,” Kirby said. “We encourage the government to act decisively on those proposals.”

Western states, which are among the biggest donors to what is still a poor nation, want their companies to win deals in Ethiopia but have become increasingly concerned by the government’s authoritarian approach to development.

“I made the case that you should have open talks with people who have problems,” Merkel told Hailemariam, adding that police should respond proportionately to protests.—Reuters
PORT-AU-PRINCE — Haitian interim President Jocelerme Privert on Tuesday played down the international aid response to Hurricane Matthew, saying some promised foreign aid had yet to materialize and that the devastated country was mostly funding its own recovery.

Southwestern Haiti was smashed by the Category 4 hurricane on 4 October, which barrelled through the southern coast of the poor island nation, killing some 1,000 people and displacing hundreds of thousands.

The storm has most acutely hit farmers in southern rural areas, six years after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake levelled much of the nation’s capital Port-au-Prince, where reconstruction is still ongoing and disillusionment about the involvement of the international community in the rebuilding still runs high.

Privert said the Haitian government had managed and steered aid to the proper channels and had opened it up accessibility to many areas that had been cut off after the storm because of flooding, landslides, downed trees and debris.

“Many countries have promised us aid — some support in kind, but others have made promises that have not yet materialized,” said Privert.

“What we have done up to now, we have done with public resources withdrawn from the national treasury.”

Privert called for the rebuilding of infrastructure and urged investment to the area, which was formerly green and relatively tree-covered in a country that has long had issues with deforestation, saying that the short-term response could not come at the expense of long-term reconstruction.

“The emergency is to assist the displaced people, those who find themselves in temporary shelters, who are deprived of water, deprived of food, of medication,” said Privert.

“It’s necessary to bring assistance with haste.

The assistance would not need to be of an indefinite nature. We need to make sure that…people can return to their homes, rebuild their lives, restart agriculture to avoid that, after this state of emergency, that the country does not plunge into a food crisis, into a more serious crisis than the one caused by the hurricane.”

Before the hurricane, Haiti tasked itself with providing most of the $55 million in funds for a re-do of last year’s presidential elections, which were scrapped due to accusations of fraud.

Parliament appointed Privert to manage a caretaker government until an elected successor could take office.

The vote, scheduled for 9 October, was cancelled when the hurricane hit and has not yet been rescheduled. An announcement on a new date is expected for later in the week.

“If the (provisional electoral council) council asks me tomorrow to publish a presidential decree inviting the people to the polls for such and such date, I will take that decision,” said Privert.—Reuters

HAI for MYANMAR

HAI for MYANMAR

HAI for MYANMAR

Proposal to increase pension age faces outcry in Viet Nam

HANOI — A proposal on increasing pension age recently raised by Viet Nam’s Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA) has faced outcry in the country.

In the proposal, the pension age in Viet Nam is said to hike to 60 from the current 55 for women, and to 62 from 60 for men.

The increase of pension age of labourers is “an inevitable trend” and carried out by many countries, Mai Tien Dung, minister of MoLISA, was quoted by local Tuoi Tre (Youth) online newspaper as saying Wednesday.

The existing retirement age in Viet Nam has been fixed for a long time. Since then, many factors have changed including improved health and average lifespan of Vietnamese people, Dung argued.

The proposal drew great attention among local specialists and citizens. Contrary to the MoLISA’s idea, most of them showed concern over the possible adjustment.

Prof. Nguyen Dinh Cu, former head of Institute for Population and Social Studies said there are many issues that need well addressing on raising retirement age of Vietnamese workers.

“The elderly in Viet Nam now is a generation that underwent war and harsh economic times. These factors have had big impact on their health,” Cu said, citing a national survey on the elderly and saying that two thirds of the over-60-year-old people in the survey said their health conditions were weak and very weak.

In addition, in Vietnamese society and family model, the role of grandparents is of great importance, he added.

Thi Kim Lien, 53, told Xinhua: “As a result, from a population perspective, I do not support the proposal,” said the professor.

Echoing Cu, Dr. Nguyen Hoai Nam from southern Ho Chi Minh City’s Medicine and Pharmacy University, said the country should not compare the situation of developed countries to that of Viet Nam.

“Currently, the rate of unemployment among Vietnamese youth remains high. If the old did not retire, how would the young find jobs?” Nam questioned.

