Voices of displaced from Rakhine

‘I just want to warm myself near a fire in my home: Daw Hnin Nyo, 96

By Min Htet Aung, Tin Maung Lwin

In Sittway, one of the towns where internally displaced people are being housed, there are about 4,000 people living mostly in Monasteries. They were forced to flee the Maungtaw Region due to the attacks by the ARSA extremist terrorists.

Tens of thousands more have headed to the Bangladesh border. Officials have compiled statistics and report that between 28 August and 7 September, a total of 4,645 people (1,904 men and 2,741 women) fled Maungtaw for Sittway and are currently taking refuge in 22 monasteries. The following are interviews with IDPs and those in charge of the temporary shelters. The interviews shed some light into the challenges they are facing.

U Thu Mingalar, Sayadaw of Dhamma Rama monastry

“There are 268 people taking refuge in my monastery, and we provide them with three meals a day. The regional government does provide support, but the monastery receives many donations as well. What we really need is more lavatories and a private donor is working with the city-development committee to fix that problem. We are also trying to send the children here to a nearby school so that their education isn’t stalled. I have told the people taking refuge here to return to their homes when the violence has ended and I urge those in office to make this possible as soon as they can.”

U Kyaw Hla Htun, Chairman of committee for delivering aid to IDPs

“Currently we are providing cash to the IDPs along with healthcare in collaboration with the Rakhine State Department for Relief and Resettlement. The donation items are kept in our warehouses and the donation money is deposited in a bank account in Myanmareconomic Bank.”

Daw Hnin Nyo, 96, of U Daung Village, Maungtaw Township

“I’ve been here for 10 days now. I want to thank everyone who’s helping us through these troubled times. Although I am living here, I’m happier in my home. But since we had to run away due to the terrorist attacks, it isn’t really an option. I’m used to warming myself by a small bonfire in the morning, and I miss that. Last year we had to flee our homes too because of these kinds of terrorist attacks. I want to request that they station more soldiers near our homes so that we feel more secure.”

U San Maung Thein, Waitharli Village, Maungtaw Township

“The Sayadaw and multiple donors are providing us with our basic necessities so we are well taken care of here. I cannot express my gratitude enough to those who are helping us in our time of need. But there are sleepless nights when I long for my home. Everyone here wants to return home and live peacefully again.”

IDPs asked to assemble at provisional camps

WITH a view to a systematic and effective distribution of humanitarian aid to displaced people due to the terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) in the Maungtaw region of northern Rakhine State, the region will be categorised into three areas, it was learnt.

Displaced people who have fled to safer places will be asked to go to the nearest temporary camps in one of the three areas. The region will be categorised into Maungtaw (north), Maungtaw (middle) and Maungtaw (south).

In the north, temporary assembly camps will be opened at Wai Lar Taung, Hlaing Thi and Taunggyo Letyar. In the middle, two camps will be opened at Dargyisar and Kyauk Hlay Kar. In the south, camps will be opened at Thinbaw Gwaw and Thawun Chaung.

In this way, displaced people who are currently spread out will be able to receive humanitarian aid and medical care. Provision of these subsidies will be launched under the programme of the Red Cross Movement (RCM). Displaced people have been asked to assemble at the nearest camps, according to a news release of the Information Committee. —Myanmar News Agency

By Daw Hnin Nyo, 96, of U Daung Village, Maungtaw Township
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Myanmar embassy families in China

A lawsuit has been filed against Ko Maung Maung, the in-charge for land records in Penwaigone Ywama village-tract, Kyauktagya township, Bago Region, alleging that he demanded bribes in return for changing ownership names and making land contracts.

The plaintiff in the case alleged that the bribes were demanded when he was dividing his land that he wanted to give to his offspring in order to allow them to make farming their livelihood.

As a result of the plaintiff’s complaint, the Anti-Corruption Commission formed a committee to investigate the case, finding that U La Pyae Wun, also known as U Maung Maung, demanded bribes amounting to Ks1.125 million six times from May 2014 to 30th May 2017 before he would change ownership names on a document known as “Form 7”. A lawsuit was filed against the defendant under section 56 of the anti-corruption law on 8 September at the Bago Region Supreme Court, at which time the defendant absconded, officials said. Arrangements are being made to take action against U Maung Maung (a) U La Pyae Wun under section 56 of 2013 anti-corruption law and section 512 of Penal Code, according to the Anti-Corruption Commission.—Myanmar News Agency

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint meets H.E. Mr. Yu Zhengsheng, Chairman of CPPCC

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint and Hluttaw affairs committee members who were paying a good will visit to China at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, the People’s Republic of China met with H.E. Mr. Yu Zhengsheng, Chairman of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) yesterday afternoon at a meeting room in Great Hall of the People, Beijing.

Matters relating to increasing friendship and cooperation between the two governments, the parliaments and the peoples, joint development of China and Myanmar through all round strategic cooperation between the two countries and assisting the Myanmar peace process were discussed and views exchanged. Together with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint at the meeting were Hluttaw affairs committee members Mahn Nyunt Thein, U Thaung Nyunt, U Khun Than Htoo, Daw Wint Wai Tun, U Tin Nu @ U Tin Nu Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thaung Lin Ohn, and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office.—Myanmar News Agency

Thura U Shwe Mann meets EEAS Managing director Mr. Gunnar Wiegand

Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, Thura U Shwe Mann received European External Action Service (EEAS) Managing director for Asia Pacific Mr. Gunnar Wiegand yesterday afternoon at Hluttaw Affairs Building 1-1, Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting matters relating to relation between European Union and Myanmar, assistance to Myanmar, improving the effectiveness of the assistance to Myanmar, Rakhine region development, increasing investment and legal affairs were discussed.—Myanmar News Agency

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint to attend ASEAN-Japan ministerial level round table talk

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint left by air from Yangon International Airport for the Philippines yesterday morning to attend an ASEAN-Japan ministerial level round table talk that will be held in Seda Vertis North Hotel, Quezon City under the theme “Countering Fake News and Communicating the Right Information” and was seen off at the airport by officials of the Ministry of Information.

The Union Minister was accompanied by Myanmar Radio and Television director U Zayar.—Myanmar News Agency

Village land records official absconds after being sued

Speaker U Win Myint meets staff of Myanmar embassy in Beijing. PHOTO:MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint who was paying a good will visit to China went to Myanmar Embassy in the People’s Republic of China yesterday and met with families of the Myanmar embassy yesterday afternoon.

Earlier in the day, Myanmar Hluttaw representative group led by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker visited Badaling, the most visited section of the Great Wall of China, where officials explained about the site.—Myanmar News Agency

Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Mr Gunnar Wiegand. PHOTO:MNA

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UNION MINISTER DR. PE MYINT LEFT by air from Yangon International Airport for the Philippines yesterday morning to attend an ASEAN-Japan ministerial level round table talk that will be held in Seda Vertis North Hotel, Quezon City under the theme “Countering Fake News and Communicating the Right Information” and was seen off at the airport by officials of the Ministry of Information.

