Journalists arrive in Rakhine

No restrictions on reporting, government pledges

Myanmar and foreign journalists representing international media organisations arrived in Rakhine State yesterday, with a pledge from the government to not impose any restrictions on the reporters visiting the troubled areas that have been the site of violence since October.

Journalists from AFP, Nikkei, VOA, Kyodo News, Xinhua, AP, Frontier, CNA, TV Asahi, RFA, ABC, BBC, NHK, Reuters, MITV and MNA were included in this third press trip to Rakhine State.

Independent media groups visited Maungtaw from 19 to 22 December 2016 and from 28 March to 1 April 2017.

The 18 Myanmar nationals and foreigners who arrived yesterday will stay in Rakhine State from 12 to 16 July. They received a government escort to the northern areas of Buthidaung and Maungtaw.

“There are no restrictions regarding the areas that you can report from,” said U Thet Swe, a director at the Ministry of Information’s News and Periodicals Enterprise.

“We didn’t arrange any ‘for show’ places for news reporting,” he said.

Last year, Myanmar’s army performed numerous “clearance operations” in the area after violent attackers fought border patrol posts near the Bangladesh border, killing nine police officers.

Some 75,000 people fled across the nearby border to Bangladesh, according to the United Nations, which has documented allegations of gang rape, torture, arson and killings by security forces.

The government has denied most of the allegations, and has denied entry to a UN fact-finding mission tasked with looking into the allegations.

See page-6

A fisherman walks on the beach in Sittway, Rakhine State on 2 March. Reporters arrived in Rakhine yesterday. FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

NATIONAL
Private Sector Development Committee meeting
PAGE-3

NATIONAL
Over 300 acres of confiscated farmland returned to owners in Madaya for third time
PAGE-3

NATIONAL
SG Min Aung Hlaing Meets Post-Graduate Trainees in India
PAGE-6

NATIONAL
100 schools-construction project in Rakhine to be completed in August
PAGE-7

NATIONAL
Two suspects arrested in Maungtaw and Yathedaung
PAGE-7
No farming on land for Yadanarbon IT centre

Kyaw Thu Htet

U KYAW LIN, Deputy Minister for Construction, said yesterday there are no plans to allow local peasants in Pyin Oo Lwin to farm on unused land confiscated for the Yadanarbon Silicon Project.

The statement was made by U Kyaw Lin in response to a question at yesterday’s Pyithu Hluttaw session by Dr U Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency.

“There is not any plan to reclaim 9,893 acres of farming land confiscated for Yadanarbon Silicon Project into farming land, and they will be implemented in order to produce the best results for the country, under the master plan”, the Deputy Minister said. “The Yadanarbon neo-town plan was launched with the intention of developing the social lives and emergence of a hub of internationally standardized IT. In 2008 and 2009, a total of 100,000 acres of land were confiscated for Yadanarbon neo-town plan and handed over to the department of urbanisation and housing development. Of them, 107 acres were handed over to the Correctional Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs to be used as 24 mile-rock-producing-land, with 662 acres targeted as Yadanarbon neo-town plan by Mandalay City Development Committee.”

The Deputy Minister added, “Yadanarbon neo-town plan will be implemented in 3 phases. Phase 1 has 2,200 acres of land and it will include software drawing factories, factory complex, greening land and servicing areas, ICT Main Complex, housing estate for staff, day nursery, stadium, restaurants and southern housing project.

Phase 2 has 2,919 acres of land and it will include a civilian zone, administrative zone, servicing zone, economic zone, SMEs industrial zone, industrial and agro-based economic zone. Phase 3 has 4,774 acres of land, and it will include low-cost housing estate, fair-cost housing estate, high-cost housing estate, hotel zone, international standard stadium, crop plantation zone, servicing zone, administrative zone, departmental offices and golf club.

UN delegation arrives at Sittway and Maungtaw

Myint Maung Soe, Aung Kyaw Oo

MS. YANGHEE LEE, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and party arrived at Sittway from Kyaukpyu by air yesterday morning.

The UN delegation met Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and officials of Rakhine State Government at the meeting room of State Government Office at about 10:00 am. During their meeting, they discussed matters relating to Kyaukpyu Special Economic zone, meeting with farmers in Kyaukpyu, transference of IDP camps, development and peace and stability in Buthidaung and Maungtaw, and present situation of the area and restoration works on damages caused by cyclone Mora which struck Myanmar at the end of May 2017.

The UN delegation left Buthidaung on boat after meeting with six town elders at the State General Administration Department in Sittway. At evening meeting with responsible officials at Maungtaw District General Administration Department, they discussed concerning with destroyed conditions after cyclone Mora, aids for the victims of disaster paid by the government and International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO), regional states, permission to enter in region and implementation of peace and stability in region.
The meaning of independence

Independence does not mean an undisciplined way of life. Independence strictly dictates that we live a disciplined life. Independence can survive only with discipline. After we achieve independence, the people need to observe discipline more strictly.

(Excerpt from Bogyoke Aung San’s speech broadcast on radio on 5th April 1947)

Private Sector Development Committee meeting

VICE President U Myint Swe, who is also Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee, said yesterday at the 4th regular meeting that development of the private sector was vital because it made up 90 per cent of the nation’s economy.

"Only when the private sector is improved will the nation develop and the livelihoods of the people get better as well", U Myint Swe said.

The Government’s Private Sector Development Committee held their 4th regular meeting yesterday at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Government has formed several committees to help develop the private sector, including the Committee for Basic Human Resources Development, Committee for Sourcing of Funds, Committee for Improving the Environment for Law and Regulations, Committee for Improving Trade and Investment and the Committee for Redefining the Role of the State in the Economic and Service Sector.

The Vice President said advice given at regular meetings with private business owners totaling 102 points have been sent to concerned ministries, region and state governments and various working committees. The aforementioned parties have taken action on 99 of the points.

According to the World Bank Group’s 2017 edition of Doing Business, indices have been given in 16 business areas and each country has been given rankings.

The Vice President urged ministries and organisations concerned to take responsibility for the 10 business areas and work hard to improve the ranking of the country.

The 10 business areas included in the publication are starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and resolving insolvency.

Afterwards, Secretary of the Committee, Permanent Secretary U Toe Aung Myint, explained the decision-making process and tasks undertaken by the committee.

This was followed by meeting participants discussing the regulations published in Doing Business 2017 and other topics concerned with their respective sectors. The Vice President ended the meeting by reviewing materials discussed and then gave a closing speech.—Myanmar News Agency

Over 300 acres of confiscated farmland returned to owners in Madaya for third time

OVER 300 acres of farmland have been returned to its rightful owners in the presence of Vice President U Henry Van Thio in Mandalay Region for the third time.

Speaking on the occasion which took place in Madaya Township yesterday, U Henry Van Thio expressed his delight at being able to return the confiscated land, pledging quick and correct solutions in returning the confiscated land to farmers.

The land were confiscated from local farmers for the construction project of hospital for people with leprosy.

The Ministry of Health and Sports confiscated nearly 2,900 acres of land from farmers in Madaya township, and it would give up more than 1,300 acres.