According to the General Statistics Office, in the first nine months this year, as many as 40,000 more people were jobless, compared to that of 25,000 during the same period last year.

Meanwhile, the national unemployment rate at working age stood at 2.29 per cent.

State employee Phan Thi Kim Lien, 53, told Xinhua that she is preparing to retire in the next two years.

“I want the current legal regulation on the issue to be maintained. Although I am in a stable health condition, sometimes I see my colleagues show signs of aging, feeling tired and want to rest. We have worked for 30-40 years now. It’s time for us to rest and give chance for the young generation,” said Lien.

Local citizens have made many comments on the issue, almost all of which disagreed with the proposal.—Xinhua

HAI for MYANMAR

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Kim Kardashian sues over claims she faked Paris robbery

NEW YORK — Kim Kardashian on Tuesday sued a website for claiming she had staged an armed robbery in Paris that her sister said had left her terrorized and traumatized.

The reality TV star filed a defamation lawsuit in federal court in New York against the US celebrity gossip site MediaTakeOut.com for reporting that she had faked the robbery, and then filed a fraudulent insurance claim.

Paris police said the 35-year-old celebrity was robbed at gunpoint of some $10 million in jewelry by masked men who tied her up in her Paris apartment early on 3 October.

The website did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Kardashian’s TV show “Keeping Up With the Kardashians” has been put on hold since the robbery and Kim has stopped her other business and social engagements.

In the first TV appearance on Tuesday by a Kardashian member since the Paris incident, her sister Khloe said the robbery had proved a “wake-up call” to the family, who chronicle almost every aspect of their lives on TV and social media.

“She’s not doing that well. I mean, it’s incredibly traumatic what happened to her, but our family is super close and great and we’ll get through it together,” Khloe said.

The suit claimed the site had published a fraudulent story about the robbery and that it was libelous.

Tuesday’s lawsuit seeks unspecified damages for defamation and names both MediaTakeOut.com and its founder, Fred Mwangaguhunga, as defendants.

“After having been the victim of a horrific and traumatic armed robbery in France, Kim Kardashian returned to the United States only to again be victimized, but this time by an online gossip tabloid that published a series of articles in early October 2016 referring to her a liar and thief,” the lawsuit said.

It said that Mwangaguhunga refused to publish a retraction and an apology. Kardashian has been criticized for making herself vulnerable by posting photos of her $4 million dollar engagement ring and other jewelry in the days before the Paris attack.

Others have made fun of the robbery. One California-based company is selling a Halloween costume called “Parisian Heist Robbery Victim” that consists of a long black wig, sunglasses, a white bathrobe, rope, a mouth gag and a large plastic ring.

—Reuters

Arise Sir Rodgerick — Singer Rod Stewart gets a knighthood

LONDON — Pop singer Rod Stewart can now call himself Sir Rodgerick.

The London-born singer, whose career includes such hits as “Maggie May,” “You Wear It Well” and “Tonight’s the Night,” was knighted by Prince William at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday for his services to music and charity after more than 50 years in show business.

“It feels wonderful, it really, really does. It’s mind-blowing,” Stewart, 71, told reporters afterward. The three-times-married Stewart was accompanied to the ceremony by his wife, Penny Lancaster, and his two youngest children, Aiden and Alastair.

Stewart said Prince William had asked if he expected to keep touring and recording.—Reuters

‘Thrones’ actor surprises Syrian refugee now settled in Germany

STUTTGART (Germany) — “Game of Thrones” actor Liam Cunningham paid a surprise visit on Tuesday to a teenage Syrian refugee now in possession of a German visa and living in Stuttgart, a month after first meeting him in Jordan.

Cunningham, who plays Ser Davos Seaworth in the HBO television channel hit medieval fantasy first met 16-year-old Hussam when he visited Jordan’s northern city of Irbid in early September, as part of a project by the charity World Vision to raise awareness about the plight of refugees.

The Irish actor and his British co-stars, Lena Headey and Maisie Williams, have also visited refugee camps in Greece earlier this year.

Hussam told Reuters he was “really happy, really happy” when Cunningham surprised him, adding, “It is like seeing my father.”

Hussam fled first to Jordan after his school in Syria was struck by missiles during his final exams.

“A plane shot the school with missiles. So, many students (and) my friends are dead and killed,” Hussam said.

