No ethnic cleansing in N-Rakhine

Myanmar at UN: Term ‘genocide’ must not be used without solid evidence

Myanmar objected in the strongest terms to the use of words and terms such as “atrocities”, “ethnic cleansing” and “genocide” by several UN delegations in reference to the situation in Myanmar.

Myanmar diplomats and government officials said it is dangerous and irresponsible to use such damning words without solid evidence.

Ambassador U Hau Do Suan, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, expressed his concerns in exercising the right of reply against those allegations during the final session of the general debate at the UN General Assembly in New York on Monday.

“It is deeply regrettable that unsubstantiated allegations have been repeated in those chambers likening the situation in Rakhine State to ‘ethnic cleansing’, he said.

He said that terms such as “atrocities”, “ethnic cleansing”, and “genocide” must not be used lightly, and the use of such terms should be considered only after there is solid evidence.

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163 killed, 91 missing from 9 Oct to 26 Sept in N-Rakhine

THE death toll of civilians by terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine from 9 October to 26 September has reached 163, with 91 still missing, according to data released by authorities yesterday.

Data collection teams started conducting ground surveys on 23 September to determine the losses and damages from the terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine.

From 25 August, the day ARSA extremist terrorists launched attacks to dozens of police posts and civilians, to 26 September, 84 people, including Hindus, ethnic Rakhine, Daing-net and Mro villagers, civil servants and security forces were killed by ARSA terrorists. Fifty-four are still missing, according to the data.

The main data is collected first and other required data will also be collected, officials said.

It is estimated to take a month to complete the work, said U Ye Htut, Deputy Commissioner of Maungtaw District General Administration Department—Myanmar News Agency.
VP U Myint Swe attends reception to mark 68th Founding Anniversary of PRC

Vice President U Myint Swe attended a grand reception to mark the 68th Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony was also attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Speaker of the Union Assembly (Lower House) U Aung Delwin, Deputy Speaker of the Union Assembly (Upper House) U Hla Myint, Union ministers, deputy ministers, MPs and diplomats.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice President appreciated the two neighbouring countries’ close cooperation which has ever been existed in the regional and international arena, expressing his thanks to China for its support to Myanmar’s peace process and current constructive assistance for socio-economic development of Myanmar people.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries 67 years ago, Myanmar and China have seen friendly relations of good neighbours and both have practiced the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence laid down by Myanmar, China and India, he said.

The visits of Myanmar President and the State Counsellor to China in April and May have promoted the mutual trust and friendship between the leaders of the two countries and the further close relations, he added.

In conclusion, Vice President U Myint Swe pledged that Myanmar would make efforts for strengthening bilateral relations between Myanmar and China.

The ceremony was also attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, deputy speakers of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, Union ministers, deputy ministers, MPs and diplomats.

Judicial Review in Federal System held in Nay Pyi Taw

The Constitutional Tribunal of the Union and International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) conducted “Interpretation of a Constitution and Statutes: Judicial Review in Federal System” at Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The discussion aims to support Constitutional Tribunal of the Union conducting research and to increase awareness and knowledge on constitutional law.

In the opening ceremony of the discussion, U Kyaw Hsan, member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, gave an opening speech and Ms. Annamari Salonen, Programme Manager of International IDEA spoke words of greeting.

Later in the first day discussion programme, Professor Cheryl Saunders discussed under the title of “Potential Issues for Judicial Review in Federal Systems”.

Members of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, acting director-general, deputy director-general, personnel from the Board of Tribunal research group and responsible personnel from IDEA attended the discussion and it will continue until 27 September. — Myanmar News Agency

1,180 patients hospitalized, 400 diagnosed with H1N1, 38 fatalities to date

THIRTY patients were confirmed with H1N1 infection among 116 suspected patients who received laboratory test from 2 to 13 September, with a single fatality, according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Meanwhile, from 2 p.m. 13 September to 2 p.m. 26 September 35 patients received laboratory test, out of which only one was diagnosed with H1N1 and there were no fatality.

From 21 July to 2 p.m. 26 September, there were 1,180 patients hospitalized, out of which 400 were diagnosed with H1N1 and 38 fatalities. The fatalities were 13 in Ayeyawady Region, 8 in Yangon Region, 6 in Bago Region and 11 from other states and regions according to a statement made yesterday by Ministry of Health and Sports.

According to yesterday’s statement of the Ministry of Health and Sports, 22 of the fatalities were not from the direct effects of H1N1 but due to complication from other existing health problems.

As of 2 p.m. yesterday, there were no H1N1 in-patients in Waibagyi Specialist Hospital while only 3 in-patients were being treated in states and regions hospitals. 318 in-patients were discharged and only 19 out-patients were getting treatment while number of in-patients had improved significantly.

Cumulative Incidence of influenza like illness symptoms had also declined in schools, work places, hotels and crowded area.

If people detect symptom of seasonal influenza or suspect to have seasonal influenza, they should take timely and effective treatment at the nearest health stations, clinics and hospitals and prevent spreading the illness by following health guideline and notice on seasonal influenza published by Ministry of Health and Sports.

Ministry of Health and Sports will continue to make occasional statement for the people on the occurrence of Seasonal Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09.
Interview with bereaved families of Hindus killed by ARSA terrorists

By Min Thit (MNA)

UPON receiving information about the location of dozens of dead Hindus in northern Rakhine State, the bodies of the people allegedly killed by extremist terrorists from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) were unearthed by security forces near the village of Yebawkya in Maungtaw. Twenty-eight bodies were discovered on Sunday, and 17 more on Monday. The following are the accounts of surviving family members interviewed by Myanmar News Agency reporters at the site in Maungtaw where the bodies were found.