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Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint is seen at Yangon International Airport as he leaves for the Philippines. PHOTO:MNA
State Counsellor receives Hon. Jose de Venecia of Philippines

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received former Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines Hon. Jose de Venecia yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, matters relating to bilateral relations, economic cooperation and bilateral cooperation under the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) were discussed. The meeting was attended by U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Gina de Venecia, wife of the former Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines and former representative of the House of Representatives of the Philippines, and the Philippines Ambassador to Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar Interfaith Group meets IDPs in Sittway, Rakhine State

By Tin Maung Lwin, Min Htet Aung

U Khin Maung Tin, Deputy Minister for the Ministry of the State Counsellor Office and members of the Myanmar Interfaith Friendship Group gave cash assistance to displaced people in Sittway due to the ARSA extremist terrorists’ attacks, yesterday morning.

In the morning, the Deputy Minister and party visited Mani Yadanar and Aloatwppayy monasteries in Sittway to pay homage to Sayadaws, donating money contributed by the Myanmar Interfaith Friendship Group to displaced people. Afterward, the Deputy Minister and party, together with U Aung Kyaw Zan, Rakhine State Minister for Electricity, Industry, Transport and Communications, and U Min Aung, Rakhine State Minister for Development, met with local people from both communities, discussing concerning terrorist attacks.

After the meeting, the Deputy Minister clarified the matters — situations on present supports over local people’s necessities, development tasks such as peace, stability, security and rehabilitation to be carried out further after terrorist attacks.

ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting successfully concluded

ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) was held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ASEM SOM meeting was chaired by Myanmar ASEM Senior Official, U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

At the meeting, ASEM delegations discussed the matters related to the preparation of 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting that will be hosted by Myanmar in November 2017. ASEM Senior Officials’ meeting was successfully concluded in the afternoon.—Myanmar News Agency

Helicopter makes emergency landing due to severe weather

TATMADAW helicopter with Rakhine State Chief Minister and party on board leaving for Sittwe to support subsidies for displaced people at the rescue camps had to make emergency landing at Kyikinpyin village at 11.30 am yesterday, but it was learnt that provisions were managed to have been sent to those camps.

U Hla Tun Kyaw, local resident at Tat Chaung village, in Maungtaw region said, “In such a time when the weather was severely harsh, provisions were sent to us. For this, we were greatly rejoiced and we were grateful. Though we earned our living on farming, we were greatly in trouble because of unstable conditions, heavy rains and shortage of the food. Especially, now we greatly need salt, fish paste, cigar and betel leaves and betel nuts. At this time we were very grateful toward the Chief Minister and party for fulfilling our present necessities. As for security matters, we have had people’s militia forces in our village, and border guard police forces, so we need not worry about it, apart from the need of food and clothing.”

Chief Minister and party contributed foods and commodities to displaced local people at Tat Chaung village where Mr. and Daingnet ethnic people mostly reside and at the village, “Tha Pannaka” where Mro and Rakhine nationals live. Subsidies include rice, cooking oil, salt, bean, chilli, onion, potatoes, drugs, clothing and slippers.

Rakhine State Cabinet and party are delivering foods and other subsidies to local people daily by helicopter.—Myanmar News Agency
Registration of persons with disabilities

PRIORITY will be given to a project on identification of persons with disabilities (PWDs) and it is planned to be implemented only after enacting bylaws for PWDs, said U Myat Thu Win, general secretary of the Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities.


According to a report of the Myanmar Daily on Monday, 21 January, the country became a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in late 2011. According to a report of the Myanmar Daily on Friday, 18 January, it is important for the disabled persons to ensure their rights and other benefits under the existing laws. He continued to say that a national committee led by the vice president will be appeared after passing the bylaws which is expected to come out within a few months, hoping that there will be lots of things benefiting for the PWDs with the help of the rules.

The PWD identification card will also help the PWDs get more employment opportunities than before, he added.

Eye survey results to be issued this year

The results of a nationwide eye survey will be issued before the end of this fiscal year, according to the Yangon Eye Hospital.

“We conducted the survey across the nation last year. We have surveyed for the kind of eye diseases that mostly occur, percentage of the eye diseases by type and how many patients with cataracts. The survey was completed and we are starting to calculate with software to make sure the data obtained is correct. We have planned to issue the survey data in November and December,” said Professor Dr. Tin Win, a medical superintendent from the Yangon Eye Hospital.

The data from the survey will be used to help calculate the budget for treatment and training projects.

The survey was conducted by local and foreign eye specialists and survey experts, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Health and Sports.— GNLM

Underground electricity system to be implemented

TO be able to distribute electricity efficiently in the Yangon region, an underground electricity distribution system project will be implemented, said Daw Nilar Kyaw, the Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation.

“If we can implement the underground electricity project, we can solve the blackouts that occur frequently in the Yangon region. Currently, we are distributing electricity above ground through lamp posts. Blackouts are usually caused by broken branches (that fall onto electrical wires). There are three stages in an electricity system: generating, transporting and distributing. Among them, we are planning to implement the electricity distributing system from underground. The underground electricity distributing system will be implemented depending on the budget situation”, Daw Nilar Kyaw said.—GNLM

Yangon parks to be beautified

THE Yangon City Development Committee is planning to renovate Mingalardon and South Dagon parks this fiscal year, according to a report yesterday in the Myawady Daily.

Yangon boasts more than 60 public parks, 25 of which were restored in FY2015-2016 and FY2016-2017 by the Parks and Gardens Department. Yangon Region government allocated Ks1.5 billion to upgrade the parks in FY2017-2018. YCDC will also repair CCTV networks at Inwa Lake in Pyay Road.— GNLM

Heroin seized in Bhamo Township

An informant provided authorities a tip that led counter-narcotics officers to arrest Thein Aung, also known as Mar Hsaie, yesterday, after they allegedly discovered 2.1 grams of heroin in his house owned by Win Myint, also known as Aik Myo, at Maha Htaung village, Bhamo Township in Kachin State and found 8.4 grams of heroin in a bottle.

Police have also filed charges against both suspects under Sections 15 and 16(C) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.—District IFRD

Myanmar to showcase natural beauty for tourism expo in Japan

MYANMAR will promote the beauty of Kayah, Chin and Rakhine states and Taninthayi Region at the JATA Tourism Expo in Tokyo, Japan from 21 to 25 September. Among other gifts, Myanmar’s states and regions will promote their rich biodiversity as well as a growing number of accommodations and attractions, including traditional dance performances, handicraft sales and other draws for tourists. The expo will also be shown a video featuring Myanmar’s landscape and people.—GNLM
Dried fish market cools due to lower demand

THE local dried fish market remains cool because of lower demand from regions and scarcity of the fish, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

“This is rainy season, and we are facing difficulty to dry the fish”, said U Soe Win, the owner of Nadi Ayeya, a brokerage at the Bayintnaung wholesale market.

Currently, a few varieties of dried fish (yellow pike conger, bombay duck and false trevally) enter the Mawlamyine and Pyapon township. The dried fish from Sittway will enter the market in October and November.