Hussam is one of more than four million Syrians who have fled the country’s war, which began in 2011 after a popular uprising against President Bashar al-Assad and his family’s rule. The war has killed more than 300,000 people, half the population has been displaced and much of urban Syria has become a wasteland.

According to World Vision, Hussam’s father and brother are already legally settled in Germany. Hussam is now staying in a hotel in Stuttgart with his mother until they find accommodation and the teenager has been teaching himself to speak German.—Reuters

Japanese police novel ‘Six Four’ misses British literary award

LONDON — The popular Japanese police novel “Six Four” by Hideo Yokoyama missed out on the International Dagger award for translated crime novels on Tuesday.

The Crime Writers’ Association awarded the prize to “The Great Swindle” by Pierre Lemaitre of France.

Six Four had been the first Japanese writer’s novel to be shortlisted for the award, given to the best crime novel of the year that has been translated into English for publication in Britain.

Yokoyama, born in Tokyo in 1957, has been a mystery writer in Japan since 1991 after working as a journalist for the Jomo Shim bun daily in Gunma Prefecture, north of Tokyo. He has received many awards in the country for his works.

Six Four was published in Japan in 2012 and has sold over 1.7 million copies, according to its publisher. It was translated into English by Jonathan Lloyd-Davis and hit bookstores in Britain in March this year.

The novel was shortlisted on 28 July along with four other works, including “The Truth and Other Lies” by Sascha Arango of Germany.—Kyodo News

Games of Thrones star Liam Cunningham smiles together with his supporter Syrian migrant Hussam Alheraky as he made a surprise visit in Stuttgart, Germany, on 11 October 2016. Photo: Reuters
Celebrating the Ute – Australia’s modern day workhorse

SYDNEY — In the small rural town of Deniliquin, on the edge of Australia’s vast outback, around 20,000 “ute” lovers gathered in the mud to champion a national treasure deemed surplus to requirements by the big car manufacturers.

Part car, part pickup truck, the Australian-made utility vehicle has become synonymous with farmers. Down Under and is the centerpiece of the annual Deni Ute Muster festival, a two-day alcohol-fuelled celebration of all things rural Australia.

Now in its 18th year, the festival has grown to include country music performances from Grammy award-winning artist Keith Urban, a rodeo, whip-cracking championsh ip and gallery of artwork created with chainsaws. But it’s the “utes” that keep the revelers coming back, even though a deluge of rain turned the usually dusty New South Wales state venue, some 300 km (186 miles) north of Melbourne, into a mud pit.

Sky Fuller drove her black and pink Ford Falcon XR8 named “Rumble Princess” around 3,300km (2050 miles) from Perth for three days across the Nullarbor Plain to attend the festivities, played out at a difficult time for the vehicle in Australia. Ford rolled their last Australian-made Falcon “ute” off the production line in July and Holden said they will cease making it in early October.

The council said it recognised that the wall was ideal for street art, and will find an artist to fill the space after the penis is removed.

Another explicit mural in Brussels includes depictions of intercourse, and a woman masturbating.

Painted last month by an anonymous artist in pointillist style, in black and white, the penis covers a two-storey wall on the side of a house. Shortly after its appearance, local council members voted in late September for it to be removed.

However, a petition started by residents of the Brussels district of Saint-Gilles who want it to stay has now won nearly 3,000 signatures.

“Everybody likes it. I think,” said one Saint-Gilles resident interviewed by Reuters. “People pretend to be shocked but they like it. Why shouldn’t they like it?”

UNICEF says thousands of children have been left out of school, with partners to help set up temporary learning spaces and deliver school supplies. Priorities include the efforts to rehabilitate damaged schools, provide students and teachers with adequate school supplies, schools furniture and teaching materials; and provide children with psychosocial support. In Haiti, around 20,000 houses were destroyed, more than 15,600 people were evacuated and the death toll could reach over one thousand, once the problems surrounding communication, electricity and roads corroborate the magnitude of the damage, according to figures from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Hurricane Matthew is considered to be the strongest one in the tropical Atlantic since “Felix” in 2007 and one of the most worrisome consequences in Haiti is the possible return of the cholera epidemic which has not been completely eradicated from the island since the 2010 earthquake. — Xinhua

300 schools damaged in Haiti, 100,000 children out of school, UNICEF says

BRUSSELS — An online petition to prevent the removal of an explicit mural in Brussels has gained thousands of signatures, highlighting a wave of graphic street art in the city known for its cartoon-inspired murals.