Ronni, Maungtaw Township, Thittone-nar Khwa-Sone Village tract, Oh-Htein Village

Among 28 bodies dug firstly is my elder brother, named Hannu. He lived with his family at the village Thittone-nar Khwa-Sone village. When examined, I ascertained that it was my own brother, by seeing his frequently-dressed shirt. He visited his daughter at Khamausgeik village to stay for a night. On the day when the terrorist attacks happened, terrorists came to Khamausgeik to abduct Hindus, in which my brother was one of the victims. All were inhumanely killed on the way, with eight Hindu women and children abducted to Bangladesh. Women were raped. I had a contact with those women. I did not yet know whether my brother’s wife and children have not been accounted and have been killed. We heard most of them killed by terrorists. Our village Khamausgeik, where Hindus mostly lived, was surrounded by Bengali villages.

Arshie Kumar, 4 ward Maungtaw

I lived with my family in Maungtaw. My daughter, my parents-in-law and my brother-in-law were among the victims. My daughter lived with my parents-in-law in Khamausgeik village (south). Dead bodies dug out included corpses of my mother-in-law and brother-in-law. The bodies of my daughter, only 8 years old, and my father-in-law have not been found yet. My spouse has suffered from a mental disorder since the brutal slaughter of the people. All were killed by throat slitting. Some were found to have been decapitated and limbs amputated. We want to find our daughter as soon as possible. I will not stop looking for my daughter even if she is found dead and it is only her skeleton. I pray for my daughter not to experience such a worse situation. Terrorists not only killed Hindus, including the cruel killing of children, but also raped the women.

Salmon Barlar, Kyeinchaung Village

My husband’s two brothers were among the dead bodies dug up. Their names are Bisina and Han Montie. Their wives and children were also killed. A mother and her two children and another mother and her three children have not been accounted for. We hearded that one was abducted to Bangladesh. I live now in Kyeinchaung village. My husband’s two brothers earned their living in Khamausgeik as blacksmiths.

Mardooni, Khamausgeik Village (south)

My sister, her spouse and her two sons were among the killed. Prior to the event, I fortunately missed being killed as I had been in Thamanthar Village. Among the corpses dug out, there was the body of my sister. My sister wore her usual bangles on her wrist. By seeing these, I identified that it was her. The bodies of her husband and her sons have not yet been found.

25 bodies of Hindu villagers identified

Of the 93 missing Hindus from Yebawkya Village in northern Rakhine State, the remains of 45 were discovered in a mass grave and 25 were identified by the leader of a Hindu assistance group and Yebawkya villagers. The search continues recover the remaining missing Hindus.

Starting on Sunday morning, security personnel, Hindu religious leader U Ni Maul and six other Hindus searched for 93 Hindus from Yebawkya Village, area 2 in Maungtaw Township who were allegedly killed by ARSA extremist terrorists.

They found the remains of 28 villagers buried in two mass graves.

The leader of the Hindu assistance group and Hindus from Yebawkya village identified 25 people out of the remains of the 45 people found.

Those identified were: Mat Ralaung, 18, Arshi Kuma, 20, Daw Aungdu Balar, 30, Daw Bikiymini, 45, Ma Gawyali, 35, Ma Me Naw Balar, 32, Ma Bijaw Banlar, 30, Ma Dogal Naw Balar, 25, Ma Biruna, 25, Ma Sulani, 22, Aungzu Bala, 50, Myint Hlaing, 19, B Rawbala (30 years), B Juli, 45, Bunani, 29, Naw Balar, 35, Ronani, 35, Metawbalar, 35, Melaung, 19, Akhwe Kumar, 20, Biruna, 25, Zaw Tein Draw, 55, L Maungtaw, 25, and Birunia, 35, from Yebawkya village and Raju, 22, from Tamatha village.

The remains of the 45 villagers were inspected by Maungtaw People’s Hospital Superintendent Dr. Kyaw Maung Maung Thein, Township Judge U Zaw Zaw Than, and criminal investigative department Police Major Ye Aung. — Information Committee
Price of rice increases in domestic market because of low stock

The price of low-quality rice has increased because of low stock in the local market, while that of the good-quality rice has also risen, according to traders from the Bayintnaung and Wahdan wholesale rice markets.

The price of low-quality rice has risen by Ks500 to Ks2,300 per bag depending upon the brand, while that of good-quality rice rose by Ks500 to Ks2,000 per bag compared to last week.

“The price of rice is still increasing because Myanmar is exporting the rice from sea routes. The main problem is that, despite high demand, there is low stock in the local market,” said U Aung Myint, a rice merchant.

“These days, Myanmar is exporting rice from sea routes; therefore, the price of rice is likely to increase. Although the rice stock is low in the local market, the rice will be enough until the new package arrives the market”, he added.

New shipments of low-quality rice to local markets will come from the western part of Bago Region. In mid-October, the new low-quality rice will reach markets across the nation.

Good-quality rice will arrive in local markets by the end of October, according to local paddy cultivators.

Currently, Pyapon Pawsan rice is selling for between Ks33,000 and 35,000 per bag, while Dedaye Pawsan costs between Ks33,500 and Ks35,000 per bag. The price of Pathein Pawsan is between Ks34,000 and Ks37,000, while Pawsan from across the nation is selling for between Ks32,000 and Ks34,000. Ehmata (Monsoon) costs between Ks21,500 and Ks25,500 whereas Ehmata (25 per cent) costs between Ks21,000 and Ks21,500. The rice grown with the summer multiple cropping method sells for Ks23,000 and Ks23,300 and summer rice (harvested within 90 days) costs between Ks24,000 and Ks24,500, according to the rice market.—Zwe

Air quality assessment to be completed in October

Ko Moe

MEASUREMENT of the air quality index (AQI) in Yangon will be completed in October, according to the Pollution Control and Cleansing Department of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

“Currently, we cannot complete the measurement of AQI because of heavy rains. We still need to measure some areas. We hope that the measurement will be completed in the second week of September,” said Dr Aung Myint Maw, the Assistant Head of the Pollution Control & Cleansing Department.

