Seven more civilians killed in Rakhine

Members of the Mro ethnic tribe killed in a terrorist attack by ARSA; thousands continue to flee to Sittway and border

The government confirmed yesterday that seven Mro ethnic people were killed and five injured by terrorists on Monday during an attack on Khon-Taing Village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State.

Hundreds of extremists from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) descended on the small village, killing the villagers and then burning down their homes, the government said.

“About 400 ARSA extremist terrorists attacked Khon-Taing Village of Mro ethnic people in Maungtaw Township on 28th August afternoon and burnt down the homes. In the attack, three men and four women were killed while two men and three women were injured while one man and two women are still missing,” said a report released by the information committee of the government.

The ARSA extremist terrorists continued their attacks with improvised explosive devices (IEDs) against security forces and burnt down neighbouring villages, according to the report.

Ethnic villagers from the conflict areas are fleeing to Buthidaung and Maungtaw and nearby police outposts. One soldier, 11 policemen, one civil servant, seven members of a Hindu family, five Daingnet ethnic people and seven Mro ethnic people have so far been killed in the attacks, in addition to scores of terrorists, which started with a series of coordinated attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists on security forces on Friday.

“A mass of extremist terrorists came to our village in large group. While defending against them, an arrow they shot hit me on my leg through. At that time, our villagers gathered, frightening the terrorists to run away,” said Maung Tha Aung, a local ethnic man from Tharyargone Village in Maungtaw township, who fled to Sittway.
2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 5th Regular Session holds its 20th day meeting

At 20th day meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held at 1:30 pm yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, parliamentarians discussed the reports on findings and conclusion notes of Public Account Combined Committee.

Regarding the annual report 10/2017—finding and conclusion notes of Public Account Combined Committee, U Khin Maung U Zone Hle Htan of constituency, U Khin Cho notes of Public Account Combined Committee, U Yan Lin of Kyaiat constituency, U Yan Lin of Kyaiklat constituency, U Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency, Thi of Loilem constituency, Dr. Tun Naing of Seikkyi-Khanaungto constituency and Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale constituency discussed respectively.

Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, U Tin Tun Naing of Seikkyi-Khanaungto constituency and Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale constituency discussed

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th Regular Session holds its 53rd day meeting

The agreement that allows the Ministry of Education to lease premises owned by the Yangon Yacht Club on Inya Road was one of the issues discussed yesterday’s meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union Minister for Education, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, replied to the question raised by U Maung Maung Oo of Insein constituency, Yangon Region as to whether there is any plan to withdraw the lease of the premises owned by the Yacht Club.

“The University Sailing Club’s premises continue to be contracted for a lease of hiring the premises for five more years from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2021 under the approval of the management committee meeting of the Ministry of Education, held on 24th February 2015. It was found that payment for hiring the premises for one year (FY 2016-2017) had been deposited as the national revenue. The Ministry of Education scrutinised the lease contract in the tenure of the incumbent government, finding the clause in the contract that the premises must be handed over to the Ministry of Education within 30 days by the lease-holder; provided that it was demanded by the owner for an essential need, if ever. Hence, for students to use the premises owned by University Sailing Club with a view to upgrading sports, consultations were made on 3rd July 2017 with the Ministry of Construction to be empowered to the Ministry as “the authority to expel from the government-owned building, 1955” for the acquisition of right to transfer.

As the authority was granted under the notification dated on 7th July 2017, a notice was sent to the lease holder to return the premise.

In this case, the process is to be carried out under the authority to expel from the building, so the case is under way by negotiating with Yangon Region Cabinet.”

The Ministry of Education revoked leases of the premises of the Yacht Club in order for the university students to be able to learn, practise and enjoy sailing.

Dr. Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy, replied to a question raised by Daw Khin Than Nu of Mindon constituency, Magway Region on a new building for the township’s power and electricity office.

“The office of Mindon township electricity and power was opened at the old building roofed and walled by corrugated iron sheets, so it was targeted to be constructed as the reinforced concrete building measuring 36 feet in length and 24 feet in width in the FY 2017-2018. But the construction of gridlines and transformers in extension was prioritised. So it could not be included in the final budget allotment to build the new building to completion”, Dr. Tun Naing said.

Afterward, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education, replied to a question raised by U Zar Ni Min of Shwegu constituency, in Kachin State about new buildings for the university in Bhamo Township.

“The contract to build one two-storey reinforced concrete 100-bed hostel building, two dining buildings and one entrance way to the university, for the University of Technology in Bhamo Township in Kachin State, was commissioned with the budget allotment Ks572 million in the FY 2017-2018, to the Ministry of Construction”, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said.

Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education and Dr Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy replied to the questions raised by U Tin Hla of Danuhyu constituency, U Hlaing Lwin (a) U D Lone of Namhsam constituency, U Tun Wai of Phaungpyin constituency, U Aung Kyaw Kyaw of Hlaing constituency and Daw San San Ei of Mohnyin constituency. — Myanmar News Agency

Home Ministry pledges to bring terrorists to court

Members of Parliament urged the Union Government yesterday to expose those involved in terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine and to take special measures in order to ensure the continued existence of ethnic villages as the villagers fled their villages due to terrorist attacks.

When discussing the motion at yesterday’s meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe pledged that those who involved in the terrorist attacks would be brought to court under criminal law.

A total of 466 cases have been opened in relation to attacks in Rakhine during 9 October 2016 and 16 August 2017. Of these, 116 cases have been judged at court while 147 cases are still pending, said Maj-Gen Aung Soe.

Police are investigating 180 cases and have closed 23 cases, he added. Following the series of coordinated attacks last Friday, which were claimed by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, the Anti-Terrorism Central Committee declared ARSA a terrorist group.

Meanwhile, MP U Hla San of Constituency-1 in Magway Region, criticised the allegedly biased reports and news stories from some international media organisations, accusing them of fueling the violence in northern Rakhine. — Myanmar News Agency
State Counsellor receives foreign delegations separately

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr. Bill Richardson, Chairman of the Richardson Center and former Governor of New Mexico, the United States of America, and a delegation led by Mrs. Anuradha Gupta, Deputy CEO of Gavi. The Vaccine Alliance and accompanying parliamentarians from Denmark and Sweden separately yesterday at her ministry in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting with Mr. Bill Richardson, they cordially discussed matters relating to the promotion of economic relations, investment and cooperation between Myanmar and the United States of America.

During the meeting with the delegation led by Mrs. Anuradha Gupta, they exchanged views on strengthening cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and the Gavi in the ongoing immunization programme, as well as its future cooperation and assistance in the sector. — Myanmar News Agency

Gov’t to step up road safety measures

U Henry Van Thio, Vice-President and Chairman of National Road Safety Council (NRSC) addressed the third meeting of the council at the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw and spoke about basic steps toward improving road safety such as the use of seat belts, abstaining from use of mobile phones and driving more slowly.

“The tasks of implementation of road safety are of great importance for the nation, being the tasks to be carried out specifically for safety of people’s lives. Today’s meeting was being held with a view to upgrading road safety, presenting situations on accomplishments of decisions laid down by the 2nd meeting and presenting processes to be carried out further, submitting restrictions and difficulties encountered by regions and states. Four quick-win preparations for national road safety — wearing helmets (for motorcyclists) and seat-belts, abstention from using mobile phones while driving, abstention from drinking while driving and taking care not to commit over-speed driving are required to be obeyed”, U Henry Van Thio said.