The ministry said it would need over 600 acres of land for the construction of a hospital for lepers.

Over 208 acres of land were returned to farmers for the first time in July 2016 and more than 140 acres in March 2017.

More than 800 acres of land would be returned on completion of the scrutiny process.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio said the government was stepping up efforts for assisting farmers to get favourable prices for their crops and reasonable agricultural loans while working for disaster preparedness.

According to officials, the land was originally seized by the Ministry of Industry-1 in 1977 and was later passed on to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Following the ceremony, the Vice President visited the Mandalay General Hospital and was briefed on liver transplant operations being done by Professor Dr Shein Aye (Liver Specialist).

It has been learnt that this hospital saw the first successful liver transplant.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio also visited Monywa and inspected measures for preventing overflow of water from the Chindwin River which is now above its danger level.—Myanmar News Agency

Vice President U Henry Van Thio presents the farmland work permit card to local farmer in Madaya township yesterday. PHOTO: MNA
Visits to Shwedagon increased this June

Shwedagon Pagoda, Myanmar’s most famous pilgrimage site, was visited in June by 32,694 foreign travellers, an increase of 3,273 compared to the same period of 2016, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

In May 2017, the pagoda had 36,764 tourists, according to the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

“The number of the tourists usually decreases in monsoon season. But the number of the tourists have increased this June 2017 compared to the same period of the last year,” said a Pagoda Board of Trustees representative.

The Pagoda Board of Trustees collected entrance fees of Ks261 million, plus US$176 in foreign currency and donations worth $4,865. The Shwedagon Pagoda is also visited mostly by Thailand, South Korea, China, Japan and America in June 2016.—GNLM

Yaba pills, heroin seized

An anti-narcotics squad from southern Mandalay District searched a train between the Yinnabbin railway station and the Phayangazu railway station in Thazi Township on Tuesday and discovered 2,963 yaba pills, 5.1 grams of heroin, six kilos of marijuana, two handsets and Ks125,000 from passengers Thura Kyaw and Ma Win Mar Htwe.

Another anti-narcotics squad from Mandalay stopped and searched a motorcycle driven by Htaw Aung and Sai Soe Naung aboard at the corner of 60th street and Seinpan street, Myothit Ward 4 in Chamayazay Township on the same day and seized 1,323 yaba pills and two handsets.

Similarly, an anti-narcotics squad from Muse searched a motorcycle driven by Eik Kyan together with Ma Yun Taung on board on Kutkai-Kaungkha road in Kutkai Township and found 1,950 yaba pills. Police filed charges against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force

Heavy rain causes landslides in Chin State

Heavy rain caused landslides in the Tiddim township in Chin State on 11 July, according to a reporter from the Township Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) yesterday.

Houses, water pipes and paddy fields were damaged in the Tiddim township.

According to the IPRD reporter, the heavy rain destroyed houses in Kattave village and Varvone village, and about 17 acres of paddy field from seven households in Linee village. A 45-foot-long water pipe was also damaged.

Authorities are planning to provide assistance to the landslide victims.—Township IPRD

Children’s art competition to be held in Myanmar

A children’s art competition, entitled “Golden City in your eyes”, will be held in Myanmar from 10 to 30 July, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The art competition is organized by the Golden City Housing Project Community. The organ- izers are inviting submissions from children under 12 years old.

The children will be judged on their ideas for an imaginary Golden City community development project.

“Creativity is an important element of health and happiness,” said Mr. Alex Lee, the vice chairman of Golden City. “We hold the Golden City in Your Eyes competition to promote creativity, thoughtfulness and diversity of perspective in children”.

The children will send their artworks to the Golden City Show Gallery. Ten finalists will be short-listed by the judges and winners will be chosen between 1 and 20 August.

Final winners will be chosen by online likes on a dedicated Facebook page and by company judges.

First prize winners will be awarded US$1,000, second prize winners $600 and third prize will be awarded $300.—GNLM
CBM sets dollar FX rate to Ks1,366

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the US dollar exchange rate at Ks1,366 on 12 July in keeping with the increasing rate on currency exchange market. The rate was Ks1,364 on 11 July. The US exchange rate on 12 July is Ks1,367 on currency exchange market. US exchange rates from 1-19 June ranged between Ks1,358-1,357 to the dollar. The rate increased to Ks1,361 on 20 June. The exchange returned to its lower rate at the end of June when it slipped back down to Ks1,354. By 19 July, the rate had risen again to Ks1,360.

The US dollar index (DXY) has declined since mid-May 2017 and is currently around 95.

The highest US dollar exchange rate in June was Ks1,361 and the lowest rate was Ks1,350. — Htet Myat

Myanmar’s avocados attract interest from foreign investors

MYANMAR avocados are attracting more interest from foreign investors due to its attractive taste and fragrance, according to a report in the City News yesterday.

Myanmar’s best avocados are grown in Chin and Shan states and exported to Cambodia, Hong Kong, Thailand and China. The price of a tonne of avocados ranges between Ks1.5 and 1.9 million in the export market.

Myanmar is a leading grower of avocado in ASEAN. — City News

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Rubber export in June decreases by 4,240 tonnes

RUBBER exports to China via Muse, Chinshwehaw, Lweje and Tachileik ports in June were low compared to previous month.

About 6,914 tonnes of rubber exports worth US$8.66 million were exported in June, which is 4,240 tonnes less than May exports, according to the Commerce Ministry. Rubber exports shipped from Myanmar’s seaports also went down, with 2,080 tons of exports in June, a 766-tonnes decline compared to May. More than 11,150 tonnes of rubber were exported in May.

Rubber export prices have seen increases of $50 per ton for “ribbed smoked sheet” (RSS) rubber and over $100 per ton for “Myanmar standard rubber” (MSR), according to the Myanmar Rubber Producers Association.

Rubber prices per ton this week are estimated at $1,600-1,700 for RSS 1, $1,550-1,650 for RSS 2, $1,500-1,600 for RSS 3, $1,450-1,550 for RSS 4 and $1,400-1,500 for RSS 5. Total of 1,490 tons of various rubber estimated at $1 million were exported through land points of entry between 24 and 30 June while over 520 tonnes of rubber were exported by ocean routes to China, Malaysia, India, Japan and South Korea from 25 June to 1 July. — Mon Mon

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Journalists arrive in Rakhine

FROM PAGE 1

The government has not allowed independent journalists and human rights monitors from going to the area in the far north of the state for the past nine months for their own security.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has said a UN fact-finding mission would only heighten tension in the region.

Myanmar officials say a domestic fact-finding mission would only be restricted, he said, reporters should stay close to officials during visits to villages for their own security. A detailed itinerary for the five-day trip was provided to reporters yesterday.

Although access would not be restricted, he said, reporters should stay close to officials during visits to villages for their own security. A detailed itinerary for the five-day trip was provided to reporters yesterday.

U Thet Swe said, the plan was “not fixed” and would be subject to changes due to the weather and security concerns. He invited reporters to suggest additional places they want to visit. Reporters will be taken to the village of Tin May, where security forces killed two suspected militants and arrested one after they detonated a bomb on Sunday, according to an announcement from the State Counsellor’s office. While Myanmar has denied entry to a UN fact-finding mission, a UN special rapporteur on human rights, Ms. Yanghee Lee, is visiting Rakhine State this week.