The YCDC conducted measurements of air pollution for the first time in 67 Yangon Region townships between April 2015 and April 2016. According to the AQIs measured, there were no critical conditions discovered.

“The YCDC also measured pollution in the Yangon Region in March 2016 to make sure that the first results were correct,” he added.

Dr Aung Myint Maw said polluted areas will be announced, if any are found after the data is compiled and have been adjusted to the results of the first and second measurements.

The YCDC has installed four pollution monitoring apparatuses in the Yangon Region.

Three of these apparatuses were installed in front of Yangon City Hall and in Hledan and Mingaladon townships.

The fourth pollution monitoring apparatus is taking the measurements with a mobile system, according to the Pollution Control & Cleansing Department (YCDC).

Two new elephant camps to be opened

NWEI THU

TWO new elephant camps will be opened in the coming tourism season to strengthen elephant conservation and promote eco-tourism across the nation, according to an official from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

One new elephant camp is located at Shan Yoma elephant camp on the Meiktila-Taunggyi Highway Road, and the other camp is the Sakhan Thar Elephant Camp on the Mandalay-Pyin Oo Lwin Highway Road. Initially, the elephant camps will be opened with six elephants each.

There are about 18 government-owned elephant camps and two privately owned elephant camps in Myanmar.

Among these elephant camps, the Nga Lite Thar Elephant Camp in Nay Pyi Taw and Wingabaw Elephant Camp at 39th mile on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway attracts the most tourists, according to the ministry.

“Tourists are interested in our elephant camps because they can watch the elephants dancing, watch them bathe and see orphan calves being fed milk,” said an official from Wingabaw Elephant Camp.—Min Thu

Workers unloading sacks of rice from a ship at a jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR
Tomato sells well at markets

TOMATO fruits produced in villages in Salingyi Township, Yinmabin District, Sagaing Region, have been sold well in domestic markets, local growers say.

“Small-scale growers reaped a handsome profit from tomato sale this season. A viss of tomato, which is equivalent to 3.6 pounds, is currently sold in the market for Ks1,200-Ks1,300 based on size and freshness,” one of growers from Yinmabin said. “This year, farmers saw a good harvest of seasonal crop,” he added. Local growers use quality strains of tomato such as Bamar, Shan and Taiwan, applying a range of agricultural techniques to boost production.

Tomato, a popular kitchen crop, is widely used as the most ubiquitous ingredient in Myanmar cookery.

The crop is famous for its tons of health benefits. According to a world study, tomato can kill most kind of toxins in human body.—Shwe Khine

Marine exports increase by $42 million

THE marine export as of 15 September valued over US$260 million, an increase of $42 million than that of the same point of last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce’s report.

The same period of last year, the country sold $218.277 million worth of fisheries products mainly to neighbouring countries. Between 1 April and 15 September of this FY, the private sector sent marine products amounting to $260.341 million to the international trade partners while the government made no trade deal for this kind of product.

Freshwater fishes, mud crabs, seafood, shrimps and prawns as well as dried fish are mostly exported to ASEAN member countries, East Asian states and some European nations through border points of entry as well as sea routes. The country’s marine export reached its peak in 2011-12 FY, earning $705 million. It decreased to $624 million in 2012-13 FY. The export value continued to decline in three consecutive financial years beginning in 2013-14 FY. It rebounded to more than $580 in 2016-17 FY.—Ky Kyu

Border trade with ITCs reaches Ks 18 billion as of 15th September

THE value of border trade using the Individual Trading Card (ITC) amounted to Ks18 billion as of 15th September in this fiscal year, which includes the export value of Ks1.4 billion and the import value of Ks16.5 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myawady border trade is reported to have the largest volume of trade with a value of more than Ks12 billion.

The trade value via ITCs at border points was: Ks847 million at Tamu trade camp; Ks11 million at Muse border gate; Ks669 million at Tachilek trade camp; Ks56 million at Lwejel trade camp; Ks4 million at Chinshwehaw border gate; Ks928 million at Kanpikete; Ks328 million at Kawthoung border town; Ks34 million at Reed border trade camp, Ks759 million at Mawtaung gate, and Ks78 million at Kengtung border trade camp.

The total trade value with ITCs was Ks18.97 billion in fiscal 2016-2017.


Since its introduction to date, the ministry has issued a total of 1,350 ITCs.—Zwe
It’s the many impacts of business on the environment which are of most concern: Mrs. Vicky Bowman

By May Thein Hnin

FOLLOWING is the exclusive interview with Mrs. Vicky Bowman, Director of the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business.

Q. What does ‘responsible business’ mean? Why is it important?

A. MCRB believes that responsible business is business which is good for all of the people of Myanmar, and is both profitable and sustainable.

Q. Is the Myanmar business sector transparent and accountable?

A. The situation in Myanmar is changing. Previously business was done in a very closed way, under the military government. Now there is market pressure on Myanmar companies to reform in order to attract foreign investors and business partners. This trend is good for the country. We found that some of the Myanmar companies we have studied in our Pwint-thit-sa (Transparency in Myanmar Enterprises) report are starting to adopt international standards of corporate governance and transparency. That is paying off in terms of getting more partners, and foreign investor interest. It is also important that companies seek out feedback and learn and improve. For example, we find some Myanmar companies have started to do that through developing a complaint/feedback mechanism, and through being more accountable to their stakeholders.