“In building new roads, special care needs to be taken for road safety and it needs to abide by road designs and standards. In repairing roads as well, responsible departments and organisations need to take care of security matters. Road signs and installation of signal lights are required to follow existing rules and laws. Deep-rooted and wrong road habits on expressways for vehicles to overpass preceding ones need to be corrected to rightfulness. In upgrading the reduction of road accidents, establishment of an organisation for raising funds for road safety needs to be carried out. Here, I would like to urge the members of NRSC to cooperate after studying carefully the suggestions acquired from workshop on all-inclusive road safety. The NRSC needs to give out accurate figures on accidents so that the public will be convinced of actual situations to keep road discipline.

In schools, lessons on road safety should be started to be included in the syllabus. Common sense should be indoctrinated at younger ages that road safety knowledge is needed for all of us. Provided that every individual keeps road safety disciplines, roads and vehicles are in better conditions, accident will surely decrease.”

Afterward, Union Ministers Lt Gen Kyaw Swe and U Thant Sin Maung, vice-chairpersons also spoke about road safety.— Myanmar News Agency

Ethnic people in Mingyi and Tamanthar villages provided with aid

Authorities delivered aid to villagers in conflict areas in northern Rakhine yesterday, pledging providing security to them.

Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Rakhine State Cabinet’s Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and officials met with Mingyi and Tamanthar villagers in Maungtaw Township yesterday, giving words of encouragement and providing necessary provisions.

Foods supply for displaced ethnic people in Taung Pyo Let Wae Township, Maungtaw

Villagers receive aid in Taung Pyo Let Wae. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG LWIN

Circular train popular with tourists

MORE THAN 100 foreign visitors are touring on the Yangon circular railway on a daily basis, according to a report of the Myawady Daily issued on Wednesday.

According to officials, there are as many as 3,483 foreign commuters took the train this July.

The railway system has accordingly increased security services in collaboration with relevant government departments and police, said U Zaw Lwin, a transport manager from the Myanmar Railways. Railroads improvement projects are being implemented throughout the nation with the assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to provide better and safe transportation services to local commuters, he added.—GNLM

Researchers investigate rotavirus to prevent future outbreaks

Local researchers are investigating rotavirus species at the Yangon Children’s Hospital to prepare for future Myanmar vaccination programmes, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The research is being led by molecular researchers from the Medical Research Department and the University of Medicine branches in Yangon and Mandalay. Young children, elderly people and people with compromised immune systems are most at risk for infection by rotavirus. The virus is the leading cause of life diarrhoea disease among infants and young children in many countries.

Researchers obtained stool specimens from children admitted to the hospital for serious diarrhoea for rotavirus testing. Rotavirus was identified in 219 out of 488 stool specimens tested, a prevalence rate of 45 per cent. Rotavirus was found mostly in the children, mostly boys, between six and 11 months of age.—GNLM

Housing shortage likely to worsen by 2040

Yangon is projected to grow by 10 million residents by the year 2040 and only 20 per cent will be able to afford to own homes due to the slow pace of affordable housing construction, according to a report in yesterday’s Myawady Daily. The rest will be renters or squatters, according to the article.

The 2014 census estimated there are 1.6 million residential units in Yangon Region. Housing experts expect that there will be 2.6 million units by 2040, resulting in a shortfall of more than 1 million units. The Rural Area and Housing Development Department plans to develop 900,000 units of property within 15 years by 2031. About 4.8 million residential units are required by 2040 to keep up with demographic trends.—GNLM

Rakhine State government distributed and supplied food and provisions to ethnic people who fled recent violence in the area and took refuge in Taung Pyo Let Wae Township in Rakhine State.

U Naing Lin Aung, provisional head of township’s General Administration Department, said they are supplying rice, cooking oil, beans and salt.

Thirty sacks of rice, one sack of bean, 50 viss of cooking oil and two sacks of salt were provided yesterday and more aid is being arranged.

On 28 August, the General Administration Department provided food and provisions to government staff in Maungtaw. Buthidaung Township head of GAD and departments of township also provided rice, oil, salt and beans to displaced ethnic people.—Tin Maung Lwin/ Min Htet Aung

Contraband worth Ks37 million seized along Myanmar highways

VEHICLE inspections along the Mandalay-Muse Pyi Huangsung Road recorded 354 transport vehicles carrying items for export and 396 for import, from 1-29 August.

Forty-five transport vehicles carried export items and 136 carried import items along the Yangon-Myawady Road during the same period.

Inspectors discovered illegal goods worth Ks37 million at Mayan Chaung checkpoint, including 450 grams of heroin.—MNA

Heroin brought hidden under dried tea leaf. PHOTO: MFP
PETROL and diesel sales remain steady and fuel oil prices are about Ks670 for a liter of diesel, Ks730 for Octane 92, Ks720 for Octane 95 and Ks680 for premium diesel, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Between 13 and 19 August, about 53,212 tons of petrol was imported into Myanmar over sea routes. Imports of diesel increased by 27,220 tons while petrol decreased by 70 tons. During that week, 1,054 tons of petrol and 2,120 tons of diesel were imported through Tachileik gate, 459 tons, through Myeik land point of entry, 4,060 tons of diesel through Muse checkpoint, and 500 tons of diesel through Lwejel gate. —Ko Htet

The Consumer Price Index in July 2017 reached 132.86 which is two per cent more than the same period last year, according to Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

During July 2017, Rakhine State recorded the highest CPI rate increase of 5.3 per cent compared to similar period of last year. Inflation in July 2017 was 4.91 per cent while year-on-year inflation is 2.30 per cent, according to the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Inflation rate had been evaluated based on 2006 survey data and later, the base year tuned to 2012. The Central Statistical Organisation conducted Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 82 townships in Nov 2012. The inflation rate in between 2011 and 2016 has increased significantly. To reduce inflation, authorities concerned are making efforts based on the policies of finance, currency, trade and foreign currency control, according to the second five-year National Development plan. —Ko Htet

Central gold market to formalize precious metals trade in Myanmar

May Thet Hnin

LOCAL gold traders intend to develop a central market for precious metals and minerals, according to U Kyaw Win, general secretary of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

“At present, transactions are made in traditional way and based on mutual trust,” he said. “Establishment of central market is needed to scale up commercial businesses.”

Myanmar’s gold trade is largely unregulated and lacks linkages with the financial sector, which exposes traders to fraud. Traders hope that building a central gold market will ensure stability of foreign exchange and reduce money laundering, price manipulation and counterfeiting. Systematizing the gold market would enable more traders to participate without fear of being cheated.


“The government will provide 70 acres to develop this plan. We appreciate that many associations and related ministries participate in this plan”, said U Kyaw Win.

Union Minister U Kyaw Win for Planning and Finance said at a monthly meeting with the entrepreneurs that “the ministry will cooperate with the related market to create an export market with value added products”.

This central market scheme was submitted to the government in FY 2012-2013 and was delayed at the policy formulation stage. ■

Myanmar entrepreneurs discussed SME development

Businessmen met with Vice President U Myint Swe, chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee and Myanmar Entrepreneurs, on Sunday to discuss strategies to accelerate economic growth.

Joint General Secretary of UMFFCCI Dr. Aung Thein suggested that business information and research should be disseminated through various small and medium business centers.