“The price of dried fish will increase when dried fish enters the market from Sittway”, said U Soe Win.

Currently, manta rays are selling for Ks8,000 per viss, while false trevally costs between Ks3,000 and Ks3,200 per viss. Yellow pike conger costs between Ks4,000 and Ks4,500 per viss.—GNLM

Price of low-quality rice increases

THE price of low-quality rice has increased because of high demand from the Muse 105-mile trade zone, said traders at the Bayintnaung wholesale rice market.

The price of low-quality rice has increased between Ks200 and Ks1,800 per bag during the last week of August. The price of low-quality rice continues to increase because Myanmar is exporting the rice via sea routes, according to rice traders.

“Next month, farmers from the western part of the Bago region will harvest their paddy fields. At that time, we expect that the rice price will become normal”, said U Zaw Khine, a rice merchant.

Although the price of low-quality rice has increased, the market for quality rice is cool. Currently, between 60,000 and 80,000 rice bags entered the Bayintnaung and Wahdon wholesale markets regularly, according to rice merchants.

Currently, Pyapon Pawsan rice is selling for between Ks32,000 and Ks34,000 per bag, while Dedaye Pawsan and Myaungmya Pawsan rice costs between Ks32,500 and Ks34,000 per bag.

The price of Ehmata Moe costs between Ks19,500 and Ks21,200 per bag, and Ehmata is selling for between Ks19,500 and Ks19,700. Ngwe rice (90days) costs between Ks22,000 and Ks23,000 and Ngwe Ti between Ks21,000 and Ks21,400, according to the rice market.—Zwe

China imports marine products increase

CHINA imported over 1,150 tons of a wide variety of marine products worth US$2.272 million from Myanmar via the Muse 105-mile trade zone between 19 and 25 August, according to Muse border trade authorities.

The export volume of fisheries products increased by 442 tons with a value of $874,000 compared with the previous week.

Neighbouring China, the world's most populous nation, significantly increased its import of crab, eel and other kinds of marine products in the third week of last month, domestic exporters say.—Khine Khant
Rakhine Issue and Security Outlook talk

Under the arrangement of Myanmar Foreign Ministry, a talk on Rakhine Issue and Security Outlook was held at Mini Theatre Room of the Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday, 8 September. The three-day meeting was attended by representatives from 51 ASEM partners including Myanmar, the European Union (EU), the ASEAN secretariat and Asia-Europe Foundation and discussed matters relating to enabling cooperation in energy, trade, communications and achieving mutual benefit from cooperation.— Mi Mi Hmwe

ASEM FMM 13 in Myanmar

MYANMAR will host the two-day 13th Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers’ Meetings (ASEM FMM 13) from 20 to 21 November.

To successfully host the ASEM FMM 13, ASEM Senior Officials’ Meeting (ASEM SOM) was held at the Myanmar International Convention Center-1 (MICC-1) in Nay Pyi Taw for three days from 6 to 8 September. The three-day meeting was attended by representatives from 51 ASEM partners including Myanmar, the European Union (EU), the ASEAN secretariat and Asia-Europe Foundation and discussed matters relating to enabling cooperation in energy, trade, communications and achieving mutual benefit from cooperation.— Mi Mi Hmwe

Humanitarian aids provided to displaced people

INTERNATIONAL Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a humanitarian organization based in Maungtaw Township provided aids to displaced people who were in Alethankyaw beach, Maungtaw Township.

20 bags of rice, 8 bags of beans, 24 cans of cooking oil, 100 boxes of Hygiene Kit, 2 bags of mosquito nets and medicines were presented to the displaced people on 7 September.

The information committee stated that the government will lead the Red Cross Movement (RCM) for international and local donors to provide effective humanitarian aids to all displaced persons regardless of race and religion in accordance with the humanitarian assistance principles. —Myanmar News Agency

Donation of ten trucks to Rakhine State govt’t

A company donated ten trucks to Rakhine State Government yesterday to assist in the government’s efforts for delivering aid to the displaced people in northern Maungtaw.

At the donation ceremony held at the office of Rakhine State government, personnel from MCM company handed over 10 Foton vehicles to Rakhine State government.

Rakhine State Minister for Planning, Finance, Tax and Economy U Kyaw Aye Thein attended the ceremony and accepted the donation.

The trucks will be commissioned into service today to transport aid to Maungtaw.

U Thein Win, an official from MCM Company said the donation was made to carry foods and utensils for local ethnic people who face difficulties from terrorist attacks in Maungtaw region. Each truck is worth about Ks 15 million he said.

A terrorist group of ARSA attacked police outposts and civilians between 25th August and 4th September, displacing 30,200 residents of Maungtaw.

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Journalists return Yangon after Maungtaw trip

INDEPENDENT local and foreign Journalists returned Yangon after visiting Maungtaw, Rakhine State, where ARSA terrorists attacked police outposts and civilians in October. They departed Sittway by air for Yangon yesterday.

The local and international media group visited and collected news from temporary relief camps in Maungtaw town where displaced persons who fled from terrorist attacks were staying, peaceful and stable places where no act of terrorism occurs and where Muslims were staying, Mawrawadi Village where ethnic nationals were staying, Alethankyaw Border Post that repulsed the extremist terrorist attack, fire-damaged villages and Myanmar-Bangladesh border fence in Maungtaw. The news media group includes 25 journalists from AP, NHK, BBC, TBS, RFA, EPA, Swiss TV, Al Jazeera, CAN, Mizzima, Myanmar Time, CNB and MDN.—Myanmar News Agency
WELLINGTON — The rising popularity of New Zealand’s Labour Party in hotly contested elections is making it less likely that the nationalist New Zealand First Party will play kingmaker, poll averages released on Friday show.

The uncertainty over which combination of parties will decide the next government is worsening an already topsy-turvy election, previously seen as a slam dunk for the center-right National Party, which has ruled for almost a decade.

Since taking over as leader last month, charismatic politician Jacinda Ardern has almost single-handedly changed the chances of her Labour Party at the Sept. 23 election.

“When I go out and knock on doors...there is a feeling for change, there is,” Marama Fox, a leader of the Māori Party, said at a televised debate between leaders of smaller parties, referring to Labour’s newfound popularity. Fox’s party, which campaigns for the rights of indigenous New Zealanders, could play a crucial role in determining the next government.

Although it has been in a coalition with National for nine years, Fox said she could work with Labour.

Support for newly invigorated Labour rose to 41.8 percent in opinion polls, nudging above the National Party’s 41.1 percent, figures released by media showed. That put the center-left opposition party closer to being able to form a government with the Green Party, polling at around 5.4 percent, and the Māori Party, which posted support of about 1.2 percent.

Alternatively Labour could join forces with New Zealand First, which slipped to 7.9 percent and had previously been thought likely to determine which major party governed.

Green Party leader James Shaw would not rule out a deal with New Zealand First, but expressed reluctance, as the party’s outspoken leader would not commit to either National or Labour.