Q. What is the interest from companies in the training that MCRB offers?

A. MCRB offers free workshops on different areas like human rights policy, anticorruption, and environmental impact assessment (EIA) and also discussion of specific sectors, such as tourism. A particular area for companies to improve their practices is environmental management. While Myanmar has introduced an EIA requirement, what we have seen is that many Myanmar companies do not really understand the purpose of this, how complex it is, how much it costs to have it done professionally, but how useful it can be if done properly. Managing environmental impacts costs money but it is essential for sustainable business. The government needs to rethink the costs it imposes on business, with a rebalancing from the corporate tax rate, which is 25%, which is high compared to other countries in the region, and many companies evade it, to requiring more companies to invest in reducing their environmental impact, for example water use, dust, waste water, and energy use. At the moment, we see companies spending a lot of money on so-called donations – which is some cases amount to corruption – but not much on good environmental and social practices. That’s not responsible business.

Q. What role does a ‘third party expert’ play in EIA?

A. All companies who have to conduct EIAs are legally required to use a qualified third party expert. It’s not a choice. But at the moment the problem is that many of the people who are now offering third party EIA services are not experienced and don’t have the necessary qualifications, but the Myanmar company using their services doesn’t know that. We recommend to companies that they should consider international EIA consultancies for complex projects but we also recommend that international EIA consultancies have a duty to transfer skills. In the end, there should be a common interest amongst EIA consultancies in seeing standards rise.

Q. Why does MCRB publish reports on certain sectors as well as Briefings on issues such as Business and Child Right, Discrimination etc.?

A. For our sectoral reports, we focussed on the sectors of growing importance to the economy and where there was increased Myanmar and foreign investment and the potential for significant human rights impacts. Our first sectoral report was oil and gas. We’ve also looked at tourism, ICT and mining and we are currently studying the oil palm sector. What we are looking there is to study the positive and negative human rights impact of the sectors, how policy and legal frameworks support or prevent positive impacts, and what are the international standards and good practices. For our Briefing Papers, like the one we recently issued on combatting discrimination in the workplace, we drew on our field research findings from the sectors, but also raise awareness of good international practice. For example companies may not be giving much thought to the different aspects of children’s rights which their business can have a positive or negative impact on. It is not only about child labour. It’s also about how businesses could have an impact on safety of children – for example by marketing a product that’s dangerous for children, or in an irresponsible way, such as marketing of milk powder instead of breast milk, or marketing of cigarettes.

Q. I heard that your reports are sent to respective ministries and parliament. So how is the cooperation with them?

A. Our sector-wide impact assessments have recommendations to government on policy and legal issues, and as the government makes its reforms, we feed in our ideas and reports. We’ve done a lot of followup work on sustainable tourism with the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and other stakeholders including regional government, MPs, businesses and civil society groups.

Q. What are the challenges for your work?

A. The biggest challenge is that the government lacks capacity and knowledge so their ability to enforce laws is weak, even where those laws are clear and enforceable. There are three pillars for responsible business and human rights. The first is the government’s ‘duty to protect’ human rights, through laws and their enforcement. Second is business’ ‘responsibility to respect human rights’ through understanding their impacts, and reducing the negative effect. The third pillar is ‘remedy’ – the government, and/or the business, should end and make good any breaches of human rights. Take for example, the minimum wage. It’s an essential piece of government law to protect human rights, and protect workers from being exploited. But the problem is that government doesn’t enforce it, then businesses say they won’t implement it because their competitors are not doing it. If they pay the minimum wage, they won’t win business – unless they are working for another responsible business who insists on their suppliers being fully compliant with the law. Lack of law enforcement is a big challenge. But it also requires better laws in the first place. Our other challenge is poor quality contradictory and unclear laws, particularly as they are adopted without any systematic business input. My biggest wish is for better regulation. If you have better regulations, you have better enforcement, less corruption, and you’ll have better more responsible business. This
is the most important thing the
government can do to encourage
business.

Better regulation happens when a
government gets feedback from business, and when it
publicly consults business, and other stake-
holders. MCRB always encourages Ministries
to do this, and on the few oc-
casions that they do, we always
submit a response with specific
suggestions if there's any issue
relating to responsible business.
We did that with the new My-
nanmar Investment Law, which
was a model for consultation
process. DICA was very open to
all input. As a result this is gen-
erally viewed as being the best
business-related law that has
been adopted recently. There's a
Private Sector Development
Committee, chaired by the first
Vice-President U Myint Swe. I
hope that it could instruct all
Ministries that no laws which
have an effect on business should
be submitted to Cabinet without
three months public consultation
first, in which the impact of that
regulation could be examined
from all angles. Regulation is
essential. But too much regu-
lation is almost worse than no
regulation. At the moment we
have too much red tape but no
effective regulation.

Q. What do you think of current
labour laws and regulations?
A: We'd like to see a whole-
sale reform of what is a very frag-
mented set of labour laws. There
are labours laws for factories,
and laws for shops and estab-
lishments, but nothing for con-
struction or agriculture. There
are news laws on dispute settle-
ment, and the minimum wage,
but these have weaknesses that
need fixing. And in most cases,
we find that businesses, particu-
larly SMEs, don't even know what the
law says. In some cases it's not
even fully available to the public.
There is a proposal from the In-
ternational Labour Organisation
and several other development
partners to help the government
create a unified, consistent and
clear Labour Code. This is wel-
come, as if such a Code is in place,
employers will find it easier to
follow and government should
find it easier to enforce.

Another important law which
is now with parliament in draft is
on occupational health and safety.
Again, there was no systematic
consultation with business or
trade unions or other stake-
holders. We are concerned that
its approach is unrealistic. It seeks
to control, rather than adopting
a risk-based approach. It also
seeks to make health and safety
officers personally accountable
rather than the leadership of the
business. No-one will want to be
a health and safety officer in that
case. Health and safety should be
the top priority for the CEO and
owners of a company. The right
to life is a fundamental human
right, and if you get it wrong, and
someone is killed by your compa-
ny's unsafe operations, you can't
reverse it.