Painted last month by an anonymous artist in pointillist style, in black and white, the penis covers a two-storey wall on the side of a house. Shortly after its appearance, local council members voted in late September for it to be removed.

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Another explicit mural in Brussels includes depictions of intercourse, and a woman masturbating. Another painting of an anus covers an advert for a woman masturbating.

Both brands trail Toyota, Mazda and Hyundai, according to September sales data for the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries.

“It is extremely said that (Ford) are closing down production in Australia, but we don’t believe that this will affect our festival,” Anika Ahmad Bull, part of the organizing team, told Reuters.

Folklore says the humble “ute” was born when a farmer’s wife wrote to a car manufacturer in the 1930s asking for a vehicle that could go to church on Sunday and carry the pigs to market on Monday.

While nationwide popularity has dropped, Bull and her not-for-profit team have been able to buck the trend and grow the festival from a humble vehicle “show and shine” into a wild celebration of all things Australian country.

A $5000 prize was up for grabs for the ‘Ute of the Year’, while A$10,000 ($7,500) was offered for the best ‘chick’s ute’ and best ‘refurbished ute’.

Others, though, just wanted to drink in the mood.

“It’s a party that doesn’t stop, it’s a great atmosphere and everyone gets on with everyone,” said 27-year-old delivery driver Darren McGarvie, who used the back tray of his “ute” as a bed for the festival. — Reuters

A sculpture is seen near an explicit graffiti painted on the side of a building in central Brussels, Belgium, on 11 October 2016. Photo: Reuters

A Photographer’s Life at Shwedagon Pagoda

UNITED NATIONS — One week after Hurricane Matthew slammed into Haiti, and as schools reopen across the small island country, more than 100,000 children will be missing out on learning after their schools were either damaged or converted into shelters, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) said here Tuesday.

“At least 100,000 children today will not experience the joy, safety and stimulation that being in a classroom brings,” said Jean Metenier, the UNICEF deputy representative in Haiti. “We need to get them back to learning as soon as possible.”

“Hurricane Matthew took away their homes, books and textbooks. It shouldn’t take away their sense of hope,” Metenier said in a press release issued here.

According to initial national estimates, at least 300 public schools have been partially or entirely damaged in the Caribbean country and many others are being used to shelter displaced families. Schools in Sud and Grande Anse departments will remain closed for at least another week.

UNICEF is working with partners to help set up temporary learning spaces and deliver school supplies. Priorities include the efforts to rehabilitate damaged schools, provide students and teachers with adequate school supplies, furniture and teaching materials; and provide children with psychosocial support. In Haiti, around 20,000 houses were destroyed, more than 15,600 people were evacuated and the death toll could reach over one thousand, once the problems surrounding communication, electricity and roads corroborate the magnitude of the damage, according to figures from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Hurricane Matthew is considered to be the strongest one in the tropical Atlantic since “Felix” in 2007 and one of the most worrisome consequences in Haiti is the possible return of the cholera epidemic which has not been completely eradicated from the island since the 2010 earthquake. — Xinhua

A Photographer’s Life at Shwedagon Pagoda
Brazil's Willian (19) and Venezuela's Rolf Feltischer (2nd R) in action during World Cup 2018 Qualifiers at Metropolitano Stadium, Merida, Venezuela, on 11 October 2016. PHOTOS: REUTERS

Brazil beat Venezuela to go top of South American group

MERIDA (Venezuela) — Brazil went top of the South American World Cup qualifying group on Tuesday with a 2-0 win over Venezuela in a match played in torrential rain and halted for almost half an hour when the floodlights failed in Merida.

The five-times World Cup winners, who were without suspended Barcelona striker Neymar, took just eight minutes to open the scoring with a goal that mixed comedy and beauty.

Venezuela goalkeeper Daniel Hernandez tried to pass the ball to his centre back 30 yards from goal only for Gabriel Jesus to pounce on the woeful attempt and lift the ball over the keeper from 20 metres.

The only major disruption to the Brazilian march to victory came when the lights in the Metropolitano stadium went out after 73 minutes.

The game restarted little more than 20 minutes later but there was not much more excitement and Brazil coach Tite, who replaced Dunga in July, was delighted to record his fourth win in four games at the head of the national side.