“He’s a bad date,” Shaw said of Peters’ last-minute decision to skip the debate. “He’s stood us up tonight... he’s completely unreliable and you don’t know which way he’s going to go.” — Reuters

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he would be willing to mediate an ongoing dispute between Qatar and other Middle East countries.

“If I can help mediate between Qatar and, in particular, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, I would be willing to do so and I think you’d have a deal worked out very quickly,” said Trump here during his joint press conference with visiting Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at the White House in Washington D.C., the United States, on 7 September 2017. PHOTO:XINHUA

Trump says willing to mediate in Qatar diplomatic dispute

ROME — The United Nations is preparing to deploy up to 250 peacekeepers to Libya to guard its base in the capital as part of a plan to return its operations to the country, the head of the organization’s mission there said on Friday.

Backed by Western governments, the UN is trying to heal a rift between Libya’s two rival governments, to tackle growing militant violence and people smuggling from its northern coast.

Envoy Ghassan Salame told Italian newspaper La Stampa that “a little under 250” peacekeepers “can be deployed in the coming weeks”.

The mission has been based in Tunis since 2014 but has gradually increased its presence on the ground in Libya and has been planning for months for a fuller return. The military unit would probably consist of around 150 people, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, told a news briefing in Geneva.

Deploying the peacekeepers to the base in Tripoli “will mean that around the beginning of October we can carry out a significant part of our work in Libya,” said Salame, who has headed the mission since June.

The rival leaders have pledged to work toward elections in 2018 and a conditional ceasefire in a conflict which broke out after the 2011 ousting of strongman Muammar Gaddafi.

Salame said there were many issues to address to ensure a vote brought lasting change, including writing constitutional and electoral laws.

“We need to be sure everyone accepts the final result,” he said. “Let’s not forget that presidential elections would be the first ever.” — Reuters

UN to deploy security force to guard its base in Libya: envoy

Minor New Zealand parties in focus as hotly contested election gets tighter

UN to deploy security force to guard its base in Libya: envoy
People’s Consideration for Natural Environment

By Maw Lin

With the advancement of science and technology, people come to be more and more convinced of how much nature protects human beings from elements of risk and danger. Had we managed to explore and utilize protections given to humans by the nature, these would prove how much great the destructive forces of storms and tides were. Yet, we have found that villages surrounded by mangroves withstood the impact of such an extremely great storm. These mangroves not only protect human beings from dangers of storms, but also they make marine creatures grow in number for the survival of villagers. And, these mangroves help the conservation of the soil by which villages are situated. Simultaneously they protect bank erosions as well. Moreover, mangroves surrounding coasts can hinder or reduce moving inland of saltwater intrusion.

According to the findings by professional surveyors, there were over 0.6 million acreage of mangroves in the year—1942 in Myanmar, but there were only 12 percent of that amount left in 1995, it was learnt. It is really frightening to hear that we are losing such amounts of mangroves that are of great value for us. Excessive utilization of cut mangroves as firewood and char-coal, extension of farming acreages for reclamation by cutting mangroves and building ponds for breeding fish and prawns are the causes of destruction of mangroves.

The State Government is performing the tasks of protection, conservation and extension of mangroves, with the assistance of civil societies from home and abroad. In doing so, we are definitely required to get technical and financial aids. Yet, it is assumed that we still fail to pay attention to the matter which is fundamentally more important than others, to the extent we should amend. That is none other than the matter of educating the usefulness of mangroves to all the citizens including villagers since their younger ages. World histories prove that enthusiastic and active participation of the people can create epoch-making events. Accordingly, we deeply urge for all the national forces including the State Government to make concerted efforts to create people’s consideration for natural environment. (Translated by Khin Maung Oo)

DIY Powerwalls and power plant houses: the best green innovations of the week

As a flood of warnings arrive during World Water Week, edie turns up the latest low-carbon technologies and innovations that could help to accelerate the global shift towards a prosperous low-carbon future. The floods in Houston and across South Asia serve to highlight the growing impact that climate change is having on the planet. New research released by CDP notes that these types of weather events could become the norm, with 103 cities now at “serious risk” from flooding.

If these events highlight the need to combat climate change then the renewables revolution will play a big role in the battle. A new report found that the Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) windfarm in the battle. A new report found that the Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) windfarm in Scotland could be worth more than £800m to the Scottish economy, while industrial automation specialist ABB will provide a 2MW battery storage system to support the use of renewable energy at the 90MW Burbo Bank offshore windfarm near Liverpool.

In fact, it’s been a relatively positive week for the UK green economy. The green finance market has been buoyed by news that British energy company SSE has issued the biggest ever green bond by a UK company. All that new finance will be ploughed into green technologies, and with all of that in mind, edie has once again pulled the best innovation stories of the week into this neat and tidy little green package for you to enjoy.

Carbon’s circle of life

Carbon productivity, or reuse, is growing in popularity and is considered an under-explored market for the circular economy. Now, British firm Econic Technologies has unveiled a new method to convert carbon for use in a polyl market estimated to be worth £13bn.

Polyl, a key building block of polyurethane plastic, is commonly used as a component in cars, bedding, furniture, footwear and numerous other household and industrial products. Thanks to Econic’s new tunable catalyst, these products could be made from an abundant source of carbon. The technology could save more than 3.5 million tonnes of CO2 annually, and this number can be dialled up or down depending on performance requirements of each product. Manufacturers now have a way to use their own carbon emissions as a raw material and reduce the use of oil-based inputs, further reducing emissions.

Orange is the new Black Birch

The deal sees Dulas supply 25 solar-powered vaccine refrigerators to health workers and first-hand training of cold chain storage use in Myanmar.

Around 20 years ago Costa Rica’s Área de Conservación Guanacaste national park struck a deal with orange juice manufacturer Del Oro to dump the orange peel onto the park. Now a new study published in the journal Restoration Ecology has uncovered the unexpected benefits of the deal, which was made under the condition that Del Oro would donate part of their orange forested land to the national park.

The barren part of the park where the oranges were dumped has transformed into a dense woodland. The research team found that the orange peel had enriched soil nutrients, and the now-fertilized land could offer a greater variety of tree species. It is hoped that the learnings could be applied to create partnerships that used food waste to boost soil productivity.

The town that dreaded sundown

The town of Neath in Wales is currently acting as the “Frankenstein’s monster” for a 21st Century exploration on the limits of electricity and power; although for entirely positive reasons. A new trial will see 16 homes in the area act as “power stations” to test whether buildings can replace local power plants.

As part of a programme between the UK energy innovation specialists at Swansea University, Specific, and social housing group Pobl, a number of two and three-bedroom houses and one-bedroom apartments will be fitted to benefit from solar roofs and battery storage.

Solar energy generated from roofs can be stored in battery systems and even used to charge electric vehicles. Each building will be fitted with perforated steel skin to create natural heating. If successful, the pilot could be rolled-out to build another 1,200 homes in the Swansea Bay area.

Sunstoked cures for Myanmar’s health ambitions

While Neath residents are exploring the advanced uses of solar technology, the Myanmar Ministry of Health is using solar power for more basic human needs. British solar refrigeration manufacturer Dulas is carrying out a training programme for Myanmar technicnians to bring them up to speed with using solar devices to keep vaccines at the right temperature.