Another aspect of labour
law that we are working on is to
swing a different stake-
holders to discuss how business-
es should include people with
disabilities, as workers and as
customers of the products of
business, such as banking ser-
VICES, or tourism. There was a
good law adopted in 2015 which
made it illegal for government
and business to discriminate
against people with disabilities.
But one of the remaining issues
to decide in the bye-laws which
have not yet been adopted, is
whether there should be manda-
tory 'quota' for the percentage
of people with disabilities that a
company should be required to
employ, or be fined if they don't
do so. We think this approach
needs further discussion by gov-
ernment, business and disability
groups, because it can't just be
simply implemented, particular-
ly when people with disabilities
are discriminated in education
and in public transport, as well
as in society, and where there
is little in the way of medical
and social support networks.
So MCRB is promoting more
discussion about how businesses
can be more inclusive for people
with disabilities.

Q. What is your Pwint Thit Sa
project trying to achieve?
A. The aim of Pwint Thit Sa
is to encourage companies to be
more transparent by publishing
more information about their
business on a website. If they are
more transparent, their stake-
holders will have more informa-
tion to hold them to account, and
to build trust. Those stake-
holders might be workers, might
be local communities, they might
be consumers. For example, if you
have a complaint about a compa-
ny and its actions or its services,
you should be able to contact that
company, and get a response.

Q. What suggestions do you like
to give about consumer protec-
tion rights?
A. There is a Consumer
Rights Law, but there is low
awareness of it. Food safety is
a particularly major public con-
cern. We have worked a little
with some of the international
standards organisation like Glob-
al GAP and FSSC22000, which
is food safety certification system
that is intended to encourage
safer food production not just
for the export market place but
also for Myanmar consumers.
For example there needs to be
control of pesticides and 'for-
eign bodies' like stones in food
products. Myanmar consumer
organisations are not strong
yet either. They are mostly fo-
cussed on food safety. Howev-
er consumer rights also relate
to new products like telecoms.

Telecoms and mobile connectiv-
ity offer great opportunities for
consumers. But there are also
threats, like privacy of personal
data, or being overcharged by
phone companies.

Q. How about the land rights
and land tenure and what is be-
ing done to hold land grabbers
accountable?
A. Land rights are very,
very complex here because of
the lack of good paperwork about
around land ownership. We al-
ways encourage investors to do
a lot of due diligence before they
pursue an investment involving
land, such as mining licenses,
or building or leasing a factory
or a hotel. Businesses need to
be legal, and they also need to
ensure that they do not leave
current users of the land worse
off as a result of the investment.
Ideally they should be better off.
This is something that you can't
just achieve by giving farmers
a bundle of money. It requires
a lot more prior assessment, a lot
more planning and a lot more
follow up to support people par-
ticularly the most vulnerable, and
those who find it difficult to make
the transition from a farming live-
lihood to a worker livelihood.
Join us in launching anti-terrorism campaign

Khin Maung Oo

IN the PTI news titled, “Global countries need to prevent terrorist use of internet,” an Indian high-ranking official disclosed that the global community needs to co-operate on a world-wide scale to protect religious extremist terrorists from using the internet for radicalization and terror financing so as to launch terrorist attacks.

The said warning is a timely call for action considering today’s situations. At the present time, terrorists with evil motives are using Youtube, Facebook and Twitter and internet websites to create terror and hatred and misunderstandings among different communities and even different countries. Evidently enough, it has been found out that these kinds of people in many countries are using these effective internet tools. With more and more utilization of such tools, terrorist attacks and destructive events are on the increase in the world. Destructive elements are making efforts propagate extremist doctrines, agitation to wage terrorist attacks, recruitment for terrorist attacks and terror financing through the use of websites which can be used to accept donations.

The people of the world can never accept terrorists. We are trying our best to protect our communities from their danger, to fight them and to denounce their deeds. Yet, those who like terrorism, the ones involved with terrorists and people who would like to benefit from these attacks, economically or politically have been found to have encouraged and supported by using the internet. Accordingly, many countries are joining the call for fighting against the imminent dangers of terrorists and their use of the internet to promote their evil ends.

In Singapore and China use of the internet is being controlled by using cutting-edge technology whereas other nations permit free use of internet normally, with checks and searches made only if needed. Responses to terrorism may differ from one country to another geographically and culturally. Until now, the world has not been able to effectively eradicate terrorists and their supporters involved in crimes, which are on the move all over the world.

Therefore, at the session entitled, “Preventing terrorist use of internet,” held at the United Nations General Assembly on September 20, it was discussed that there should be a unified response to terrorists.

Indian Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar said “internet backdoors, critical internet resources and data centres should be dispersed and redundant to mitigate impact of major terror attacks”. At such a time when our country is building up a democratic nation, we all have an access to unrestricted use of the internet. Now, we have found some people abusing these rights to create agitations, hate-speeches, rumors and fabricated stories. With regard to the Rakhine State affairs which happened recently, ample evidence has been found that terrorists and abettors used internet websites and other internet tools. We firmly believe that Myanmar will also join with other countries to prevent terrorists from using the internet for their evil purposes.

Facets to disaster preparedness

Dr Yansie Rolston

SO far for 2017, the world has seen a plethora of disasters such as the floods in South Sudan, Myanmar and Guinea, earthquakes in Mexico, Philippines and China, drought in Somalia and in Nigeria; hurricanes in British Virgin Islands and the Caribbean; dengue outbreaks in Pakistan and Sri Lanka; landslides and mudslides in Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone; bombings in France and Spain. Trucks used as weapons of murder in Stockholm and Germany and fires in India and UK.

All of which have devastated many communities and profoundly affected large numbers of people. Yet, in many instances the psychological and mental health responses within disaster preparedness strategies are inadequate.

When sudden and unexpected tragedies occur, the immediate humanitarian reaction is to focus on the physical needs of those affected. While that is important, it must not be forgotten that disasters also significantly impact psychological well-being, and therefore mental health requires equal attention.