Dr. Aung Thein said that their plans should adopt a 30- to 40-year timeline.

The gathering discussed tax waivers for certain kinds of machinery and other imports to support entrepreneurs.

The group also discussed a range of other business sectors including livestock, bamboo, rubber and pulses and beans. Geographies addressed by the group included Ayeyawady and Rakhine. Of registered 120,000 enterprises in Myanmar, 98 per cent are SMEs, according to the Central Statistical Organization. Of 21.9 million Myanmar workers, 85 per cent are engaged in unregistered businesses. —May Thet Hnin

Low yield of durian push the price high

DURIAN yields in Kyin-Seikkyi Township, Kayin State have been harmed by heavy rains this monsoon, resulting in fewer of the pungent fruits at higher prices.

In the last week of August, durian prices increased to Ks 4000 for one fruit. —Myo Min Oo (IPRD) ■
Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe visits patients wounded in terrorist attacks

The Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe and officials visited Sittway General Hospital yesterday and encouraged patients who were wounded by the extremist terrorist attacks in Maungtaw.

During the visit, the Union Minister met with health officials and stressed the importance of promoting health knowledge to the patients.

“As the number of patients increases, more physicians who are needed in the hospital and will be filled as soon as possible.

It is assumed that public healthcare is weak, the outpatients are increasing in the hospital and when the public healthcare is well enough, the workload of the hospital and patients in the hospital will reduce. The needs for the investigating diseases will also be fulfilled”, Dr. Myint Htwe said.

The Union Minister also discussed matters of psychological promoting and honouring of the staff currently working in Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships.

— Myanmar News Agency

Final day of review for 21st Century Panglong

The final day of review and preparatory discussions for the Union Peace Conference -21st Century Panglong was held at the meeting hall of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NPRC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Present at the meeting were 15 Hluttaw conference representatives, 15 government conference representatives and 15 Tatmadaw conference representatives and officials.

During the meeting, detailed matters relating to each chapter included in the political discussion framework were discussed.

Lt-General Tin Maung Win delivered the closing speech as the group discussion of UPC-21st Century Panglong was concluded.

— Myanmar News Agency

Eid Day on 2 September

The Government issued a notification on Tuesday that as Eid Day (Bakri Eid) falls on 2 September (Saturday), the day is declared as a public holiday in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, according to Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act. — GNLM

People denounced ARSA extremist terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine State denounced

People denounced ARSA extremist terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine State in front of Yangon City Hall yesterday evening.

Hundreds of people gathered in downtown Yangon, protesting against the final report of Mr Kofi Annan Chairman of Advisory Commission on Rakhine State and atrocious attacks of ARSA extremist terrorists, holding the placards written in words of denunciation. After holding talk on terrorism, a statement with seven facts was released. —Zaw Gyi

Terrorist attacks in N-Rakhine State denounced

People denounced ARSA extremist terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine. PHOTO: PHOE KHWARE
North Korea launch increases focus on risky US shootdown option

WASHINGTON — North Korea’s firing of a ballistic missile over Japan could increase pressure on Washington to consider shooting down future test launches, although there is no guarantee of success and US officials are wary of a dangerous escalation with Pyongyang.

More attention is likely to focus on the prospects for intercepting a missile in flight after North Korea, on Tuesday, conducted one of its boldest missile tests in years, one government official said.

Such a decision would not be taken lightly given tensions over North Korea’s nuclear and missile programmes.

And while President Donald Trump has repeatedly vowed that “all options are on the table”, there has been no sign of any quick policy shift in Washington toward direct US military action.

But Pyongyang’s launch of an intermediate-range Hwasong-12 missile over Japan’s northern Hokkaido island underscored how Trump’s tough rhetoric, pursuit of sanctions and occasional shows of military force around the Korean peninsula have done little to deter North Korea’s leader.

Experts say there is no guarantee that US missile defence systems, including Aegis ballistic missile defence ships in the region and Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) systems based in Guam and South Korea, would hit their target, despite recent successful tests.

A failed attempt would be an embarrassment to the United States and could embolden North Korea, which this year has already conducted two tests of an intercontinental ballistic missile believed capable of hitting the US mainland.

The United States has spent $40 billion over 18 years on research and development into missile defense systems but they have never been put into operation under wartime conditions.

Mattis this month expressed confidence the US military could intercept a missile fired by North Korea if it was headed to Guam, after North Korea said it was developing a plan to launch four intermediate-range missiles to land near the US territory.

If North Korea fired at the United States, the situation could quickly escalate to war, Mattis said.

Not everyone is convinced the US military can defend against North Korea’s growing missile capability.

Some experts caution that US missile defences are now geared to shooting down one, or perhaps a small number, of incoming missiles. If North Korea’s technology and production keep advancing, US defences could be overwhelmed.

“If a shootdown fails, it would be embarrassing, though not terribly surprising,” said Michael Elleman, a missile expert at the 38 North think tank in Washington.

“Missile defence does not provide a shield that protects against missiles. Rather, it is like air defense; it is designed to minimize the damage an adversary can inflict,” he said.

One US official said the military would be especially cautious about shooting down a North Korean missile that did not pose a direct threat because of the risk of civilian casualties if it were intercepted over Japan or South Korea, as well as difficulty in determining how Pyongyang might retaliate. The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

US military and intelligence officials warn North Korea could unleash a devastating barrage of missiles and artillery on Seoul and US bases in South Korea in response to any military attack. Targeting of a North Korean missile in flight that did not endanger the United States or its allies could also raise legal questions.

UN Security Council resolutions that ban Pyongyang’s ballistic missile programs do not explicitly authorize such actions.

Japan also faces questions over the legality of shooting down missiles in its airspace but not aimed at Japan. Under legislation passed in 2015, Tokyo can exercise a limited right of collective self-defense, or militarily aiding an ally under attack, if it judges the threat to Japan as “existential.”—Reuters

Ahead of Indian leader’s visit, China says huge potential for cooperation

BEIJING — Asian giants China and India have great potential for cooperation, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Wednesday, seeking to cast the neighbors’ difficult ties in a positive light ahead of a visit next week by India’s prime minister.

The two agreed this week to de-escalate more than two-month-old stand-off on their disputed border, just in time for Sunday’s kick-off of a summit of the BRICS grouping of nations, which also includes Brazil, Russia and South Africa. It was normal for the two giant neighbours to have differences.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi holds a news briefing ahead of the 9th BRICS Summit, in Beijing, China on 30 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Wang told a news briefing ahead of the summit in the southeastern city of Xiamen that India’s Narendra Modi is to attend.

“What’s important is that we put these problems in the appropriate place, and appropriately handle and control them in the spirit of mutual respect and based on the consensus of both countries’ leaders,” he said.