With the country’s Ministry of Health aiming to achieve 100% immunisation nationally, Dulas has offered a supply package for the World Health Organisation (WHO). The deal sees Dulas supply 25 solar-powered vaccine refrigerators to health workers and first-hand training of cold chain storage use.
13 terrorism suspects arrested in Maungtaw, Rakhine State

While performing security operations in the area on Thursday, 13 people were arrested on suspicion of involvement in the recent acts of terrorism in north Rakhine State, according to a government information committee.

Eleven people were arrested, including Marmauk Annawar, son of Sulayman, who was allegedly involved in the terrorist attack on Doetan village on the afternoon of 3 September. They were taken to the police station and charged under the anti-terrorism law, officials said.

Similarly, security forces arrested two other men on Thursday who were allegedly involved in the 6 September terrorist attack near Zinaingnyar village, including Mamed Arrid, son of Larmyar, of Italia village. Legal action will also be taken against them under the anti-terrorism law.

Authorities are also searching for those responsible for the destruction of some 30 homes by fire at noon on September 7 at Gorduthara (east) village.

Extremists from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), which has been described as a terrorist group, allegedly burnt down five houses in Kyein Chaung village (north) in Maungtaw township at 7:15 pm on 7 September.

Thursday’s arrests bring the total number of arrested ARSA members who are suspected of involvement in the recent attacks in northern Rakhine State to 56. Two were arrested on 25 August, two on 29 August, four on 30 August, seven on 31 August, one on 2 September, 12 on 3 September, three on 5 September, six on 6 September and 13 on 7 September. The government Information Committee released a statement saying that the suspects are being investigated in accordance with the law at the respective police stations. — Myanmar News Agency

DIY Powerwalls and power plant houses: the best green innovations of the week

FROM PAGE 8

As the country consists of numerous remote locations, solutions for keeping cold chain powered needs to be off-grid, hence the use of solar energy to keep the vaccines at optimum temperatures. In total, Myanmar has invested more than $156m in vaccination programmes since 2001.

Powerwall’s power to all

Tesla Powerwalls may have revolutionised how homeowners interact with energy, but they do come at a cost. However, new forums that show people how to create their own energy storage systems from scratch could open the storage market to the masses. So far, several users have obtained systems that can even store more energy than a Tesla version.

The users recommend using 18650 lithium-ion batteries in most projects, and can be found in electronic devices like laptops or purchased from computer stores for less than $10. If these batteries are obtained second-hand from old, but high-performing laptops, the cost of the project could help consumers save thousands of pounds.

California remains in the loop for futuristic travel

Speaking of Tesla, it appears that founder Elon Musk’s vision of high-speed travel is one step closer to reality. Musk has championed the Hyperloop project, an underground, supersonic train that is able to reach speeds of 700mph, for some time.

Earlier this week, the City Council in Hawthorne, California approved an application for Musk’s Boring Company to begin construction on a two-mile-long underground testing tube for the train, which will be located 44 feet below Musk’s SpaceX headquarters.

In fact, SpaceX’s senior director of facilities and construction Brett Horton has confirmed that residents near the area won’t notice construction or testing. However, the Boring Company still need a variety of permits before they can actually start digging the tunnel for testing.—Matt Mac(edie newsroom)
Macron hurls challenge to Europe — reform or decline

ATHENS — Europe risks subjugation to China and the United States unless it becomes more sovereign and democratic, French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday in a speech underlining the scale of his ambition to reform the European Union. In a speech delivered symbolically on the Athens hill where ancient Greeks gave birth to democracy a few thousand years ago, Macron, a fervent europhil, said the continent would face its demise without a radical overhaul of its governance. “In order not to be ruled by bigger powers such as the Chinese and the Americans, I believe in a European sovereignty, that allows us to defend ourselves and exist,” Macron said at the top of the hill of Pnyx, with the spectacular backdrop of the Parthenon temple in the sunset.

“Are you afraid of this European ambition?” Elected four months ago, the 39-year-old leader wants a giant leap in European cooperation which, at the economic level, would see the creation of a euro zone budget, finance minister and parliament.

Macron said more democratic institutions would help respond to a populist wave which has seen the rise of far-right leaders such as Marine Le Pen, whom he defeated in May, and helped fuel the successful Brexit campaign which led to Britain’s vote to leave the EU. He said he would unveil a “road map” for the EU in a few weeks, after Germany’s 24 September election, and wanted European leaders to agree before the end of the year to launch public debates in the first half of 2018 during which citizens will be able to discuss their vision for the bloc.

“I don’t want a new Eurozone budget, the creation of a euro zone budget, the idea of giving Britain’s 78 members’ seats in the European Parliament to pan-EU representatives elected by all of the EU’s citizens after Brexit — I want a giant leap in European cooperation which I believe in a European sovereignty that allows us to defend ourselves and exist,” Macron said at the top of the hill of Pnyx, with the spectacular backdrop of the Parthenon temple in the sunset.

FBI chief sees no evidence of White House interference in Russia probe

WASHINGTON — FBI Director Christopher Wray and the White House ramped up their prognosis for cooperating in the White House’s investigation into Russia meddling in the presidential election.

Speaking publicly for the first time since being confirmed as head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Wray also expressed confidence in Robert Mueller, the special counsel investigating whether President Donald Trump’s campaign colluded with Russia during the election.

“I can say very confidently that I have not detected any whiff of interference with that investigation,” Wray said during a panel discussion at the Intelligence and National Security Summit in Washington. Wray was asked about the Trump administration’s recent denials about Russia’s role in the election.

Wray also reiterated his confidence in a January report compiled by US intelligence agencies which concluded that Russia had interfered in the 2016 election and tried to tilt it in Trump’s favour — a finding Trump has often questioned.

Prior to his confirmation as FBI director, Wray had only read a non-classified version of the report. “I have no reason to doubt the conclusions that the hard-working people who put that together came to,” Wray said.

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Pope Francis to bless Colombia’s war victims

VILLAVICENCIO/BOGOTA, (Colombia) — Thousands of victims of Colombia’s five-decade war will seek blessings, guidance and a path to forgiveness from Pope Francis on Friday, during his visit to a region that for years has been known as an epicentre of violence.

The Argentine pope has received a rapturous welcome in Colombia, a majority Roman Catholic nation, bringing with him a message of peace and unity as he seeks to strengthen faith and heal the scars of civil war.

In the city of Villavicencio, Francis will hold a prayer meeting with 6,000 survivors of a brutal conflict that has left millions scarred by kidnappings, massacres, rape, land mines and displacement.

He will also bless the Cross of Reconciliation, a plain white memorial to the victims, and hear personal testimonies of those who have suffered.

There has been too much hatred and vengeance. The solitude of always being at loggerheads has been familiar for decades, and its smell has lingered for a hundred years,” the leader of the world’s 1.2 billion Roman Catholics said on Thursday.