The shock and disbelief that such a devastating situation has occurred, and the hopes and wishes that it would somehow just be an unpleasant nightmare that will eventually disappear; the feelings of powerlessness, the guilt and frustration of not being able to prevent the situation or help others; and the enduring fears that something equally disastrous could happen again, and in some circumstances the intuitive need to apportion blame, and show hostility towards others, are just some of the feelings that often emerge.

In addition to which, on any given day there are many people struggling with emotion- al and mental health challenges such as depression, bipolar disorder or addiction. The World Health Organisation estimates that “one in four people in the world will be affected by mental or neurological disorders at some point in their lives”. So, when disasters strike it is not only the trauma of the situation that they will have to contend with.

Anyone who has been in close proximity to a disaster will tell you that often the shock of the situation shakes you to the core and makes you aware of their own vulnerability. It also presents a greater perspective on coping abilities and resilience, and provides an opportunity for a truer display of humanity and community comradery.

In the wake of a disaster it is good to see that despite negative/positive emotions and cognitions, people will mobilise themselves and come together to deal with whatever crisis has befallen their community. That new engagements and interactions will be made, thereby strengthening and fostering community cohesion. But at the heart of it all, is a reminder that there are individuals and families struggling to come to terms with their individual losses of loved ones, possessions, memories, home and community support networks.

There will be groups and organisations suddenly working outside of their area of expertise, navigating and fitting into changing environments, and that the members of those groups are also individuals experiencing their losses and emotional discomforts. The wider community – locally, nationally and internationally will also be affected in some shape or form, whether it is because they have relatives, friends, or kindred connections.

Disasters can have far-reaching effects, and while there are so many unknowns that suddenly emerge when tragedy strikes, making it difficult to prepare for every eventuality, in the immediate aftermath of any tragedy there will always be panic and chaos. But, mental and emotional well-being and community healing should not be left to chance, instead, a well thought-out, co-ordinated psychological response ought to be one of the facets of effective disaster preparedness.

Dr Yansie Rolston FRSA is a UK-based disability and mental health specialist advisor. She is a social strategist and trainer who works internationally at various levels of government, business and civil society. She writes a weekly column for Newsday. Contact her at yr@efficacyeva.com.
Redevelopment of Maungtaw region as per Disaster Management Law – Dr Win Myat Aye

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye said after the damages and losses caused by ARSA extremist terrorists, redevelopment of Maungtaw region will be implemented according to Natural Disaster Management Law, which was enacted in 2013 and Natural Disaster Management Rule was enacted in 2015. Based on Natural Disaster Management Law, Natural National Disaster Management Committee was formed with Vice President U Henry Van Thio as Committee Chairman, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye as Vice Chairman and union level ministers as committee members it is learnt.—Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alin)

Meeting for implementation of assistance by Red Cross Movement

A coordination meeting on effective and systematic implementation by the Red Cross Movement in providing humanitarian assistance to all people who were affected by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine State was held in a state guest house in Sittway, Rakhine State on Monday evening.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, state government officials, officials from the Red Cross Movement that includes Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) and departmental officials.

In the coordination meeting, a draft on the Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) of the Red Cross Movement was discussed.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar at UN: Term ‘genocide’ must not be used without solid evidence

FROM PAGE-1

He urged those delegations and the international community to view the situation in northern Rakhine objectively and in an unbiased manner. He stated that there was no ethnic cleansing and there was no genocide in northern Rakhine.

Nigeria, France, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Maldives, Chad and Bangladesh accused Myanmar of committing “atrocities” and “ethnic cleansing” during the general debate of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly held at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Myanmar says its forces are fighting terrorists responsible for attacking the police and the army, killing civilians and torching villages.

The International Criminal Court defines crimes against humanity as acts including murder, torture, rape and deportation “when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack.”

Government spokesman U Zaw Htay said no Myanmar government had ever been as committed to the promotion of rights as the current one. “Accusations without any strong evidence are dangerous,” he told Reuters. “It makes it difficult for the government to handle things.”

Ambassador U Hau Do Suon, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to UN speaks at the UN General Assembly in New York. —PHOTO: MNA

Northern Rakhine State on 25 August. The so-called Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) had claimed responsibility for the attacks. Subsequently, ARSA was declared as a terrorist group. Those vicious attacks had resulted in the loss of life and property and displacement of peoples. Those who had to abandon their hearth and home were many – not just Muslim and Rakhine, but also small minority groups such as Daingnet, Mro, Thet, Mramagyi and Hindus. Most of the world had been unaware of the existence and plight of those small groups.

Ambassador U Hau Do Suon urged all concerned to consider the facts. He pointed out that, within hours of the release of the report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, a series of coordinated attacks were carried out on 30 police outposts in northern Rakhine.

The ambassador also said that in the affected area of northern Rakhine, the Muslim community was not a minority, as was widely reported. In reality, they were a majority whose population had grown. They constitute 5 per cent of the total population in the area. The Government is now striving to restore normalcy. At present, humanitarian assistance is the top priority. The Government is committed to ensuring that aid will be received by all those in need, without discrimination, he said.

He reiterated that refugees who had fled to Bangladesh would be repatriated to Myanmar based on the experience of 1996, and that a working group for verification would be set up exquisitely to conduct a systematic verification process.

The ambassador’s remarks came one day after authorities discovered 45 bodies of Hindu villagers allegedly killed by ARSA extremist terrorists in northern Rakhine.

The discovery was made after following up on information given by Hindu villagers who managed to escape from the massacre in northern Rakhine and fled to Sittway and Bangladesh.

“The bodies were found with their throats slit while they were blindfolded and their hands were tied. Some bodies had cuts to their hands and feet,” said Dr. Kyaw Maung Maung Thein, Maungtaw People’s Hospital Superintendent, who conducted the autopsies yesterday.