Although she is not expected to visit the northern areas near the border with Bangladesh, she is due to meet some of the people displaced in violence since 2012. — Simon Lewis, Reuters and Myanmar News Agency

20 to 35 million textbooks to be printed for 2018-2019 academic year

The Printing and Publishing Department of the Ministry of Information is planning to publish 20 to 35 million school textbooks for the 2018-2019 Academic Year.

The statement by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint came at the first coordination meeting of the school textbooks printing and publishing committee at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. At the meeting, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education, discussed the need for textbooks in basic education primary, middle and high schools for the whole country and time frame for the printing.

The Printing and Publishing Department is mainly printing the order placed by the Ministry of Education and has published the books for 21 years up to the 2013-2014 Academic Year. The department will print high-quality textbooks so that students can have durable books for their education, said Dr. Pe Myint. The Director-General of Printing and Publishing Department discussed the benefits of upgrading the quality of the textbooks and Permanent Secretary and Deputy Chairperson of school textbooks Printing and Distribution Committee U Myo Myint Maung and committee’s members clarified the processes for the printing.

— Myanmar News Agency

Global Study on Intrinsic Motivation in Developing Countries Continued

As regards the ceremony issuing the strategy on reformation of staff in Myanmar, Global Study on Intrinsic Motivation in Developing Countries, was continued at the Myanmar International Convention Center (2) in Nay Pyi Taw, with a view to upgrading confidence, concepts and spirits of staff in developing countries, yesterday. In the first phase of the ceremony, Dr Knight Jel Gold senior consultant of UNDP Global Center for Public Service Excellence discussed the topic of advantages acquired through the global study on intrinsic motivation, with Dr Zilik Vendarvar of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Affairs discussing the topic of pilot study on public service staff in Pakistan and Kazakhstan, findings and acquired lessons.

In the second phase of the ceremony, discussion were made by 4 groups, in which research methods, academic perfection, making adjustments of actual event, intrinsic motivation in developing countries and matters to be included in global study, Seychelles Republic’s management on public affairs and experiences encountered in transforming public sector, negotiation with public servicemen of Singapore Republic, in labour sector and Moldova Republic’s public affairs management and experiences of transformation in public sector.

Afterward ceremony marking the conclusion of knowledge sharing forum was held, with dignified persons from various organisations making addresses respectively.

— Myanmar News Agency

Seniors General Min Aung Hlaing meets Post-Graduate Trainees in India

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, now in India on a goodwill visit at the invitation of Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, the Republic of India left Ahmedabad military airport for Pune area, arriving at the airport at 10:30 am LST. At the Pune, the senior General met with Myanmar post-graduate trainees, giving words of encouragement and providing food stuffs to the students.

The C-in-C of Defence Services and members left the airport by helicopters for Ahmednagar with Maj General Neeraj Kapur, principal of Armoured Corps Centre and School and responsible officials greeting the Senior General at the airport. Then at the meeting room of the Armoured Corps Centre and School, the principal explained to the Senior General history of the school, school set-up and teaching conditions, with questioned by C-in-C of Defence Services as to what he wanted to know.

The Senior General and party visited Submarine Auxiliaries Department and inspect planes and helicopters being used by India Navy, being explained by responsible officials, it was learnt. — Myanmar News Agency

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 16/2017
4th Waning of Waso, 1379 ME
12 July, 2017
Appointment of Security and Border Affairs Ministers

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (a) (2), (b) (e) (f), (g) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c), section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (a) sub-section (2), (b) (c) (d), Article 61 (a) of Region or State Government Law, Colonel Aung Lwin, Kayin State Security and Border Affairs Minister and Colonel Tin Aung Tun, Yangon Region Security and Border Affairs Minister, have been returned to unit to perform the original military duties and replaced with the following persons whose names have been submitted by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) are hereby appointed as Region/ State Security and Border Affairs Ministers.

(1) Colonel Myo Min Naung
(2) Colonel Aung Soe Moe
Kayin State Government
Yangon Region Government

Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
100 schools-construction project in Rakhine to be completed in August

THE 100 school-construction project in Rakhine State under the aid programme of Bridge Asia Japan (BAJ) will be completed in coming August, according to yesterday’s report of an official in BAJ office based in Maungtaw.

“Our BAJ has a project of 100 schools construction in Rakhine State including Buthidaung and Maungtaw. This is five-year project, starting from September 2012 to be finished in August 2017. We are conducting it in 17 townships of Rakhine State,” said a project manager from Maungtaw’s BAJ office.

“In Rakhine, BAJ is also planning to construct other 80 schools which is another five-year project starting from September 2017. It is also confirmed,” he added.

“We got funds from the Nippon Foundation in Japan which supported us to build schools in Rakhine,” he said.

There are totally five BAJ offices in Myanmar. One is in Yangon for management, one is in Sittway for 100 schools project of the Nippon Foundation, another one is in Hpakan for training of education courses, other is in Magway for water supplement, and the last one is in Maungtaw for schools building and vocational training.—Myint Maung Soe, Aung Kyaw Oo

Two suspects arrested in Maungtaw and Yathedaung

TWO men suspected for murder arrested in Chin village of Yathedaung Township and Maunghnama Taung village of Maungtaw Township in the morning of 11 July.

While security forces are patrolling in Yathedaung Township, one suspect, Marmout Noru was arrested in Chin village of Yathedaung Township and detained in Nyaungchaung police station. Similarly, security forces also arrested one suspect, Swe Haut Juharat living in Maunghnama Taung village of Maungtaw Township at 9am of 11 July as he was suspected for 30 June murder of Marmarayat. He is being interrogated in Pyin Phyu police station.—Myanmar News Agency

One organiser for terrorist training arrested in Buthidaung

SECURITY forces arrested one man on suspicion of organizing terrorist training in Kyee Hnot Thee village, Buthidaung Township in Rakhine State on 10 July morning.

Security forces searched the house of Kardayhu Saung on the morning of 10 July as they got the information that he was allegedly preparing to conduct terrorist training. Security forces found six pieces of (12sq ft) green colour waterproof clothing covers and three pieces of (18ft x 12ft) blue color waterproof clothing covers and investigated the suspect, Kardayhu Saung and it was found that he was allegedly preparing to conduct terrorist training by collecting waterproof clothing covers, people and knives. Police have investigated and filed a lawsuit against the suspect at the Taungbat police station.—Myanmar News Agency
As a human being living in Myanmar, I would rather live freely in an uncivilized state than live dependently in a civilized state. For the sake of the majority, we should express emphatically that I would like to live in a free state. However, the former seems grassy, by shoving freely and watching with an open palm over the crevice of the elbow of the other people. It would reach exactly 70 years that Bogyoke Aung San’s death.

We need to try our best for our not to meet the earth. As a human being, male rhinoceros finding it difficult to get out at the last phase of its tide reaching the earth. We need to take care and it is necessary for the whole people to be united and disci- plined, without being harmed by others. We are required to move on to our destination, without losing the sight of our goal.