“We do not want any type of violence whatsoever to restrict or destroy one more life,” added the pontiff, who delayed visiting Colombia until a peace deal between the government and Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels was in effect.

Colombians have suffered from war between right-wing paramilitaries, Marxist rebels, and government forces since 1964. More than 220,000 have been killed and millions more displaced as the war spilled into towns and rural communities. — Reuters

Three vehicles torched in long-running South African taxi war

JOHANNESBURG — One Uber vehicle and two other taxis were torched in South Africa’s main business district on Thursday night in a feud over fares, but no one was injured, Uber and police said on Friday.

The vehicles were set alight in the wealthy Sandton district near the Gautrain station, a popular pick-up point for taxis where previous attacks on Uber vehicles have taken place. It was not clear who torched the vehicles.

Uber (UBER.UL) drivers around the world have faced threats and protests from regular taxi operators, who say cheap fares from Uber drivers are forcing them out of business.

“All the drivers of the cars escaped unharmed. It is suspected that the incident is related to the ongoing fight between the metered taxis and the Ubers,” police spokesman Captain Mavela Masondo said. A fourth car had its back window smashed in, he said.

On Friday, police officers patrolled the street outside the Gautrain station, which is opposite the Reuters offices.

Samantha Allenberg, Uber’s communications head for Africa, said only one of the torched vehicles belonged to Uber.

One of the torched vehicles was likely from a different ride-hailing service, Allenberg said.

“We really need the government to do more here. The violence and intimidation is simply unacceptable,” she said.

Uber has met the minister of transport and law enforcement agencies several times over similar incidents, she said. — Reuters

Lebanese army to deploy along entire eastern border, army chief says

BEIRUT — Lebanon’s army will deploy along the country’s entire eastern border with Syria and remain stationed there after recently recapturing areas from Islamic State militants, army chief General Joseph Aoun said on Friday.

The remarks appeared to confirm comments by the Lebanese Shi’ite group Hezbollah that it was handing over points it had controlled along the border to the military.

“The army will deploy from now onwards along the extent of the eastern borders, to defend them,” Aoun said at a ceremony commemorating Lebanese soldiers killed by Islamic State.

An army offensive last month ended with the militants withdrawing from their last foothold along the border under a ceasefire deal. The Syrian army and Hezbollah fought the jihadists separately on the Syrian side.

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said in July it would be ready to hand over territory it captured if the Lebanese army requested it.

Hezbollah led a campaign in the same area that month to oust the Nusra Front jihadist group from their last foothold along the border.

Security sources said Hezbollah had begun handing over points it controlled.

Iran-backed Hezbollah has played a critical role in vanquishing Sunni Muslim jihadists in the border region during the six-year-long Syrian war, part of its military support for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The group, an ally of Lebanese President Michel Aoun, was key to the defeat of militants in the Qalamoun area further south in 2015, and at the Syrian town of Qusair, in 2013.

Lebanon’s southern border with Israel, a Hezbollah foe, is patrolled by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. — Reuters

Photo: Reuters

Photo: Reuters

Photo: Reuters

Photo: Reuters

Photo: Reuters

Photo: Reuters
At least 32 die after massive quake off southern Mexico

MEXICO CITY — At least 32 people were killed after a massive 8.1 magnitude earthquake, one of the biggest recorded in Mexico, struck off the country’s southern coast late on Thursday, causing cracks in buildings and triggering a small tsunami, authorities said. The quake was apparently stronger than a devastating 1985 temblor that flattened swathes of Mexico City and killed thousands, but this time, damage to the city was limited.

A number of buildings suffered severe damage in parts of southern Mexico. Some of the worst initial reports came from the town of Juchitan in Oaxaca state, where sections of the town hall, a hotel, a bar and other buildings were reduced to rubble.

Alejandro Murat, the state governor, said 23 deaths were registered in Oaxaca, 17 of them in Juchitan.

A spokesman for emergency services said seven people were also confirmed dead in the neighboring state of Chiapas. Earlier, the governor of Tabasco, Arturo Nunez, said two children had died in his state.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) said the 8.1 magnitude quake had its epicentre in the Pacific Ocean, 54 miles (87 km) southwest of the town of Fijijapan in the impoverished southern state of Chiapas, at a depth of 43 miles. Rescue workers laboured through the night in badly affected areas to check for people trapped in collapsed buildings.

Windows were shattered at Mexico City airport and power went out in several neighbourhoods of the capital, affecting more than one million people. The cornice of a hotel came down in the southern tourist city of Oaxaca, a witness said.

The tremor was felt as far away as neighbouring Guatemala. The quake triggered waves as high as 2.3 ft (0.7 m) in Mexico, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said. Mexican television showed images of the sea retreating about 50 meters, and authorities evacuated some coastal areas.

President Enrique Pena Nieto said the tsunami risk on the Chiapas coast was not major. “We are alert,” he told local television. More aftershocks were likely, the president said, advising people to check their homes and offices for structural damage and for gas leaks. The USGS reported multiple aftershocks, ranging in magnitude from 4.3 to 5.7. Classes were suspended in most of central and southern Mexico on Friday to allow authorities to review damage.

There was no tsunami threat for American Samoa and Hawaii, according to the US Tsunami Warning System. The national disaster agency of the Philippines put the country’s eastern seaboard on alert, but no evacuation was ordered.

People in Mexico City, one of the world’s largest cities, ran out into the streets in pajamas and alarms sounded after the quake struck just before midnight, a Reuters witness said.

Helicopters buzzed overhead a few minutes later, apparently looking for damage to buildings in the city, which is built on a spongy, drained lake bed.

“I had never been anywhere where the earth moved so much. At first I laughed, but when the lights went out, I didn’t know what to do,” said Luis Carlos Briceno, an architect, 31, who was visiting Mexico City. “I nearly fell over.”

In one central neighbourhood, dozens of people stood outside after the quake, some wrapped in blankets against the cool night air. Children were crying.

Liliana Villa, 35, who was in her apartment when the quake struck, fled to the street in her nightclothes. “It felt horrible, and I thought, ‘this building is going to fall.’ State oil company Pemex said it was still checking for damage at its installations.

Pena Nieto said operations at the Salina Cruz refinery in the same region as the epicentre were temporarily suspended as a precautionary measure. — Reuters

Most South Koreans don’t expect war with North, poll shows, as Trump highlights military option

SEOUL/WASHINGTON — Most South Koreans doubt that North Korea will start a war, a survey showed on Friday, just days after the North’s largest nuclear test, as President Donald Trump again highlighted the possibility of a U.S. military response.

Pentagon officials have created a new nuclear posture review for the U.S. military, a review of military strategy that was last done in 1988.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly said South Korea and the United States are technically still at war with North Korea, which ended the 1950-53 Korean conflict with a truce, not a peace treaty.

“Dark and odorous water” in major rivers, including the Yangtze and Yellow rivers, should have relatively good quality of between Grade 1 and Grade II by 2020, according to the plan.

China sends supervisors to provinces for water pollution control

BEIJING — The Ministry of Environmental Protection said Friday it will dispatch supervisors to nine provincial regions this month to push for the fulfillment of annual water pollution control targets.