“There is huge potential for cooperation between China and India,” Wang added, without giving details. The stand-off in the Himalayan region began when India sent its troops to stop China building a road in the remote, uninhabited territory of Doklam, claimed by both China and Bhutan. China has said its forces will continue to patrol in Doklam, known in Chinese as Donglang, and Wang added that he hoped India had learned a lesson from the incident.—Reuters

TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

KABUSHIKI KAISHA DARlYA, trading as DARlYA CO., LTD., a company incorporated under the laws of Japan; of 3-5-24 Marunouchi, Naka-ku, Nagoya-shi, Aichi 460-0002, Japan, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:-

DARIYA registered in Myanmar under Reg. No. 4/8679/2017 in respect of “Class 3: Cosmetics; cosmetic preparations for hair; soaps and detergents; hair color preparations; hair dyes; bleaching preparations for hair; bleaching preparations [decolorants] for cosmetic purposes; color-removing preparations for hair; hair treatment preparations; cosmetic hair dressing preparations; hair styling preparations; hair wax; hair wax for use in hair styling and colors; hair lotions; hair spray; hair waving preparations; hair tonic; hair grower; hair creams; hair shampoo; hair conditioner; cosmetics for skin care; emulsions, gels and lotions for skin care; cosmetic creams, milks, lotions, gels and powders for the face, hands and body; sunscreen for cosmetic use; perfumed paste for cosmetic use; perfumery; cakes of toilet soap; bleaching powder; washing preparations; cleaning preparations; polishing preparations; polishes; grinding preparations; essential oils; dentifrices.”

Any fraudulent imitation or counterfeit or unauthorized use of the said trademark will be dealt with according to the law.

For KABUSHIKI KAISHA DARlYA, trading as DARlYA CO., LTD.,
LawPlus Myanmar Ltd.
Phone: +95 9 43064833, Email: khinkhinzaw@lawplusltd.com
Dated: 31st August 2017
Accomplish national development in the midst of challenges

Khin Maung Oo

PRESENTLY, our country is facing myriads of challenges. While dealing with these challenges, it gives us satisfaction to see prospects for economic development. In fact, the development was attributed to the increasing amounts of foreign investments into the country, compared to those of previous years.

The Private Sector Development Committee held its 9th meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs the other day at the UMFFCCI, with a view to easing difficulties and fulfilling the needs of Myanmar entrepreneurs.

The Union Government has been prioritizing peace and stability of the country, simultaneously exerting its efforts for national economic development in respective sectors. Looking at investments made by Myanmar citizens, it reached K 1275 billion in the present financial year, which was a huge jump from that of last year’s—K 109 billion. In the present financial year, foreign investments reached US $ 3500 million, again a huge jump compared to that of the previous year of US $ 400 million.

Regarding the investments from home and abroad, Yangon Region received 80 percent of total investments, while only the least amount went to other regions. It is true that every investor has the right to invest in a region which has the highest potential for success. However, it would be better for the country if investments went to Regions and States proportionally so that development would be evenly spread out all over the country.

In developing the national economy, internal peace and stability is vital. Therefore, only if we can manage to face the challenges for regional peace and stability hand in hand with each other, will local and foreign investments be spread out evenly over the whole country. As we are seeing imminent prospects of investments, we need to lay emphasis on the emergence of nationwide peace and stability.

Though it was said that Myanmar has received a considerable amount of investments in the economic sector, there are still challenges being faced. Since the early period, although the task of establishing a stock and share market was implemented, effective success was not achieved until now.

The export market for Myanmar pulses and beans which are produced abundantly in the country has not yet been stable at the present time. So, we must exert our efforts for foreign direct investments to come into the country.

FDIs are normally invested in such a way that they need to make the foundation firm. They cannot withdraw their investments easily all of a sudden. The FDI is the only reliable source of foreign exchange for a developing nation. Investments in the sectors of transportation, infrastructures, industries and financial services and exploration of oil and gas and minerals are of great benefit for the country and our people.

To sum it up, we need to cooperate with the State for national peace and stability as both are important for the acquisition of more FDIs, at the time when we are seeing nascent progress of the national economy.

See page 9
Seven more civilians killed in Rakhine

FROM PAGE 1

“Terrorists were estimated to be about one hundred. As children were accompanying them, they seemed to live in nearby villages. I was greatly annoyed with being ballyed by them. I would not leave our locations. On our way to the place, there were many people left at their places, as there were not any vehicles such as cars and boats,” he added.

Since then, more than 18,000 Muslims from Rakhine State, have fled the violence in northwest Myanmar, while thousands more are stuck at the Bangladesh border or scrambling to reach it.

In addition, the government has evacuated thousands of Rakhine Buddhists further south to Sittway.

The United Nations, while condemning the militant attacks, has asked the Union government to protect civilian lives without discrimination and appealed to Bangladesh to admit those fleeing the military counteroffensive.

At least 109 people have been killed in the attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists, most of them terrorists but also members of the security forces and civilians.

The violence marks a dramatic escalation of a conflict that has simmered since October, when a similar co-ordinated attack on security posts.

—Myanmar News Agency

India relaxes restrictions on pulses import from Myanmar

Indian Embassy in Yangon announced yesterday relaxation of the limitation on beans import from Myanmar in attempts to address the concerns related to cases in which contracts had been entered into by making advance payments.

“In view of the special relationship between India and Myanmar, the Government of India has now intimated a relaxation of the provisions of Para 1.05 of the Foreign Trade Policy in order to provide for registration of such import contracts of Toor Dal (Pigeon Pea) for which advance payments had been made prior to 5th August, 2017, and for which contract papers and proforma invoices authenticated by the Government of Myanmar and copies of SWIFT documents authenticated by the bank concerned are available,” said the statement released by the embassy.

The announcement came after discussions between the Embassy of India and Myanmar authorities.—GNLM

“Light, where Darkness was”

FROM PAGE 8

For many years U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin) was the prime mover of the activities of Sarpay Beikman. There was a quarterly Sarpay Beikman magazine which is now a monthly magazine Thuta Padetha.

The writer is proud to say that he, as a student at the Yangon University was an observer and later participant in the activities of Sarpay Beikman. Later he was chosen as member of the central Executive Committee of Writers and Journalists Association and permanent member of Sarpay Beikman. In these capacities, he had served until his very old age of 80 years in the activities of both Sarpay Beikman and Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association—literary talks, Seminars, Discussion, Exchange program at home and abroad.

“Today he attended this auspicious ceremony of 70th Anniversary of Sarpay Beikman graced by the presence of the Union Minister for Information H.E Dr. Pe Myint.

Today in this 21st century of Globalization Age need new generation of good and efficient translators.

It is not an easy job to train good and efficient translators. Dictionary alone cannot produce good efficient translators. Language and literature are very fluid.

They abruptly change according to time, place and circumstances. Translator must move with current changes picking up and paying special attention to usage, jargons jokes of the time translators must be able to read between lines. So on this occasion of Sarpay Beikman 70th anniversary, the writer makes a clarion call for the training of a new generation of Translators. ■
Russian, Mongolian Presidents agree to hold detailed talks on WEF sidelines

BUDAPEST — Russian President Vladimir Putin and Mongolian President Khaltmaagin Battulga have agreed to hold detailed talks on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Vladivostok.

In the course of a working meeting here on Monday, Putin congratulated Battulga on the occasion of the Mongolian team’s successful performance at the World Judo Championship.

“I’m glad to get to know you personally,” Putin said. “We know you as a politician and a good athlete. I’d like to congratulate you on the Mongolian judokas’ very good performance here at the World Championship.”

He said he planned to have a more detailed discussion of the Russian-Mongolian relations with Battulga at the forum in Vladivostok where the latter man planned to come.

Putin added that Russian-Mongolian trade was demonstrating fair dynamics this year, saying: “While we evidenced a 20% slump last year, there was 34% growth in January-June 2017 alone.”