In January 1947, Bogyoke Aung San went to England, accompanied by Thakin Mya, U Thant Hla and U Hla, reading previou- ms discussions as Pre-Independence. In addition, it was proclaimed that "Independence must be gained within one year," at the general parliamentary elections held at 11th April 1947.

Here is also an excerpt from the speech addressed at the dinner party given in honor of him at the City Hall on 17th February 1947.

"In performing political duties, especially a leader is to be broad-minded more than his followers. If he is in the dilemma, being concluded as to whose saying would be true, he is not a leader. A leader must dare to say or explain what he believes, he must be ready to sacrifice if needed. A person with- out self-confidence will never trust fellow citizens. For me, I know myself and you all."
Lavrov says wild that Trump Jr blamed for meeting Russian lawyer

BRUSSELS — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday it was preposterous that US President Donald Trump’s eldest son was blamed for meeting a Russian lawyer who emails suggest might have had damaging information about Hillary Clinton last year.

“Hitting back against accusations of Russian meddling in the 2016 US elections, Lavrov asked to be shown “at least one fact” proving Moscow tried to interfere with the democratic process. "I learned with surprise that a Russian lawyer, a woman, is being blamed and Trump’s son is being blamed for meeting. For me, this is wild," Lavrov told a joint news conference with his Belgian counterpart in Brussels. “Because when any person speaks to a lawyer, what problem or threat could there be? I didn’t know about this, I learned about it from television.”

The emails released by

Top US diplomat begins tough Gulf talks on easing Qatar row

JEDDAH, (Saudi Arabia) — US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson began talks with four Arab states on Wednesday in efforts to ease a boycott of Qatar after the countries labelled a US-Qatar terrorism financing accord an inadequate response to their concerns.

Any resolution of the dispute must address all the key issues for Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt, including Doha’s undermining of regional stability, a senior UAE official said ahead of the talks in Saudi Arabia. His comments shed light on Tillerson’s uphill challenge. The four countries imposed sanctions on Qatar on 5 June, accusing it of financing extremist groups and allying with the Gulf Arab states’ arch-foe Iran. Doha denies those accusations. Those four states and Qatar are all US allies.

Tillerson arrived in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah where he met ministers from the four nations to seek an end to the worst dispute among Gulf Arab states since the formation of their Gulf Cooperation Council regional body in 1981. Kuwait, which is mediating in the dispute and not boycotting Qatar, also sent an envoy.

Tillerson also met Saudi King Salman and they discussed regional developments, especially efforts to combat terrorism and its financing, the Saudi state news agency SPA said.

On Tuesday, shortly after Tillerson signed a memorandum of understanding in Doha on combating the funding of terrorism, the four countries issued a statement labelling it as inadequate. They also reinstated 13 wide-ranging demands they had originally submitted to Qatar; the world’s biggest producer of liquefied natural gas, but had later said were void. The demands include curbing relations with Iran, closing the widely watched Al Jazeera TV channel, closing a Turkish military base in Qatar and handing over all designated terrorists on its territory.

The crisis goes beyond the financing of terrorism, said Jean-Marc Ricidi, a risk analyst at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, pointing to Gulf fears about the role of Iran, internal instability and the regional influence of the Muslim Brotherhood as well as competition for regional leadership.

“Whatever the outcome is, one of the two sides will lose face and losing face in the Arab world is something important. The consequences for the future will be negative for at least one camp or the other,” said the four boycotting states said in a joint statement on Tuesday they appreciated US efforts in fighting terrorism. "... (But) such a step is not enough and they will closely monitor the seriousness of Qatar in combating all forms of funding, supporting and fostering of terrorism," the statement said, according to the UAE state news agency WAM. Anwar Gargash, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said the dispute was rooted in an absence of trust and that any solution must address the four states’ grievances.

“Diplomacy must address Qatar’s support for extremism and terrorism and undermining regional stability. A temporary solution is not a wise one,” he wrote on Twitter overnight.

The United States worries the crisis could affect its military and counter-terrorism operations and increase the regional influence of Iran, which has been supporting Qatar by allowing it to use air and sea links through its territory.

Qatar hosts Udeid Air Base, the largest US military facility in the Middle East, from which US-led coalition aircraft stage sorties against Islamic State in Syria and Iraq. Some Gulf Arab media took a critical stance towards Tillerson ahead of his visit to Jeddah.

“What makes Wednesday’s meeting in Jeddah difficult is that Tillerson has, since the beginning of the crisis, appeared to be taking the Qatari side,” a commentary published in Saudi-owned Asharq al-Awsat and Arab News newspapers said on Wednesday.

“Tillerson cannot impose reconciliation, but he could reduce the distance between the parties in the diplomatic rift — all of which are his allies — rather than taking the side of one against the other,” wrote columnist Abdurrahman al-Rashed, the former general manager of the Saudi-owned al-Arabiya channel.—Reuters

US decision on Kaspersky Lab software is politicized — Kremlin

MOSCOW — A decision by the Trump administration to remove Moscow-based Kaspersky Lab from two lists of approved vendors used by US government agencies to purchase technology equipment is a “politicized decision,” the Kremlin said on Wednesday.

“This is a purely commercial company which provides commercial services,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told a conference call with reporters. “We regret such a decision.”

“Russia as a state will continue spare no effort to defend the interests of our companies abroad”—Reuters

Germany tells China: Let dissident Liu go abroad for treatment

BERLIN — Germany urged China on Wednesday to allow Nobel Peace Prize-winning dissident Liu Xiaobo to leave the country to receive medical treatment abroad after the hospital treating him said his condition was critical. “We appeal to the Chinese authorities to give priority to the humanitarian aspects of this case and to allow him... to leave very quickly,” government spokesman Steffen Seibert said at a news conference, adding Germany was deeply concerned by reports of Liu’s deteriorating condition.—Reuters

Turkey sent some 200 cargo planes to Qatar since dispute began — minister

ANKARA — Turkey has sent 197 cargo planes, 16 trucks and one ship to Qatar to meet its daily needs since a dispute broke out last month between Qatar and other Gulf states, Turkish Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci said on Wednesday. At a meeting with Zeybekci in the Turkish capital Ankara, Qatar’s economy minister, Ahmed bin Jassim Al-Thani, said Doha’s sea and air trade was continuing without disruption despite sanctions.—Reuters
Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi (R) attends an event to announce victory over Islamic State in Mosul, Iraq on 10 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

MOSUL — Iraqi forces clashed with Islamic State fighters holding out in Mosul’s Old City on Wednesday, more than 36 hours after Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared victory over the militants in the de facto Iraqi capital of their self-declared caliphate.

Abadi’s announcement marked the biggest defeat for the hardline Sunni group since its lightning sweep through northern Iraq three years ago, but pockets of Mosul remain insecure and the city has been heavily damaged by nearly nine months of gruelling urban combat.

About 900,000 people have fled the fighting, with more than a third in camps outside the city and the rest living with family and friends in other neighbourhoods. Activity has quickly returned to much of Mosul and work to repair damaged homes and infrastructure is already underway.