The regions, namely Liaoning, Heilongjiang, Anhui, Jiangxi, Hubei, Hunan, Guizhou, Yunnan and Ningxia, have seen relatively slow progress in implementing the Action Plan for Water Pollution Prevention and Control, according to a ministry statement.

Regions along the Yangtze River will be a focus of supervision, which will last for a month, the statement said. More than 70 per cent of the water in seven major river valleys, including the Yangtze and Yellow rivers, should have relatively good quality of between Grade I and Grade II by 2020, according to the plan.

In the first half of this year, the nation’s water quality improved overall, but improvement varied among regions, with some having difficulty in meeting their annual targets, according to earlier information from the ministry.

The supervisors will focus on such areas as the elimination of “dark and odorous water” in major cities, construction of sewage disposal facilities, and pollution control at coastal ports and wharves.

If serious problems are found, local officials would be summoned for talks while local project approvals could be restricted, the ministry said. Last year, 67.8 per cent of monitored surface water areas were ranked from Grade I to Grade III, according to the ministry. The share was slightly higher than 66 per cent for 2015 and exceeded a target of 66.5 per cent for 2016. —Xinhua
Japanese TePCO says Fukushima plant worker exposed to small radiation dose

Tokyo — A worker dismantling tanks at Japan’s wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant was found to have been exposed to a small amount of radiation during a routine safety check on Friday, plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co (TePCO) said.

Radiation was detected in nasal cavities of the worker, an unidentified man in his 30s, a TePCO spokesman said on Friday. The company estimated the amount of radiation at up to 0.010 millisieverts — less than a typical chest X-ray of 0.05 millisieverts — and said it did not pose an immediate health risk. Reported radiation exposure incidents have been rare during work to clean up the plant, devastated by the 11 March, 2011 magnitude 9 earthquake and tsunami that left nearly 16,000 people confirmed dead, with more than 2,000 officially unaccounted for.—Reuters

latest polls see Merkel’s lead increasing in German election

BERLIN — According to a poll released on Thursday by survey institute Infratest dimap, support for the German Social Democrats (SPD) dropped by two percentage points to 21 per cent, compared to last week.

Support for Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Christian Social Union (CSU) held steady at 37 per cent.

The Left party (Linke) and Free Democratic Party (FDP) were the only two parties to gain support, rising to 10 per cent (Linke) and 9 per cent (FDP).

The right-wing populist Alternative for Germany (AfD) continues to be third strongest party with 11 per cent (AfD) and 9 per cent (FDP).

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‘Borg/McEnroe’ rivalry movie kicks off Toronto festival

TORONTO — A tale of real-life rivalry on the tennis court kicked off the Toronto International Film Festival on Thursday in a scaled-back line-up of movies that focus on tales of survival amid chaos.

“Borg/McEnroe” stars Shia LaBeouf as fiery US tennis star John McEnroe and Sverrir Gudnason as cool Swedish champion Bjorn Borg, whose epic matches in the 1980s set the world of tennis alight.

“Their rivalry had something universal that transcended the sport,” director Janus Metz told a news conference. “It had deep existential questions about how two people could drive themselves above and beyond.”

LaBeouf, 31, in his first big movie since a string of arrests for drunken or disorderly behavior in the past three years, acknowledged that he shared some of McEnroe’s hot-headed personality.

“Acting is like athletics — ordinary men with extraordinary effort putting themselves out there,” the actor said, calling McEnroe the “bad Santa” of the tennis world.

“Borg/McEnroe” is not the only film getting a Toronto showcase whose drama plays out on the tennis court. Emma Stone, in her first movie since winning an Academy Award for best actress in “La La Land” in February, plays Billie Jean King as she fought 1970s sexism.

Borg, 56, had deep existential questions about how two people could drive themselves above and beyond.

The event putting themselves out there,” the actor said, calling McEnroe the “bad Santa” of the tennis world.

As a man who lost both his legs in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, and “Kings” in which Halle Berry plays a woman trying to protect her brood of children during the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

Actress Emma Stone attends the premiere of the movie “Borg/McEnroe” at Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in Toronto, on 7 September 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Other films on offer include “Suburbicon,” a George Clooney-directed satire tackling racial prejudice in 1950s America, and Darren Aronofsky’s horror movie “mother!.”

Academy president John Bailey said the honorees reflect “the breadth of international, independent and mainstream filmmaking, and are tributes to four great artists whose work embodies the diversity of our shared humanity.”

Canadian actor Sutherland, 82, has a career spanning five decades starting with his 1967 breakthrough in “The Dirty Dozen.” He went on to play wise-cracking army surgeon Hawkeye Pierce in the 1970 movie version of “MASH,” as well as roles in thriller “Don’t Look Now” and “Klute.”

Sutherland, the father of “24” actor Kiefer Sutherland, played Prime Minister Winston Churchill. — Reuters

‘Hunger Games’ actor Donald Sutherland to get lifetime Oscar

LOS ANGELES — Donald Sutherland, the star of “MASH,” “The Hunger Games” and more than 140 other movies, is to get a lifetime achievement Oscar, along with Belgian director Agnes Varda, Oscar organizers said on Wednesday.

Sutherland and Varda will be joined by African-American indie film director Charles Burnett and cinematographer Owen Roizman in receiving honorary Oscars at a ceremony in Los Angeles in November, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said in statement.

Academy president John Bailey said the honorees reflect “the breadth of international, independent and mainstream filmmaking, and are tributes to four great artists whose work embodies the diversity of our shared humanity.”

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Sutherland, the father of “24” actor Kiefer Sutherland, played Prime Minister Winston Churchill. — Reuters

... no one wants to see me back on ‘Game of Thrones’: Ed Sheeran

LONDON — Singer Ed Sheeran said he would not want to return on “Game of Thrones” as no one wanted to see him again on the show.

The 28-year-old musician made a fleeting appearance in the seventh season premiere episode of the HBO series as a Lannister soldier, who had a chance encounter with real-life friend actor Maisie Williams’ Arya Stark.

Sheeran said although he enjoyed his screen time on “GOT,” he would not want to come back on the show, reported FemaleFirst.

“No one wants to see me come back. I wanted to be a cameo in it, and I’ve done the cameo. I’m cool with it,(“Shape of You” hitmaker received a mixed response for his small role. The director of the show, Jeremy Podeswa and actor Sophie Turner came out in his defense. — PTI

... the Global New Light of Myanmar
Miss United Continents will welcome the International Beauty Queens

Delegates from America, Asia, Europe and Africa will arrive in the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador on September 8th, 2017 to comply with a series of activities whose aim is to help raise funds along with the Red Cross Organization for the benefit of this institution.