He called attention to progress made in along the political vector of bilateral relations, as much as in the economy and cultural ties. Specifically, he pointed out the active operations of Russian-Mongolian joint-venture companies and a growing volume of cargo haulage across the Russian-Mongolian border.

Khaltmaagin Battulga said on his part he was especially pleased to meet with Putin in the brims of the judo championship. “Since both of us take interest in the theme and love it, it’s really great I think we’re meeting in the course of an event like this one. I think it will lay down fair prerequisites for the future.”

He voiced the hope Putin and he would have more detailed talks in Vladivostok, adding that he planned to promote trade with Russia.

“Hope to promote relations with our northern neighbor with due account of the current reality,” Battulga said.

He also stated a growth of bilateral trade, saying that it mostly reflected an increase of trade between cross-border regions. In the light of it, he suggested that special attention should be given to cross-border cooperation in view of the fact the Russian-Mongolian border is more than 4,000 km long.

Battulga stressed his particular interest in the sphere of investment. He recalled in this connection Mongolian-Russian joint-venture Ulaanbaatar Railways, which the sides co-owned on parity grounds.

“Agreed,” Putin answered. Vladivostok hosts the 3rd World Economic Forum on September 6-7 this year. TASS is the general information partner of the event, the official photo host and the moderator on the floor of investment projects presentation.—Reuters

Freedom of the press under attack from Trump — UN rights boss

GENEVA — The United Nations’ top human rights official said on Wednesday that derogatory remarks by US President Donald Trump about journalists could amount to incitement and embolden followers to attack certain communities.

Trump, speaking in Arizona last week, defended his response to a white supremacist-organised rally in Virginia and criticised news organisations for their coverage of the violence in the Virginia college town of Charlottesville, calling journalists “truly dishonest people”.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad al-Hussein said: “It’s really quite amazing when you think that freedom of the press, not only sort of a cornerstone of the US Constitution but very much something that the United States defended over the years is now itself under attack from the President. “It’s sort of a stunning turnaround. And ultimately the sequence is a dangerous one,” he told a news conference. — Reuters

South Korea names top envoys to US, China, Japan

SEOUL — South Korea has appointed a former diplomat and presidential economic adviser as its ambassador to the United States and also named top diplomats to China and Japan, the presidential Blue House said on Wednesday.

Cho Yoon-je, an international trade expert who had previously served as South Korea’s ambassador to Britain, will become South Korea’s new envoy to the United States, the Blue House said in a statement.—Reuters

US court lifts restraining orders affecting Congo Eurobond

ABIDJAN — A US court ruled to lift two restraining notices that had blocked a coupon payment on Congo Republic’s $363 million Eurobond amid a $1 billion legal dispute between the government and a construction firm, according to a court filing seen on Wednesday.

A payment on the bond maturing in 2029 was frozen in June after Commissions Import Export SA filed two restraining notices that blocked a coupon payment, according to a source familiar with the matter.

A payment on the bond maturing in 2029 was frozen in June after Commissions Import Export SA filed two restraining notices that blocked a coupon payment, according to a source familiar with the matter.

ABIDJAN — A US court ruled to lift two restraining notices that had blocked a coupon payment on Congo Republic’s $363 million Eurobond amid a $1 billion legal dispute between the government and a construction firm, according to a court filing seen on Wednesday.

A payment on the bond maturing in 2029 was frozen in June after Commissions Import Export SA filed two restraining notices that blocked a coupon payment, according to a source familiar with the matter.
‘Gates of Hell’: Iraqi army says fighting near Tal Afar worse than Mosul

BAGHDAD — Iraqi forces battling to retake the small town of al-'Ayadiya where militants fleeing Tal Afar have entrenched themselves, say on Tuesday the fighting is “multiple times worse” than the battle for Mosul's old city.

Hundreds of battle-hardened fighters were positioned inside most houses and high buildings inside the town, making it difficult for government forces to make any progress, army officers told Reuters.

Iraqi government troops captured the town of Mosul from Islamic State in June, but only after eight months of grinding urban warfare.

But one Iraqi officer, Colonel Kareem al-Lami, described breaching the militants’ first line of defense in al-'Ayadiya as like opening “the gates of hell”.

Iraqi forces have in recent days recaptured almost all of the northwestern city of Tal Afar, long a stronghold of Islamic State. They have been waiting to take al-'Ayadiya, just 11 km (7 miles) northwest of the city, before declaring complete victory.

Tough resistance from the militants in al-'Ayadiya has forced the Iraqi forces to increase the number of air strikes, as well as bring in reinforcements from the federal police to boost units from the army, air force, Federal Police, the elite US-trained Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) and some units from the Shi'ite Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF).

Up to 2,000 battle-hardened militants were believed to be defending Tal Afar against around 50,000 government troops last week.

Military intelligence indicated that many militants fled Tal Afar to mount a staunch defense in al-'Ayadiya. Many motorcycle criers carrying the Islamic State insignia were seen abandoned at the side of the road outside al-'Ayadiya.

Though the exact numbers of militants on the ground in al-'Ayadiya was still unclear, al-Lami, the Iraqi Army colonel, estimated they were in their “hundreds.”

“Daesh (Islamic State) fighters in their hundreds are taking positions inside almost every single house in the town,” he said.

Sniper shots, mortars, heavy machine guns and anti-armored projectiles were fired from every single house, he added.

“We thought the battle for Mosul's Old City was tough, but this one proved to be multiple times worst,” al-Lami said. “We are facing tough fighters who have nothing to lose and are ready to die.”

Two army officers told Reuters that no significant advances had yet been made in al-'Ayadiya. They said they were waiting for artillery and air strikes to undermine the militants power.

The extra Federal Police troops that were called in said late on Tuesday that they had controlled 50 percent of the town, deploying snipers on the high buildings and intensified shelling the militants headquarters with rockets, a federal police spokesman said in a statement.

Tal Afar became the next target of the US-backed war on the jihadist group following the recapture of Mosul, where it had declared its “caliphate” over parts of Iraq and Syria in 2014. —Reuters

Islamic State claims attack on house of Afghan lawmaker

JALALABAD — Militant group Islamic State on Wednesday claimed responsibility for a suicide attack on the home of a powerful member of parliament in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad that killed two security guards and both attackers.

The attacker targeted the house of Zahir Qadir, deputy speaker of parliament and a member of a prominent political family long opposed to both the Taliban and Islamic State, which is based largely in eastern Nangarhar province.

Officials said the guards were killed when one attacker detonated a suicide vest. The other attacker was shot dead immediately.

In a statement on its Amaq news agency, Islamic State said two of its fighters had attacked the house. Qadir achieved notoriety two years ago when militia fighters loyal to him beheaded four Islamic State militants and displayed their severed heads on the side of a road in Nangarhar in retaliation for the beheading of four militiamen. —Reuters

Jordan border crossing with Iraq to reopen in major boost to ties

AMMAN— Jordan will open its main border crossing with Iraq on Wednesday for the first time since 2015, now that Iraqi forces have gained control of the main highway to Baghdad from Islamic State militants, both governments said.

Iraqi troops pulled out of the Tureibil post, on the 180 km (110 mile) border, in summer 2014 after the militants secured nearly all the official crossings of the western frontier as they swept through a third of the country. Commercial traffic continued for a year after until Iraq launched an offensive in July 2015 to reclaim the predominantly Sunni Anbar province and deprive the militants of funds raised from truck drivers forced to pay a tax on cargo coming in from Jordan.