But Iraqi forces exchanged gunfire with the militants in their final redoubt just before midnight and into the morning, two residents living just across the Tigris River from the area told Reuters.

Army helicopters strafed the Old City and blasts sent plumes of smoke into the air, though it was unclear if they were controlled explosions or bombs set off by Islamic State, the residents said by phone.

“We still live in an atmosphere of war despite the victory announcement two days ago,” said Fahed Ghanim, 45.

An Iraqi military official attributed the activity to “clearing operations”.

“There are Daesh fighters hiding in different places,” he said, using an acronym for Islamic State. “They disappear here and pop up there then we target them.”

He declined to estimate the number of militants or civilians in the area, but the top US general in Iraq said on Tuesday that as many as a couple of hundred fighters could still be in Mosul.

The deadliest incident off by Islamic State, the residents said. “We are saddened by this unfortunate incident.”

He said 11 soldiers sustained minor shrapnel wounds and were recuperating in the hospital.

An air strike on Islamist rebels killed 11 government troops in May.

Militants linked to Islamic State seized Marawi on 23 May and have been resisting daily assaults by government forces using aircraft and artillery.

President Rodrigo Duterte said on Tuesday he needed 15 more days to defeat the militants.

More than 500 people have been killed, including 389 militants, 90 members of the security forces, and 39 civilians, since the fighting erupted. About 260,000 residents have been displaced.

—Reuters

MANILA — A Philippine government air strike ataimed at Islamic rebels mistakenly killed two soldiers on Wednesday, the military said, the second such deadly accident in a bloody campaign to oust the militants from a southern city.

The accident happened when a plane bombing rebel positions in the city of Marawi missed its target and knocked down buildings on to the soldiers, a military spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Jo-Ar Herrera, said in a statement.

“Large debris from heavily reinforced buildings accidentally hit two of our personnel,” Herrera said. “We are saddened by this unfortunate incident.”

He said 11 soldiers sustained minor shrapnel wounds and were recuperating in the hospital.

An air strike on Islamist rebels killed 11 government troops in May.

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—Reuters

Number of fatal terrorist attacks in western Europe increasing, data show

LONDON — The number of terrorist attacks resulting in fatalities in western Europe increased in 2016, despite an overall drop in the number of incidents taking place, according to data released by the Global Terrorism Database.

The data shows that there were 30 such attacks resulting in fatalities in western Europe in 2016 and 23 in 2015. This compares with two attacks across the region resulting in fatalities in 2014 and five in 2013.

In addition, terrorist attacks have become more deadly, with 26.5 people on average being killed in 2015 and 2016, up from an average of four a year in the preceding three years.

The deadliest incident recorded in western Europe was the series of coordinated attacks on Paris in November 2015 that resulted in the deaths of 130 people and was claimed by Islamic State.

Experts said ISIS, responsible for seven of the 10 deadliest attacks since 2012, was increasingly encouraging the use of knives and vehicles over firearms and explosives by their followers.

“It’s very different to the al Qaeda threat, which was obsessed with mass casualties, bringing down airliners”, Dr Sajjan Gohel, International Security Director with the Asia-Pacific Foundation think tank told Reuters.

“What ISIS is trying to do is have a greater volume of attacks, but make it more cost effective and simpler.”

—Reuters

PHILIPPINE AIR STRIKE ON REBELS KILLS 2 SOLDIERS, INJURES SEVERAL

Suicide bombers in northeast Nigeria’s Maiduguri kill 17

MAIDUGURI (Nigeria) — Suicide bombers killed 17 people and injured 21 in the northeastern Nigerian city of Maiduguri, the police commissioner of Borno state said on Wednesday.

It is the latest in a spate of suicide bomb attacks on the city in the last few weeks. Borno, of which Maiduguri is the capital, is the Nigerian state worst affected by the eight-year-old insurgency by Islamist militant group Boko Haram.

Witnesses said four suicide bombers carried out attacks in the Molai district, which is around 5 kilometres from the city centre, on Tuesday night at around 10:00 pm (2100 GMT). Nobody has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Damin Chukwu, the Borno state police commissioner said the suicide bombers were among the 17 killed. Boko Haram, which has killed more than 20,000 people and forced some 2.7 million people to flee their homes in its bid to create an Islamic state.

The group has been pushed out of most of a swath of land around the size of Belgium that it controlled in early 2015 by the Nigerian army and troops from neighbouring countries in the northeast Nigeria.

But insurgents continue to carry out suicide bombings and raids in northeast Nigeria, as well as in Cameroon and Niger.

—Reuters

13 JULY 2017
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
With materials scarce, Cuban designers master recycling chic

HAVANA — Olaff Alejo’s salt lamps are eerily beautiful and designed to purify the air.

Yet the Cuban designer must rummage through trash bins and scour the sidewalks of Havana for scraps of wood and obsolete electrical devices to manufacture them.

In Communist-run Cuba, designers of clothes and household goods say the absence of wholesale stores as well as the expense and scarcity of raw materials have forced them to get creative. Many turn to repurposing and recycling the materials at hand.

These pioneers of the island’s fledgling private sector say they are turning a competitive disadvantage into an asset, while yielding unique, ecologically-friendly designs.

“It’s not easy to get the materials so we have to adapt and improvise a lot,” said Alejo, 37, whose lamps contain salt crystals. “Some 50-60 percent is recycled material.”

Alejo says he asks carpenters for their leftover parts and uses the frames of discarded windows and doors in order to make the wooden bases for his lamps. He also salvages the switches, plugs and cables from old electrical devices.

“They are extremely expensive, and there isn’t a regular supply in stores,” he said, adding his company Luzvi still must import some inputs — like light bulbs with a softer glow than Cuba’s starkly white, energy-saving ones.

The new lamps sell for between $25 and $50, a relatively hefty sum in a country where the average monthly state salary is around $30. Lower input costs would enable Alejo to cut prices, he said. The government has allowed more Cubans to set up their own businesses in recent years as part of its plan to update its ailing, Soviet-style economy and cut the bloated state payroll.

The number of Cuba’s self-employed more than tripled in six years to above 500,000 by the end of 2016, official data shows.

Some entrepreneurs complain, however, that the government has not followed through on certain reforms. For example, the country’s small, private businesses still do not have access to the wholesale market.

Raw materials are often in short supply and expensive, although Havana puts that down to the half-century-old US trade blockade.

Caridad Limonta, whose family firm Procle sells women’s apparel and home goods, said new textiles were costly so she mostly bought clothes or hotel curtains and sheets at state-run, second-hand stores and recycled them.

“I transform trousers for example into bags,” said the 60-year-old entrepreneur. “The backs of shirts don’t damage as much so I cut them, stick them together and make patchwork quilts.”

Limonta said Cubans are not in the habit of throwing things away, and find new uses for them instead. At Procle, shoulder pads become sponges for the kitchen, while old curtains are reinvented as tablecloths.

While Limonta said she wished it were easier to buy textiles, she also does not want Cuba to adopt the same kind of “fast fashion” prevalent in consumerist economies where clothes are cheap but often disposable, generating trash.

In the business district of Vedado, just around the corner from Procle, is the Vintage Bazar, a shop that refurbishes old lamps as well as designs quirky new ones with anything from plumbing pipes to water bottles.