“The evidences pointed to a massacre by ARSA terrorists,” he said. Hindu villagers from Khamuangseik Village told journalists who visited the conflict areas last week that Muslim terrorists stormed into their communities on 25 August, killing many, looting their properties, and abducting men, women and children and fleeing into the forest.

Following the discovery of the dead bodies, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye flew to the site by helicopter and consolded the families of the victims, pledging that the remains of Hindu villagers would be given a proper Hindu traditional buriel.—GNLM
K 20000 Each and Family Utensils Given to Home-Returners

Due to the ARSA extremist terrorists' attacks in Maungtaw region, Rakhine State Government has supported them K 20000 and a ticket for the journey by vessel each and family utensils.

Today’s initial amount of people who returned home is the largest in families and a few days ago some people left for their original places sporadically, according to the state government.

Concerning the return trip of displaced people from the rescue camps in Sittway, here are accounts of local people who will leave for Maungtaw of their own will and responsible officials in the interview made by the news team.

U Kyaw Min (Director, Rakhine State Relief and Resettlement Department)

Now that there amounted to 40 families consisting of 114 people who would like to go back home in Buthidaung and Maungtaw, the department will provide them with a family kit box each, with each of them to be given out K 20000 and a ticket for the journey by vessel each by the Rakhine State Government. As for returning home in groups or in families, today’s amount is the largest. Before now, one or two persons returned separately. As the region started to regain peace and stability, today many returned. Under the arrangement of the Rakhine State Government, people from several rescue camps returned to their places. Depending upon the amounts of families willing to return home in collecting data by the camp-in-charges, in the following days, the Rakhine State Government has arranged to hire chartered vessels to send them back. And, regular subsidies will be provided to them.

U Maung Soe (Shwe Baho Model Village, southern Maungtaw)

My family reached here for over 20 days to stay at the rescue camp at North Kyaukgsu Ward, Lanmadaw. Now we, all of five will go back. In my village, I eked out my living by farming. Sometimes, I had to do errand jobs. As we heard the news that the area became peaceful and stable again, we had our names registered to return. We were very glad and thankful to the authorities concerned for their arrangement of the Rakhine State Government. We took shelter at the meditation monastery. Our original work is farming. Now, it was completely destroyed. We pray for the tranquility of the area, as soon as possible. We would like to express our thanks to authorities concerned for their helps.

Daw Pale Nyo (Mawrawady, southern Maungtaw)

We took shelter at the meditation monastery in Sittway for over 20 days. In the village, my living abode was not burnt down. But we found it difficult in earning living. The village is in a safe state in security, being adjacent to the police outpost. In response to the relatives’ recount, we will go back home. Here, it is convenient for us in everything during our stay. We need not worry about provisions and medical care. We are very happy to get expenditure money, travelling fare and all subsidies.

Ma Mya Mya Thein (Lay Mile, Magyigone village)

Just at the day after the terrorist attack, we moved to this place in Sittway. We are 8 in all, taking shelter at the Ceitta Thukha meditation monastery. Our original work is farming. Now, it was completely destroyed. Poultry kept in my house may have been lost. We will have to survive with the subsidies now we got, for the time being. And, we dare not go up hills yet. We pray for the tranquility of the area, as soon as possible. We would like to express our thanks to authorities concerned for their helps.

Aid from Indonesia flows into Yathedaung Township

Foods and aid donated by Indonesia delivered to people in Zaytipyn, Thayagone and Anautpyin villages in Yathedaung Township yesterday.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and officials went by helicopter from Sittway to villages in Yathedaung Township on 26 September morning to distribute foods donated from Indonesia. In his meeting with villagers from Anautpyin village, the Union Minister said “The government and all never accept terrorism. Terrorism brings more disadvantages than advantages. Stability and peace of a region depends upon all the people in the region and he urges all to cooperate with responsible officials. The government also had the responsibility to care for people who were not involved in terrorism and thus it is providing food required by the people. The recent donation is from Indonesia for all who lived peacefully.”

People from the village replied to the Union Minister that no one is involved with terrorists, they don’t want terrorism and want to live peacefully.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party arrived in Zaytipyn and Thayagone villages and encouraged people in the villages. Moreover 707 households in the villages were provided Ks 14.11 million. There are 2,770 people in 615 households in Anautpyin villages and 3,721 people in 707 households in Zaytipyn and Thayagone villages where local nationals and Hindus lived. —Myanmar News Agency
### Turkish threats to Kurdish independence vote

**ERBIL, Iraq** — The Iraqi government ruled out talks on possible secession for Kurdish held northern Iraq on Tuesday and Turkey threatened to choke it off, after a referendum on independence there showed strong support for a split.

Initial results of Monday’s vote indicated 72 per cent of eligible voters had taken part and an overwhelming majority, possibly over 90 per cent, had said “yes”, Erbil based Rudaw TV said. Final results are expected by Wednesday. Celebrations continued until the early hours of Tuesday in Erbil, capital of the Kurdish region, which was lit by fireworks and adorned with Kurdish red-white-green flags. People danced in the squares as convoys of cars drove around honking their horns. In ethnically-mixed Kirkuk, where Arabs and Turkmen opposed the vote, local Kurdish-led authorities lifted an overnight curfew imposed to maintain control.

The referendum has fuelled fears of a new regional conflict; on Tuesday Turkey, which has fought a Kurdish insurgency within its borders for decades, reiterated threats of economic and military retaliation. Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) President Masoud Barzani says the vote is not binding, but meant to provide a mandate for negotiations with Baghdad and neighbouring countries over the peaceable secession of the region from Iraq. — Reuters

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### Palestinian gunman kills three Israeli guards at West Bank settlement

**HAR ADAR, West Bank** — A Palestinian man with security clearance to work at a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank opened fire at a checkpoint on Tuesday, killing two Israeli security guards and a paramilitary policeman.