Tureibil would open on Wednesday after the road was secured “from attacks and criminal gangs,” the Iraqi and Jordanian governments said in a joint statement. —Reuters

Sudan president pardons, frees rights activist — family

KHARTOUM — Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has pardoned and released a prominent human rights activist who had been jailed since last year on spying and other charges, his family said.

The release of Mudawi Ibrahim Adam came after a visit by US President Donald Trump’s aid administrator to Sudan and before an October deadline when the administration will decide whether to permanently lift 20-year-old sanctions.

“He is home after a presidential amnesty and he seems in good health,” his wife Sabah told Reuters late on Tuesday.

International rights groups had often called for the release of Ibrahim Adam, who they said had faced the death penalty on false charges since his arrest in December.

USAID chief Mark Green had met with Sudanese authorities this week as part of a fact-finding mission to assess whether Khartoum was meeting conditions to lift sanctions on Sudan. Just before leaving office, former US President Barack Obama temporarily eased penalties against Sudan, suspending a trade embargo, unfreezing assets and removing sanctions.

In July, the Trump administration postponed for three months a decision on whether to remove the restrictions full-time - allowing it until 12 October to make a decision. US officials have said limited steps to ease sanctions are meant to recognise progress in Sudan, particularly moves to reduce internal conflict and increase cooperation with Washington in the war against terrorism.—Reuters
Russia may supply first ten Ka-226T helicopters to India in 2017

MOSCOW — The first batch of 10 Kamov Ka-226T helicopters stipulated under a contract for 200 such rotocraft may be supplied to India already this year, Russian Helicopters Group, part of Russia’s state hi-tech corporation Rostec, said on Tuesday.

“We are planning to deliver the first batch of 10 helicopters after we receive the first payment. We are discussing with the Defence Ministry of India when the first payment will be made. We hope that this will be done this year,” the Russian Helicopters press office said. Rostec CEO Sergei Chemezov earlier said that the contract for the delivery of Ka-226T helicopters to India was worth over $1 billion.

According to him, 40 helicopters should be supplied by Russia while the other 160 machines should be produced under license in India.

The Russian-Indian agreement on cooperation in the production of helicopters was signed in 2015 and in 2016 both sides concluded a deal on setting up a joint venture for the output of Ka-226Ts. As was reported earlier, Ka-226T helicopters will be produced in Russia at two enterprises located in Kumertau and Ulan Ude.

The Ka-226T light multirole helicopter with a coaxial rotor system has a maximum takeoff weight of 3.4 tonnes and is capable of carrying up to 1.5 tonnes of cargoes or up to seven passengers to a distance of 600 km.—Tass

Kremlin says got Trump adviser email about tower project but ignored it

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin’s spokesman confirmed on Wednesday he had received an email in January last year from an adviser to Donald Trump about a Moscow real estate project, but said he had neither replied nor discussed it with Putin. The Washington Post reported this week that Michael Cohen, one of Trump’s closest business advisers, had emailed Dmitry Peskov, Putin’s spokesman, seeking his help in advancing a stalled Trump Tower development project in Moscow. Trump was running to become president at the time.

Peskov, answering questions about the matter on a conference call with reporters on Wednesday, said he had seen the email among many others he said he received every day, but had not responded to it because the request was not the kind of thing he dealt with in his job as Kremlin spokesman.

“I can confirm that among the mass of e-mails there was an e-mail from Mr. Michael Cohen. This really happened,” said Peskov.—Reuters

US conducts missile defence test off Hawaii coast

HAWAII — The US Missile Defence Agency and the Navy successfully conducted a missile defense test off the coast of Hawaii, MDA said in a statement on Wednesday.

The test, scheduled well in advance, was done from the USS John Paul Jones and comes a day after North Korea fired a ballistic missile over Japan.

The test, using Standard Missile-6 guided missiles, intercepted a medium-range ballistic missile target. North Korea said its missile launch was to counter US and South Korean military drills, and was a first step in military action in the Pacific to “contain” the US territory of Guam. The launch was condemned by the United Nations as an “outrageous” act. The MDA said the test gives the naval component of the missile defence system higher ability to intercept ballistic missiles in their terminal phase.

Japan has been worried that the United States has so far declined to arm it with a powerful new radar, Reuters reported on Wednesday. Japan is seeking a land-based version of the Aegis ballistic missile defense system, operational by 2023, as a new layer of defense to help counter North Korea’s missile advances.—Reuters

 CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV STAR MASAYA VOY. NO (V517018) Consignees of cargo carried on MV STAR MASAYA VOY. NO (V517018) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 on 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: MS BEN LINE AGENCIES PTE LTD.
Phone No: 2301928

 CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO (1715) Consignees of cargo carried on MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO (1715) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 on 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: MS BLPL SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185
British Prime Minister Theresa May arrived in Japan on Wednesday for a three-day visit during which she is expected to stress her unity with Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe over North Korea and discuss the future of bilateral economic and trade ties.

May went to Kyoto from Osaka International Airport to experience a tea ceremony hosted by Abe and hold talks over dinner in the ancient capital, according to the Japanese government.

While the outcome of the unofficial dinner talks will not be made public, Abe and May are expected to affirm their cooperation in the fields of security and the economy.

The Japanese government announced Wednesday that May will attend a meeting of Japan’s National Security Council to be held Thursday afternoon ahead of the bilateral talks.

Such an invitation has previously been extended just once, to then Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott in 2014. Abe and May agreed in April this year to advance with joint defence exercises and defence equipment research.

Ahead of the NSC meeting, May is scheduled to inspect the Maritime Self-Defence Force’s helicopter carrier Izumo at Yokosuka base in Kanagawa Prefecture, southwest of Tokyo.

The visit is May’s first to Japan since she took office in July last year.

May is also set to meet with Emperor Akihito before leaving Japan on Friday.—Kyodo News

Any fraudulent imitation or counterfeit or unauthorized use of the said trademark will be dealt with according to the law.

For KABUSHIKI KAISHA DARIYA, trading as DARIYA CO., LTD., a company incorporated under the laws of Japan; of 3-5-24 Marunouchi, Naka-ku, Nagoya-shi, Aichi 460-0002, Japan, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark—

registered in Myanmar under Reg. No. 4/8681/2017 in respect of “Class 3: Cosmetics; cosmetic preparations for hair; soaps and detergents; hair color preparations; hair dyes; bleaching preparations for hair; hair treatment preparations; cosmetic hair dressing preparations; hair styling preparations; hair wax; hair wax for use in hair styling and colors; hair lotions; hair spray; hair waving preparations; hair tonic; hair grower; hair creams; hair shampoo; hair conditioner; cosmetics for skin care; emulsions; gels and lotions for skin care; cosmetic creams, milks, lotions, gels and powders for the face, hands and body; sunscreen for cosmetic use; perfumed paste for cosmetic use; perfumeries; cakes of toilet soap; bleaching powder; washing preparations; cleaning preparations; polishing preparations; polishes; grinding preparations; essential oils; dentifrices.”

Any fraudulent imitation or counterfeit or unauthorized use of the said trademark will be dealt with according to the law.