“In other countries you would throw away the lamp and buy a new one,” said designer Grelot Serrano, 32, who is currently refurbishing a large batch of lamps for a hotel. “Here people bring them to the shop and we restore them like new.” — Reuters

Dutch anti-terrorism coordinator examining threat against women’s soccer tournament

AMSTERDAM — The Dutch counterterrorism agency NCTV said on Wednesday it was looking into a threat allegedly made by Islamic State militants against the UEFA Women’s Euro 2017 soccer tournament due to begin in the Netherlands next week.

A spokeswoman for the agency said it was taking the threat, made in a chatroom IS sometimes uses to communicate with supporters, seriously.

The threat called for an attack at football stadium in the City of Utrecht on 19 July, when England plays Scotland.

The NCTV did not raise its threat level, which currently stands at 4 on a scale of 1-5, signaling there is a substantial chance of an attack but there is no concrete evidence of any attack imminent. — Reuters
Drilling for oil in disputed sea may resume this year — Philippine official

MANILA — Drilling for oil and natural gas on the Reed Bank in the South China Sea may resume before the end of the year, a Philippine energy official said on Wednesday, as the government prepares to offer new blocks to investors in bidding in December.

The Philippines suspended exploration at the Reed Bank, which it calls Recto Bank, in late 2014, as it pursued international arbitration over territorial disputes.

The bank is in waters claimed by China.

Ismael Ocampo, director at the Department of Energy’s Resource Development Bureau, told reporters the agency expected the suspension to be lifted in December.

He said a directive from the Department of Foreign Affairs directing the Department of Energy to resume oil and gas exploration in the South China Sea was already in the works, China claims almost the entire South China Sea, where about $5 trillion worth of seaborne goods pass every year. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan also have claims.

Exactly a year ago, the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague invalidated China’s claim to sovereignty over most of the South China Sea.

The ruling, which China refused to recognise, clarified Philippine sovereignty rights in its 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone to access offshore oil and gas fields, including the Reed Bank, 85 nautical miles off its coast.

“We will try to conduct seismic activities,” in the disputed waters, Ocampo said, hopeful that China would not complain and hasten the approval of survey ships to be deployed.

In 2011, Chinese patrol vessels almost rammed a survey ship at the Reed Bank contracted by a PXP Energy Corp unit.

President Rodrigo Duterte, who took power shortly before the Hague ruled in favour of Manila, has said he would raise the landmark ruling with China eventually, but he first needed to strengthen relations between the two countries.

Duterte, who has been cool towards old ally the United States, hopes closer ties with China will yield billions of dollars in loans and investment in infrastructure, the backbone of his economic agenda.

PXP Energy Chairman Manuel Pangilinan said in March he was optimistic his company’s exploration project at Reed Bank would soon resume, citing the warming ties with China. The Philippines, which relies overwhelmingly on imports to fuel its fast-growing economy, is under pressure to develop indigenous energy resources.

Its main source of natural gas, the Malampaya field near the disputed waters, is due to run out in less a decade.

PXP’s Reed Bank prospect has indicated natural gas yield potential.

More than two dozen oil, gas and coal blocks, including additional areas in disputed waters, may be offered during the December bidding, Ocampo said. — Reuters

Germany tightens rules to shield businesses from foreign takeovers

BERLIN — Germany has approved rules to make it easier to block the sale of strategically important companies to investors from outside the European Union, prompted by concerns about China acquiring German expertise by that route.

The new regulations, which come amid fears of rising protectionism hurting world trade, allow the government to block takeovers if there is a risk of important know-how being lost abroad. The rules do not need parliamentary approval.

“We remain one of the most open economies in the world, but we also need to take fair competitive conditions into consideration,” Economy Minister Brigitte Zypries said in a statement on Wednesday.

“We owe that to our companies. They often compete with countries whose economies are not as open as ours,” she added.

The purchase of German robotics maker Kuka by Chinese company Midea last year fuelled concerns that China was gaining access to key technologies while shielding its own companies from foreign takeovers.

The new rules set out for the first time the criteria for blocking a deal, specifically jeopardising critical infrastructure, such as hospitals and power grids.

Earlier this year, the German economics ministry withdrew approval for Fujian Grand Chip Investment Fund (FGC) to buy chip equipment maker Aixtron, citing security concerns.

Last month, European Union leaders agreed to consider screening investments by state-owned Chinese firms.

France, Germany and Italy have backed the idea of allowing the EU to block Chinese investments, partly because European companies are denied similar access in China.

However, some other EU countries, such as Sweden, have said this is heading in the direction of protectionism.

Under the new German rules, operators of infrastructure companies should be better protected from investors from outside the EU, if needed. In addition, the government will be able to take twice as long — four months — in reviewing deals.

The new rules will take effect once they are published in the Federal Gazette which includes all laws and decrees.

The move comes just days after G20 world leaders agreed to fight protectionism including unfair trade practices at a summit hosted by Chancellor Angela Merkel. The agreement also, however, recognised the role of legitimate trade defence instruments.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has also said she plans to give government power to intervene in the takeover of critical infrastructure by a foreign buyer to enable it to protect national security. — Reuters

Russia’s Kaspersky Lab denies accusations of engaging in cyber espionage

MOSCOW — Kaspersky Lab has no political connections with any countries around the world and is not involved in cyber spying, the company’s press service told TASS.

The Trump administration earlier restricted the use of Kaspersky Lab products by US government agencies amid rumours about the company’s links to Russian intelligence agencies in the US mass media.

“Kaspersky Lab is a private company and has no political ties with any countries anywhere in the world. The company has never assisted the governments of any countries in carrying out cyber espionage,” the press service stated.

The company also noted that US officials had repeatedly been offered Kaspersky’s cooperation, including the official verification of the software code.

Kaspersky Lab is willing to help any government agencies in their investigation of its activities, as the company is fully convinced that any in-depth study of its work can only confirm that accusations of bias are totally unsubstantiated,” the press service emphasized. — Tass

Invitation of Tender

Tender Notice for the Supply of Pharmaceutical Drugs, Consumables and Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) Kits

Tenders are invited for provision of Pharmaceutical Drugs and Consumables for World Health Organization’s Emergency Relief Response in Myanmar.

Interested parties/companies meeting the eligibility requirements below can contact, Tel: 95 1 534300, 534307, 53862-1, 532474-6 from 10 July 2017 to 21 July 2017 (Working hours: 8:30 to 17:00) for collection of the tender documents at World Health Organization, No. 403 (A1), Shwe Taung Kyar Street, Bahan Township, 11201, Yangon. Tenders should be sent and deposited into the Tender Box at above mentioned Address on or before 27 July, 2017. 05:00 PM.

The Bidding Documents comprise the following:

a. Invitation to Bid
b. Instruction to Bidders
c. Bidding Form
d. Schedule of Requirement
e. General Conditions for Goods
f. Special Conditions for Contract

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for consideration of its tender, a tenderer should meet the following requirement:

The Bidder shall provide documentary evidence to establish to the Purchaser’s satisfaction that the Bidder has the financial and technical capability necessary to perform the Contract, meets the qualification criteria specified in the Bid Data Sheet, and has a successful performance history.
Katja Herbers to star in ‘Westworld’ season 2

LOS ANGELES — “The Leftovers” actress Katja Herbers has been roped in to star in the second season of sci-fi thriller series “Westworld.”