The result allowed Brazil to leapfrog Uruguay, who started the day top of the table but could only draw 2-2 away at Colombia, into first place in the South American group.

The first four in the 10-team group qualify automatically for Russia and the fifth-placed side play-off against them for eight years.

Djokovic storms through in Shanghai

SHANGHAI — World number one Novak Djokovic cruised into the Shanghai Masters third round with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Italy’s Fabio Fognini on Tuesday, the Serbian’s first match since his loss to Stan Wawrinka at the Australian Open in January.

The defending champion, who withdrew from last week’s China Open with an elbow problem, showed little sign of injury against his unseeded opponent, winning 83 per cent of his first serve points in a match that lasted an hour and 15 minutes.

Djokovic started strongly, opening up a 3-0 lead to take control of the first set, but displayed signs of rust with 18 unforced errors.

He suffered a minor blip when he was broken in the first game of the second set, but held his nerve and hit back with two successive breaks to seal the win, helped by his opponent making 40 unforced errors.

Spaniard David Ferrer, the No. 10 seed, suffered a first-round upset loss to unseeded Feliciano Lopez who beat his compatriot 7-6(3), 4-6, 7-6(4).

Unseeded Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov served up another upset when he beat Frenchman Richard Gasquet, seeded 14th, 6-4, 6-4, and 19-year-old Alexander Zverev’s produced another shock when he defeated eighth seed Marin Cilic of Croatia.

The German, who is the youngest player in the world’s top 50, battled back to see off the vastly more experienced Cilic 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 in the day’s final match.

Australian Nick Kyrgios, ranked 14th in the world, brushed off the challenge of American Sam Querrey 6-4, 6-4 in under an hour, firing down 14 aces and not facing a break point.

Ninth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga beat unseeded Serbian Janko Tipsarevic 6-3, 7-6(6) to reach the third round while his compatriot and sixth seed Gael Monfils beat South African Kevin Anderson 7-6(4), 6-3.—Reuters

Sharapova returns to court in Las Vegas charity event

LAS VEGAS — Maria Sharapova returned to the tennis court for two exhibition matches on Monday, her first appearance since testing positive for the banned substance meldonium at the Australian Open in January.

The Russian former world number one played at the World Team Tennis ‘Smash Hits’ event in Las Vegas, which raises money for the Elton John Aids Foundation.

Sharapova, who has slipped to 93rd in the world rankings, partnered American Taylor Johnson and lost her first match to Martina Navratilova and Lizebel Huber.

“It’s very special to be back on the court,” she told reporters before the match. “It’s been about seven months since I’ve played in front of spectators and played in a stadium environment. Obviously, very thankful for the invitation, happy to be part of this cause.

“It’s been around for 24 years and it’s my first attendance. Thrilled to be part of it.”

PHOTO: REUTERS

Sharapova, whose ban was cut from two years to 15 months by the Court of Arbitration last week, can return to competition in April, one month before the French Open. The 29-year-old, who teamed up with John McEnroe to beat Navratilova and Andy Roddick in her second match, acknowledged that the journey back would be a tough one.

“Yeah, I will look to play maybe a couple of exhibition events leading up to my first tournament in April,” she added.

“I don’t know what those will be, but I think that’s one of the things that will be really important because match play, you can never really replicate it. You can practise as much as you want but there’s nothing really like it.”—Reuters

Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Shanghai, China on 11 October 2016. PHOTOS: REUTERS

Liverpool bid to end woeful league run against United

LONDON — Liverpool will be looking to end a dismal Premier League run against Manchester United and build on a promising start to the campaign with victory over their bitter north west rivals on Monday.

Resurgent Liverpool are three points ahead of United in the table as Jose Mourinho’s rebuilding programme stutters, but their current run of four successive league defeats to the Old Trafford club is their worst against them for eight years.

Liverpool, who knocked United out of the Europa League last season, have not beaten them in domestic competition since March 2014, but they meet for the first time in this campaign with Juergen Klopp’s men in supreme form. They have won their last four Premier League matches and suffered only one defeat in all competitions so far.

In contrast, Mourinho’s men have won just one and lost two of their last four in the league, crashing 3-1 at Watford and being held at home by Stoke City.—Reuters

Novak Djokovic of Serbia plays against Fabio Fognini of Italy during Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Shanghai, China on 11 October 2016. PHOTOS: REUTERS

PHOTO: Reuters