For KABUSHIKI KAISHA DARIYA, trading as DARIYA CO., LTD., a company incorporated under the laws of Japan; of 3-5-24 Marunouchi, Naka-ku, Nagoya-shi, Aichi 460-0002, Japan, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark—

registered in Myanmar under Reg. No. 4/8680/2017 in respect of “Class 3: Cosmetics; cosmetic preparations for hair; soaps and detergents; hair color preparations; hair dyes; bleaching preparations for hair; bleaching preparations [decolorants] for cosmetic purposes; color-removing preparations for hair; hair treatment preparations; cosmetic hair dressing preparations; hair styling preparations; hair wax; hair wax for use in hair styling and colors; hair lotions; hair spray; hair waving preparations; hair tonic; hair grower; hair creams; hair shampoo; hair conditioner; cosmetics for skin care; emulsions, gels and lotions for skin care; cosmetic creams, milks, lotions, gels and powders for the face, hands and body; sunscreen for cosmetic use; perfumed paste for cosmetic use; perfumeries; cakes of toilet soap; bleaching powder; washing preparations; cleaning preparations; polishing preparations; polishes; grinding preparations; essential oils; dentifrices.”
Stars, virtual reality and migrants to dominate Venice film fest

VENICE — A refugee documentary by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, a horror film starring Jennifer Lawrence and George Clooney’s latest directorial effort are all tipped as must-sees at the Venice film fest set to open on the Lido island on Wednesday.

Top Hollywood talent and auteur directors will be vying for the Golden Lion at the world’s oldest film festival which, after a period in the doldrums, is again considered a launching pad for the industry’s award season, after it premiered Academy winners in its last four editions.

Space drama “Gravity”, clergy sex-abuse film “Spotlight” and last year’s musical “La La Land” secured Oscars after featuring in Venice. Those wins have helped attract talent to this year’s festival, said artistic director Alberto Barbera.

“Finally all the majors, the big Hollywood studios, realised that coming to Venice ... it really changes the perspective of a film,” Barbera told Reuters on the eve of the festival, which runs till 9 September. “It’s much easier to get the films that we want.”

The festival’s 74th edition opens with Alexander Payne’s “Downsizing”, a satire starring Matt Damon about a couple who decide to shrink themselves to four inches tall.

The rich selection of US and international movies also includes Darren Aronofsky’s “Mother!”, starring Lawrence and Javier Bardem; Guillermo Del Toro’s “The Shape of Water”; and Stephen Frears’ “Victoria and Abdul”, with Judi Dench as the 19th century queen, which screens in the out-of-competition section.

“There are a lot of movies with strong Oscar potential,” said Ariston Anderson, a film critic at the Hollywood Reporter. She lamented the fact that only one female director featured in the main competition, but complimented the organisers for being the first major cinema event to feature a virtual reality competition.

“It sends a strong message for a platform like Venice to have a competition for VR, that this is a new art form, we are going to judge it, we’re going to accept it and see what comes out of it,” she said.

Concrete slabs were positioned at entrances to control vehicle traffic, and arrivals were screened at the festival venue as security was beefed up following violent attacks across Europe.

Current affairs also feature in the lineup with the Ai Weiwei’s hotly anticipated “Human Flow”, the Chinese artist’s first film and “a daring documentary”, Barbera said, adding that bringing the film to Venice was a political statement as well.

“It’s not just a festival, we are a festival which deals with the problems of the contemporary world.”

One of the highlights this year is Clooney’s return to Venice with “Suburbicon”, a dark comedy starring Damon and Julianne Moore. Clooney, who tied the knot in a huge celebrity wedding in Venice in 2014, has since made Italy his second home. “Venice loves Clooney, Clooney loves Venice ... Jennifer Lawrence is obviously a huge fashion icon, she makes a presence wherever she goes, but I don’t think anybody commands a room like Clooney does in Venice,” Anderson said. —Reuters

Kardashians pledge $500,000 as celebs rally for Harvey storm relief

LOS ANGELES — Kim Kardashian and her family on Monday donated a collective $500,000 to storm Harvey relief efforts, joining celebrities like Jennifer Lopez, Dwayne Johnson, NFL player JJ Watt and comedian Kevin Hart who have pledged funds to help the tens of thousands affected by the devastation in Texas.

Kardashian, her sisters Khloe and Kourtney and mom Kris Jenner made the pledges on Twitter, directing their funds to the Red Cross and Salvation Army.

“Houston we are praying for you! Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & I will be donating $500,000,” the TV reality star tweeted.

Tropical Storm Harvey, which hit land as a hurricane over the weekend, has brought catastrophic flooding to Texas, killing at least 11 people and paralyzing Houston. City officials on Tuesday prepared to shelter up to 18,000 people, with thousands more expected to flee the area.

“Ride Along” star Hart set the celebrity ball rolling on Monday with a $50,000 donation and social media challenge that called on stars to match him.

Johnson, Lopez and rapper DJ Khaled each have pledged $25,000.

Houston Texans NFL player Watt launched his own online effort on Sunday with a $100,000 donation and a video plea.

The fund quickly reached $1 million, and Watt tweeted on Tuesday his goal was now $4 million.

Houston’s most famous export, Beyonce, who has recently moved from New York to Los Angeles, has said she is working on a plan to help her hometown recover.

“Texas You are in my prayers,” the singer posted on her Instagram page.

In statement to the Houston Chronicle on Monday, Beyonce added that she was working closely with her team and her Houston pastor “to implement a plan to help as many as we can.”

British band Coldplay, who canceled a planned show in Houston on Friday because of the impending hurricane, wrote a new song for the city called “Houston #1,” which they performed at a concert in Miami on Monday. —Reuters

I was often afraid to take risks: John Legend

NEW YORK — Musician John Legend has said he wishes he would have been a little bolder when he was younger.

The 38-year-old singer said he would have been a little bolder when he was younger.

Legend said. When asked what piece of advice he would offer to his younger self, the “All of Me” hitmaker said he would tell himself, “Love yourself and see what comes out of it,” she said.

British band Coldplay, who canceled a planned show in Houston on Friday because of the impending hurricane, wrote a new song for the city called “Houston #1,” which they performed at a concert in Miami on Monday. —Reuters

...stil figuring out who I wanted to be. Sometimes I look back and think, ‘I should have just been bolder and more confident,”’ Legend said. When asked what piece of advice he would offer to his younger self, the “All of me” hitmaker said he would ask him to take risks. “I would tell myself, ‘Love yourself and don’t be afraid to take risks,’” he said. —PTI

A woman (R) is helped to try on earphones and a headset used for virtual reality at the Venice Virtual Reality a competition during 74th Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy on 29 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Musician John Legend. PHOTO: PTI
Iconic castle roof statues recreated in quake-hit Kumamoto

KUMAMOTO (Japan) — The southwestern Japan city of Kumamoto on Wednesday unveiled new statues for the roof of its iconic castle to replace those damaged by last year’s major earthquakes. Four new statues of the “Shachihoko” — a mythical half-fish creature — to be placed atop the main towers of Kumamoto Castle, are being displayed at a nearby visitor center.

The nonprofit Nippon Foundation provided the reconstruction cost of about 25 million yen ($228,000) for the statues, which stand 120 centimetres tall for the larger tower and 90 cm tall for the smaller tower. Two local roof tile craftsmen were engaged in the recreation. With large, bulbous eyes and wide fins, the statues are regarded as guardians of the castle, where massive repair work is under way to repair serious damage resulting from the quakes in April 2016.