In the season two of the HBO series, Herbers will play Grace, a seasoned guest in Westworld whose latest visit comes at the park’s darkest hour, reported Entertainment Weekly.

The 36-year-old actress is the third new series regular for season two and the first brand-new cast addition.

She joins Talulah Riley and Louis Herthum, both of whom were promoted after recurring in season one.


Season two starts production this month, with the series set to make its Comic-Con debut next week in San Diego.—PTI

George R R Martin to adapt fantasy novel ‘Who Fears Death’

LOS ANGELES — With “Game of Thrones” close to its end, author George R R Martin and HBO have decided on their next collaboration, fantasy novel “Who Fears Death.”

Author Nnedi Okorafor announced on Monday that the premium cable network has optioned her 2010 science fiction and fantasy novel with the “Game of Thrones” creator on board to executive produce and adapt the series for the small screen.

“My World Fantasy Award-winning novel ‘Who Fears Death’ has been optioned by HBO and is now in early development as a TV series with George R R Martin as executive producer. Note: This did not happen overnight. It’s been nearly four years coming,” Okorafor wrote on Facebook.

“Who Fears Death” takes place in a fictionalised post-apocalyptic future version of Sudan. It revolves around Oyeyesonwu (Igbo for “who fears death”) who is an Ewu, the child of an Okeke woman who was raped by a Nuru man.

When she reaches maturity, she uses her magical powers in a bid to defeat her sorcerer father Daib.—PTI

Steven Spielberg subject of HBO documentary

LOS ANGELES — Steven Spielberg is stepping out from behind the camera to be the subject of a new documentary: HBO’s “Spie - berg”, directed and produced by Emmy-winning documentarian Susan Lacy, will chronicle the illustrious filmmaker’s ascent from a “bittersweet childhood” to his historic moviemaking career, reported Entertainment Weekly.

For the project, Lacy filmed 30 hours of interviews with Spielberg, who discussed topics like his long obsession with film, his early work as a TV “wunderkind,” his string of blockbusters and more dramatic works, and his personal and professional relationships. The documentary incorporates clips and behind-the-scenes footage from behind-the-scenes footage from several of his landmark films, such as “Jaws”, “ET: the Extra-Terrestrial”, “Jurassic Park”, “Schindler’s List”, “Saving Private Ryan” and a host of others. While Spielberg himself will narrate the film, his friends, family and colleagues provide added insight.

Lacy interviewed more than 80 subjects for the documentary, which ranged from celebrities to directors and producers, alongside industry insiders.

J J Abrams, Francis Ford Coppola, George Lucas and Martin Scorsese are among the directors who were interviewed for the film. Several actors Spielberg has directed also appear, including Tom Hanks, Harrison Ford, Daniel Day-Lewis and Leonardo DiCaprio, along with many others.—PTI

Diana goes up against the Soviets in ‘Wonder Woman 2’

LOS ANGELES — “Wonder Woman 2” will be a period piece, with Princess Diana facing off against the Soviet Union during the 1980s.

DC Entertainment President Geoff Johns is currently developing the script of the sequel to “Wonder Woman” with director Patty Jenkins, reported The Wrap.

Chris Pine, who played Steve Trevor in “Wonder Woman,” is reportedly optioned by Warner Brothers to appear in the sequel.

“Wonder Woman” that released on 23 June has earned USD 16.9 million worldwide till now.—PTI

Clint Eastwood casts real soldier in Paris train attack movie

LOS ANGELES — Veteran actor-filmmaker Clint Eastwood has roped in Anthony Sadler, Alek Skarlatos, and Spencer Stone to play themselves in his next movie, “The 15:17 to Paris.” The film will tell the story of the three Americans who stopped a terrorist on a train bound for Paris, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Paul-Mikel Williams, Max Ivutin, Bryce Gheisa, Cole Eichenberger, and William Jennings will play younger versions of the Sadler, Skarlatos and Stone.

Jenna Fischer, Judy Greer, and Ray Corasani will also join the real-life heroes in the film. The casting move is similar to Eastwood’s “Grain Torino,” which featured an almost unknown cast outside of Eastwood, who also starred in the movie. The film is based on the book of the same name by Sadler, Skarlatos, Stone and Jeffrey E Stern.

Dorothy Blyskal will write the script. Eastwood will produce with Tim Moore, Kristina Rivera and Jessica Meier.—PTI
Bought for 100 euros, World War Two Enigma machine sells for 45,000

BUCHAREST — Someone in Romania thought he'd made a fair amount of money when he sold an old typewriter for 100 euros at a flea market. He was wrong.

The "typewriter" was, in fact, a German Wehrmacht Enigma I, a World War Two cipher machine, and the collector who bought it put it up for sale at the Bucharest auction house Artmark with a starting price of 9,000 euros ($10,300; www.artmark.ro). On Tuesday, Artmark sold it to an online bidder for 45,000 euros.

"The collector bought it from a flea market. He's a cryptography professor and he knew very well what he was buying," Cristian Gavrila, the collectible consignment manager at Artmark, told Reuters.

Romania was an ally of Nazi Germany until 1944, when it switched sides to the allies. Historians say it may host many other cryptographic machines not yet discovered.

Last month, Christie's auction house Artmark with a record price of $547,500 to an online bidder for a four-rotor Enigma cipher machine, 1944, to an online bidder. (here)

The Enigma was used to encode and decode messages sent by the various branches of the Nazi military, but the British mathematician Alan Turing and his team at Britain's wartime codebreaking center, Bletchley Park, cracked the codes. By some estimates, their work shortened the war by two years.

—Reuters

Google Earth to let users post stories, photos in coming years

RIO DE JANEIRO — Alphabet Inc (GOOGL.O) wants users to post millions of stories, video and photos on its Google Earth platform in the next few years, the program chief said on Tuesday at a launch event in Brazil for content focused on showcasing the Amazon rainforest.

The "Voyager" tool allows internet surfers to take interactive tours of exotic destinations on Google Earth led by the likes of primatologist Jane Goodall, with photos, information and maps. However, regular users will be able to create their own unedited content for private or public use within two to three years, Google Earth Director Rebecca Moore told Reuters.

"The story of your family history, the story of your favorite hiking trip—it could be anything. It doesn't have to be profound," she said at the event in Sao Paulo.

Moore took the stage at an event in Sao Paulo to unveil the "I am the Amazon" project, which has mapped 11 sites to document the relationship between the rainforest and its people, touching on topics like food, water and cultural origins. To tell the stories of communities such as the Yanomami people, Cinta Larga and the Boa Vista Quilombola, Google and partners used tools like 3D cameras to accompany satellite images with videos and text. Moore did not reveal the budget for the project but she ruled out the idea of advertising on the platform and said it is not Google's intention to turn a profit from the venture.