The ladies who will take part in the 5th edition of Miss United Continents will make a tour in Ecuador and will be in contact with nature and the culture of the city of Cuenca, known as the ‘Athens of Ecuador’ and designed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This year in the host city of Guayaquil, delegates will visit new tourist spots: “La Perla”, considered the largest Ferris wheel in South America, also a monument in honor of the chief Guayas and his wife Quil who were founders of the city, dancing fountains on the borders of the swamp, and other. Myanmar is represented by W May Shin Sein, she is 25 years old, she likes singing and traveling. She obtained the title of Miss Intercontinental Myanmar 2015. The coronation night will be on September 23rd, 2017 at the Convention Centre of Guayaquil. Its auditorium has become the venue for important events, concerts and conferences due to its great capacity and infrastructure.

One of the most important segments in Miss United Continents is the election of the best national costume. The jury will choose the best design that represents the culture and the country of the delegates. Ecuador is characterized to be a small country. Often within a few hours traveling you can be at the seaport of Guayaquil, then in the next three hours you can be at Cuenca (Mountains region), and in five hours you can be at Salinas (beach). This contest offers the delegates to enjoy tourist alternatives in this country.—GNLM

Miniature dachshund receives award from police for stopping intruder

TOYAMA, Japan — Police presented a bravery award Thursday to a pet dog for helping capture a burglar at a home in Toyama Prefecture on the Sea of Japan coast in May.

The miniature dachshund, named Lucy, alerted her owner in Namerikawa to the presence of an intruder, leading to his arrest.

The man had entered the home belonging to Lucy’s owner, a woman in her 40s, on the night of 4 May before trying to make off with several thousands of yen in cash. After the woman was alerted, she and her neighbors apprehended the man.

The Namerikawa Police Station presented Lucy with a certificate of appreciation and her favorite dog food. Despite being 17 years old, equivalent to the late 80s in human years, Lucy showed heroism in barking loudly to alert her owner; the local police said.

The burglar was indicted and given a prison term of two years, suspended for four years.—Kyodo News

Donor funds upgrading sanitation facilities at Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda

SuperSearch Co Ltd based in Hong Kong donated US $50,000 for upgrading sanitation facilities at Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda in Kayin, Mon State, through the Mon State government on 3rd September 2017.

Chief Minister of Mon State Dr Aye Zan accepted the donation at the state government office in Mawlamyine presented by Dr Poeelan Wong, Chairman of the Co Ltd, and Linda Hla, Managing Director of the company. At the donation ceremony, the donors also handed over US$5,000 for the displaced people in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, through the government — Mawlamyine Sub-printing House.

The Global Light of Myanmar

W. May Shin Sein, 25-year old, contestant from Myanmar PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Dr. Poeelan Wong and Linda Hla present US $50000 to Mon State Chief Minister Dr Aye Zan. PHOTO: MAWLAMYINE SUB-PRINTING HOUSE

Peace Music Festival organisers and donors help orphanage school and Home For the Aged

Organising members of Peace Music Festival 2017 organised by Ministry of Information and other donors held a donation ceremony yesterday morning in Aunghtukha Orphanage School at the foot of Yatayun Mountain and Home for the Aged at the foot of Yatayun Mountain, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region. The ceremony was attended by Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) Director General U Myint Htway and party and U Tin Tun, chairman of the Mandalay Gold Entrepreneurs Association on behalf of donors who run gold shops and gold businesses in Mandalay.

First, donors took five precepts from Patriarch Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimala of Aunghtukha Orphanage School and donated offerings. Next, orphans were provided with books, stationery and other assistance and then the Sayadaws and orphans were provided with meals. A total of 97 orphans were raised in Aunghtukha Orphanage School out of which 71 were attending school.

The donors then went to Home For the Aged and donated cash and other material donations to the elders. The total amount donated was Ks 3.4 million in which Ks 1.5 million was for the orphanage and Ks 1 million was for the Home For the Aged and others.—Aye Mya (Mandalay)

The organizers of the Peace Music Festival and donors deliver aid to children. PHOTO: AYE MYA

Peace Music Festival organisations and donors help orphanage school and Home For the Aged

Social
Singapore, Thailand keep winning at AFF Championship

Kyaw Zin Lin

Thailand earned their third win in Group A of the AFF Under-18 Championship being held in Yangon by defeating Cambodia, 1-0, in a closely contested match.

The win brings the total number of points won by Thailand so far in the tournament to nine.

The Thais played hard, but the rain seemed to be working in Cambodia’s favour as they defended well at the back while at the same time created some chances to score.

Thailand scored the only goal at the start of the second half when Danusorn headed the ball into the goal that had been centered with a free kick from the right side of the opponent’s backline.

Although the Cambodian footballers had golden opportunities, they could not convert them into goals.

In other action, Singapore trounced Laos 3-0 at Aung San Stadium yesterday, after having lost to Malaysia in their previous match.

Daniel Goh scored the opener at 28 minutes and Mohd Rafikin Kamal at 42 minutes, then Idraki Mohd Adnan scored the third goal and sealed Singapore’s second win in Group A.

Malaysia bested Timor Leste by a score of 3-0 at the late match at Thuwunna Stadium.

Mourinho must end United title drought this season — Queiroz

HONG KONG — Jose Mourinho must lead Manchester United to the English title this season if he is to re-establish the culture that underpinned the success of the Alex Ferguson era, the Scotman’s former right-hand man Carlos Queiroz has told Reuters.

Queiroz was assistant manager under Ferguson during two spells totalling five years from 2002 to 2008 and instrumental in the club’s 2008 Champions League win as well as three Premier League title triumphs.

The 64-year-old feels United have simply followed the big-spending blueprint of clubs like Manchester City and Chelsea in the post-Ferguson era and need to bed down a nucleus of players to have a chance of sustained success.

“The Manchester United that I worked for was based on a couple of elements, the foundation of Alex was based on continuity and trust,” Queiroz, who has just secured back-to-back World Cup qualifications with Iran, said.

“Manchester United didn’t have different teams at that time, they had a core of players that established the heritage of the club, the culture of the club.

“In my opinion, the things that made the team and the club suffer and drop was when this cultural approach was broken, to start to be like other clubs and building teams with money. The club lost a little bit of its heritage.

“The foundations were very, very strong inside the club. I think you can see at this moment, it’s the club with the same name, the same colours, the same fans but it has the same pattern as City, of Chelsea, of some other clubs, like PSG and some others in Europe also.

“I hope that if the team under Jose is able to succeed and to win the championship that it can recover the foundation, which is stability and continuity.

“Because to win at this level it’s crucial for Jose or any other coach to make everybody understand that now we have the right conditions to keep going with this core.”

United struggled in the first three years after Ferguson’s retirement in 2013, with David Moyes lasting just eight months before Louis van Gaal took over as the long-term replacement in the wake of a four-game caretaker stint from Ryan Giggs.

—Reuters

Newcastle manager Benitez recovering from surgery

LONDON — Newcastle United manager Rafa Benitez is recovering from surgery and could miss Sunday’s Premier League trip to Swansea City, British media reported on Thursday.

Fitness coach Francisco de Miguel Moreno will stand in for the 57-year-old Spaniard at Friday’s regular pre-game news conference.

The BBC said Benitez had undergone a hospital procedure during last week’s international break to deal with an infection resulting from a hernia operation that he had more than two years ago.—Reuters