The larger statues will be on display at the visitor center until next February and the smaller until August 2019, before being reinstalled in their original location.—Kyodo News

Sushi chain to offer low-carbohydrate dish using white radish

OSAKA — Revolving sushi chain Kurasushi will offer a low-carbohydrate sushi-like dish using Japanese white radish in place of orthodox vinegared sushi. The new dish will be available at its restaurants nationwide from Thursday and will be offered with a choice of four toppings, including shrimp and Albacore tuna, and priced at 108 yen each.

Sushi with half the amount of rice will also be available at the same price, the operator said.

“We hope (the dish) will be savored deliciously with vegetables, without (the consumer) worrying about sugar content,” said an official of the sushi chain. —Kyodo News

Thailand offers course for women who marry foreigners

BANGKOK — Thailand is offering a free course to help Thai women cope with the highs and lows of inter-racial marriage and avoid potential scams or falling victim to human trafficking when moving abroad.

As Thai society becomes more accepting of interracial marriages, some women view them as a way to better their economic status, the social development ministry says.

“Our course will teach women how to conduct themselves, about the laws of their destination country, and how to prepare before going,” said senior ministry official Patcharee Arayakul. “This is to reduce the risks of women being scammed or being a victim of human trafficking,” added Patcharee, who is the director of the ministry’s division of gender equality.

Although there is no recent data on such marriages, a 2004 government study showed more than 15,000 women from one of the poorest regions, northeastern Isan, had married foreign men, and sent a monthly total of 122 million baht to their families.

The course covers “legal rights, how to seek help through relevant Thai authorities, as well as exploring issues of culture shock,” said Du-sadee Ayuwat, an associate professor at Khon Kaen University who helped to design it. The practical advice was very useful, said one woman who attended the day-long course, paid for by the ministry. “I was more interested in the legal aspects rather than the culture shock,” said the woman, who declined to be named. The course could be useful for some Thai women, said Phoonsa Duangdararungreung, a former spa manager who is married to German national Ralf Wacker. “Thai women, especially those from the northeast region, are soft-spoken and submissive,” she said. “They must learn to respect themselves and their culture.” Her husband said the course could prepare women for the reality of life in the West. “For a lot of women, life in the West is like a fairy tale, but in reality it can feel extremely isolating moving to a small town,” said Wacker, who urged Thailand to offer a similar course for Western spouses. “If the Western man does not understand the family dynamics, this can cause a lot of problems.” — Reuters
Myanmar selects team for Asian Cup qualification

Kyaw Zin Lin

In preparation for the Asian Cup qualification, Myanmar has selected 21 players, including several players who participated in the 29th SEA Games, according to the official website of the Myanmar Football Federation yesterday.

Well-known national team players Thanh Paing, Aung Thu, Kyaw Ko Ko, Haing Bo Bo, Sann Satt Naing were included in the roster of the Myanmar football team.

The 2019 AFC Asian Cup qualification is the qualification process organised by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to determine the participating teams for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup, the 17th edition of the international men’s football championship of Asia.

For the first time, the Asian Cup final tournament will be contested by 24 teams, having been expanded from the 16-team format that had been used since 2004.

FA charges Newcastle striker Mitrovic over violent conduct

LONDON — The English Football Association has charged Newcastle United striker Aleksandar Mitrovic for an alleged act of violent conduct during last Saturday’s 3-0 Premier League win over West Ham United, the governing body said on Tuesday.

Mitrovic was charged after a unanimous decision was reached and has until 30 August to respond. The 22-year-old was involved in an incident with West Ham midfielder Manuel Lanzini while challenging for an alleged act of violent conduct during last Saturday’s 3-0 Premier League win over West Ham United, the governing body said on Tuesday.

Serbia international Mitrovic was involved in an incident with West Ham midfielder Manuel Lanzini while challenging for the ball in the 59th minute of the game at St James’ Park.

FA charges Newcastle striker Mitrovic over violent conduct

LONDON — The English Football Association has charged Newcastle United striker Aleksandar Mitrovic for an alleged act of violent conduct during last Saturday’s 3-0 Premier League win over West Ham United, the governing body said on Tuesday.

The incident was not seen on camera and the footage was reviewed by a panel of three for matches could see ensure top spot for Belgium in their group and secure a place at next year’s finals in Russia.

They lead the standings with six points after the first two matches, which were played for a while.

Chelsea’s Eden Hazard.

“Eden says he is feeling good but we must take into account the fact he has not played for a while. “The match against Gibraltar seems to me an ideal opportunity for him to play. But we must take it step-by-step and if he plays 90 minutes against Gibraltar, then he won’t play against Greece,” Martinez said.

Belgium host Gibraltar in Liege and then go to Athens to meet Greece. Victory in the two games could see ensure top spot for Belgium in their group and secure a place at next year’s finals in Russia.

They lead the standings with 16 out of a possible 18 points, four ahead of second-placed Greece.

—Reuters

The qualification process will involve four rounds, where the first two doubled as the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification for Asian teams. Myanmar will play against Kyrgyzstan on 5 September in one of the qualification matches.

Myanmar national football team seen at an international football match.

Myanmar will be headed by team Manager U Thann Toe Aung and Head Coach Gerd Zeise.

Photo: MFF

The 2019 AFC Asian Cup qualification process organised by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to determine the participating teams for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup, the 17th edition of the international men’s football championship of Asia. For the first time, the Asian Cup final tournament will be contested by 24 teams, having been expanded from the 16-team format that had been used since 2004.

Kyaw Zin Lin

In preparation for the Asian Cup qualification, Myanmar has selected 21 players, including several players who participated in the 29th SEA Games, according to the official website of the Myanmar Football Federation yesterday.

Well-known national team players Thanh Paing, Aung Thu, Kyaw Ko Ko, Haing Bo Bo, Sann Satt Naing were included in the roster of the Myanmar football team.

The 2019 AFC Asian Cup qualification is the qualification process organised by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to determine the participating teams for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup, the 17th edition of the international men’s football championship of Asia. For the first time, the Asian Cup final tournament will be contested by 24 teams, having been expanded from the 16-team format that had been used since 2004.

BRUSSELS — Eden Hazard could be included in Belgium’s line-up for Thursday’s World Cup qualifier against Gibraltar even though he has yet to play this season, said coach Roberto Martinez on Tuesday.

The Chelsea midfielder was a surprise selection for the Group H qualifiers against Gibraltar this week and Greece next Tuesday after surgery on his ankle, injured on international duty in June.

His club manager, Antonio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.

“My club manager, Anto-

nio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.

“My club manager, Anto-

nio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.

“My club manager, Anto-

nio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.

“My club manager, Anto-

nio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.

“My club manager, Anto-

nio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.

“My club manager, Anto-

nio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.

“My club manager, Anto-

nio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.

“My club manager, Anto-

nio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.

“My club manager, Anto-

nio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.

“My club manager, Anto-

nio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.

“My club manager, Anto-

nio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.

“My club manager, Anto-

nio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.

“My club manager, Anto-

nio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.

“My club manager, Anto-

nio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.

“My club manager, Anto-

nio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.

“My club manager, Anto-

nio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Martinez told reporters he was considering fielding the 26-year-old on Thursday.

“My club manager, Anto-

nio Conte, last week criticised the call-up as “a mistake” but Hazard trained with the Belgian squad on Tuesday in Tubize and afterwards Mart