"Google Earth is our gift to the world," she told Reuters. "In terms of budget, Google has nice revenue from advertising, and not everything Google does has to make money."

—Reuters

Hungarian hospital helps injured birds back into the skies

BUDAPEST — A unique veterinary hospital in eastern Hungary is saving the lives of wild birds, including many who sustain severe injuries during their long migratory journey to Africa to escape the harsh winters of northern Europe.

Located in the Hortobagy National Park, a World Heritage site on the Great Hungarian Plain, the hospital treats, among others, protected birds like cranes, storks and eagles that have flown into power lines, breaking their legs or wings, or have been poisoned or hit by vehicles on highways.

The wide open spaces of the National Park have preserved their traditional pastoral use, with herds of gray cattle grazing in the pastures and wetlands, a perfect place for a stopover for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds each year. Doctors at the hospital have been saving the lives of these protected birds since 1999, by giving them prosthetic legs and fixing their wings, with around 40 percent of them eventually returning to the wild after a full recovery.—Reuters

mtv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(13-7-2017 07:00am ~ 14-7-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am Swan Hein Cave
07:45 Am Lacquerware Technology College
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist (Part II)
08:44 Am The Recycle Art: Tyre
09:03 Am News
09:27 Am Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture
09:51 Am Culture Shows: Composer Ma Mya Lay
10:03 Am News
10:25 Am MOVING WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
10:43 Am Myanmar Weaving
10:54 Am Sticky Shan Snack
11:03 Am Breakfast News
11:20 Am Artist’s Talk: A Tour in Korea (Part 3)
11:38 Am …..Changes
11:53 Am Pm TECH School
01:00 Pm News
01:26 Pm Myanmar Sculpture-Work of Art
01:42 Pm A Chance to Change Their Future
02:00 Pm News
02:53 Pm Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Part 3)
03:08 Pm …..Changes
03:33 Pm Pm TECH School
05:03 Pm News
05:26 Pm Pm TECH School
06:03 Pm News
07:00 Pm News
07:03 Pm News
07:08 Pm News
07:13 Pm News
07:26 Pm News
08:03 Pm News
08:26 Pm News
09:03 Pm News
09:27 Pm News
09:51 Pm News
10:03 Pm News
10:25 Pm News
10:43 Pm News
Myanmar U-22 to play exhibition match with Malaysia today

In preparation for the 29th SEA Games, Myanmar U-22 national football team will play a test match with host Malaysia tonight. Myanmar’s Coach Gerd Friedrich has chosen 22 star players for the game and some young and new players were also included.

“We will gain many experiences from this match as Malaysia is one of the best opponents for Myanmar and the match will become a good example for the SEA Games”, said Coach Gerd Friedrich.

After the match, Myanmar teams will arrive back home on 14 July and have to play along with Australia, Singapore and Brunei in the U-23 ASIAN qualifier, Group E from 19 to 23 July in Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon. —Shine Htet Zaw

Controversial loss unlikely to push Pacquiao into retirement

MANILA — Manny Pacquiao has hinted he will continue his passion for the sport was still strong.

“I love this sport and until the passion is gone, I will continue to fight for God, my family, my fans and my country,” Pacquiao said on his Twitter feed.

A rematch was written into the contract for the initial fight in the event Pacquiao lost and the pair are expected to face each other again later this year.

Pacquiao’s defeat sparked fury among his fans, who labelled the 117-111, 115-113 and 113-115 scoring as a “hometown decision”, and the Filipinos Games and Amusements Board sent a letter to the WBO asking for a “thorough review” of the fight.—Reuters

Myanmar women’s football team leaves for Japan

In preparation for the 29th South East Asian (SEA) Games, Myanmar women’s national football team is leaving for Niigata, Japan today to play test matches with Japanese women’s famous clubs from 16 to 23 July. The Myanmar women’s team requested for exhibition matches with China or any of ASEAN’s national football team but due to various inconveniences the matches could not be planned.

Myanmar has trained well in Yangon to play with four of Japan’s famous clubs including Albirex Niigata Women’s team.

The Myanmar team will be headed by Coach Roger Ryan. Myanmar will play with Niigata Women’s team on 16 July, Kokitai Selection team on 19 July, Niigata University of Health and Welfare Women’s team on 20 July and U-18 Albirex Niigata Women’s team on 23 July respectively.—Kyaw Zin Lin

Mayweather, McGregor press tour kicks off with a war of words

LOS ANGELES — Undefeated boxer Floyd Mayweather and mixed martial arts champion Conor McGregor traded barbs during a lively press conference in Los Angeles on Tuesday, delighting a rowdy crowd ahead of their 26 August fight in Las Vegas.

The media conference was the first in a four-day international tour promoting the bout.

The contrasts between the two was immediately apparent as McGregor, wearing a navy pinstriped suit and tie, danced around the stage smiling while Mayweather, wearing a track suit with American flag details, looked on stonefaced.

As is expected in the bout, McGregor was the aggressor, wasting no time bringing up reports that Mayweather earlier this month asked the IRS for more time to pay his 2015 tax bill.

“He’s in a track suit,” McGregor told the crowd of more than 11,000 people, who largely cheered the Irishman and booed the American. “He can’t even afford a suit anymore.”

Later when Mayweather, whose nickname is “Money” and who frequently uses cash as a prop, pulled out a $100 million cheque on stage, McGregor told him to “give it to the taxman”.

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Later when Mayweather, whose nickname is “Money” and who frequently uses cash as a prop, pulled out a $100 million cheque on stage, McGregor told him to “give it to the taxman”. When asked about the tax issue, Mayweather said his attorneys were working on it and did not worry him. “I just showed you all a $100 million cheque that I haven’t even cashed yet, so we ain’t tripping on that,” he told reporters.—Reuters

Venus rises again to stop Ostapenko in her tracks

LONDON — Venus Williams handed out another lesson to one of Wimbledon’s young upstarts when she beat Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 7-5 on Tuesday to become the oldest women’s semi-finalist for 23 years.

The five-times champion, who turned 37 last month, tamed the big-hitting Latvian with a rock-solid performance under the Centre Court roof, winning with something to spare.

Williams, who had already disposed of a 21-year-old and two teenagers en route to her 38th grand slam quarter-final, barely flinched against the 20-year-old French Open champion whose magnificent 11-match winning run in majors came to an end.

The American, who must scroll back to the 2008 Wimbledon for her seventh, and most recent, grand slam singles title, broke Ostapenko’s serve in the second game and was untroubled in taking the opener in 29 minutes.

She sealed it when her 13th-seeded opponent swished at thin air on an attempted forehand service return.

Ostapenko was subdued as Williams secured an early break in the second set, although she got a helping hand back into the match when Williams double-faulted to drop serve.

That had the effect of lighting the Ostapenko fuse and she began to look threatening as she held serve to love with an ace to move 4-3 ahead on a gloomy Centre Court.

Williams had to serve to stay in the second set at 4-5 and was relieved to see an Ostapenko return land narrowly wide at 30-30 before squaring the set.

Ostapenko felt the pressure in the next game when a hurried forehand into the net gave Williams the break and the veteran needed no second invitation, holding serve to love to claim victory.—Reuters