The assailant, who was armed with a pistol and also seriously wounded a fourth Israeli, was shot dead, police said.

The incident was unusual in that the 37-year-old man had been issued an Israeli work permit — a process that entails security vetting — unlike most of the Palestinians involved in a wave of street attacks that began two years ago.

A police spokeswoman said the gunman approached Har Adar among a group of Palestinians who work at the settlement, and aroused the suspicion of guards at the entrance checkpoint. Challenged to halt, the Palestinian “opened his shirt, drew a pistol and fired at the security staff and troops at close range,” the spokeswoman said.

Residents of the settlement told Israeli media the man worked as a cleaner. One of them, Moish Berdichev, said he had domestic problems — his wife had left him — and speculated he may have carried out the attack knowing he would not survive.

“He was a guy with a good head on his shoulders. It’s a shame. Very sad,” Berdichev told Army Radio.

The Shin Bet internal security service identified the man as Nimr Jamal and said he had “severe personal and family issues, including domestic violence”.

The man lived in the nearby Palestinian village of Beit Surik, the police said. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in public remarks to his cabinet that the man’s house would be demolished and any work permits issued to his relatives would be revoked. — Reuters

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### Iranian Kurds march in support of independence vote in northern Iraq

**LONDON** — Thousands of Iranian Kurds marched in the streets to show their support for an independence referendum staged by Kurdish authorities in neighbouring Iraq, defying a show of power by Tehran which flew fighter jets over their areas.

Iranian officials and media have denounced Monday’s vote as a threat to regional stability, adding to pressure from Baghdad, threats from Iran and Turkey, and international warnings that it may ignite yet more conflict in the Mideast.

Undaunted by years of official suppression of dissent, residents in a number of mainly Kurdish cities in northwestern Iran danced in circles as night fell on Monday, chanting slogans praising Kurdish nationalist movements.

Videos posted on social media showed drivers beeping their car horns in celebration and people clapping in the cities of Marivan and Baneh. Many wore masks so as not to be identified by the security forces.

About 30 million ethnic Kurds are scattered across the region but have no country of their own. With 8 to 10 million living in Iran, Tehran fears pressure for secession will grow among a minority which has a long history of struggle for its political rights.

A strong police presence tried to control the celebrating crowd. There were reports of clashes between the demonstrators and security forces in the cities of Mahabad and Sanandaj.

In Sanandaj the crowd waved the flag of Kurdistan, a banned symbol for the Kurds’ desire for independence.

“This referendum will encourage Iranian Kurds to be more determined to seek their rights,” said Zarbar, a Marivan resident and member of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, a secular armed group which launches periodic attacks in Iran.

“This referendum was not a threat to Iraq’s neighbours, but it’s a starting point to resolve the issues of Kurds, especially in Iran,” added Zarbar who declined to give his full name. Tehran announced a ban on direct flights to and from Iraqi Kurdistan on Sunday at the request of the central government in Baghdad and called for a land blockade of the autonomous region by all neighbouring countries. The fighter jets of the Iranian army flew over western provinces of Iran as part of a military drill, including the Kurdish cities of Sardasht and Oshnavieh.

Although many Iranian Kurds would like to copy the referendum model, the road to autonomy or independence would be more difficult under the Islamic Republic’s theocratic rule and its military might.

The Revolutionary Guards have put down unrest in Kurdish areas for decades, and the hardline judiciary has sentenced many activists to long jail terms or death.

Iran sent Guards Commander Qassem Soleimani to northern Iraq last week in a failed final effort to persuade the Kurdish regional government from holding the referendum.

The result has yet to be announced but is expected to be a resounding “yes” to independence. One Kurd from Baneh, who gave his name as Arbaba, said he was exhilarated “from the bottom of my heart for victory in the referendum”. However, he was worried it would increase pressure on Iranian Kurds to prevent them from going down the same path. “The Iranian regime will militarise the Kurdish areas even more,” Arbaba said. — Reuters
Russian army to get bulk of Terminator armoured vehicles in 2018

MOSCOW — The majority of the Terminator tank support combat vehicles will be delivered to the Russian army in 2018, Uralvagonzavod's Director General Alexander Potapov said on Tuesday. “We intend to send the bulk of the vehicles (the Terminators — TASS) in 2018,” he stated.

The Russian Defence Ministry's Tank-Automation Commander Alexander Shevchenko said earlier that the Terminator combat vehicles would be put into service in the Russian army this year. He noted that this is "a vehicle of a brand-new class" that "has already attracted many countries, chiefly Israel and Syria." The tank support fighting vehicle has successfully passed all types of tests, the general specified.

The Russian Defence Ministry inked a contract to deliver the Terminators at the Army 2017 forum. The total sum of the agreements sealed between the Defence Ministry and Uralvagonzavod back then had surpassed 24 bln rubles ($417 mln). The Terminator's combat weight is 44 tonnes, according to the producer's website. The vehicle is equipped with two 30mm-caliber 2A42 autocannons and a 7.62mm-caliber PKTM twin-mount machine gun. PHOTO: TASS

Indonesia’s economic growth to reach 5.1 pct this year: ADB

JAKARTA — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) estimated that Indonesia may see a 5.1 per cent economic growth this year with a positive economic outlook in the future thanks to current massive infrastructure development.

"With higher allocation for public infrastructure, coupled with improving investments in private sector, Indonesia’s economic expansion would continue next year," Head of ADB Indonesia Representative Office Winfried Weicklein said in his office on Tuesday.

Against the backdrop of improving private and foreign investments resulted from government's economic reform programmes, ADB estimated that the nation may see 5.3 per cent growth next year. The ADB’s estimations on Indonesia’s growth were lower than 5.17 per cent targeted by the government this year and between 5.5 and 6.1 per cent for next year.

He added that Indonesia's growth in the second half this year would ultimately be propelled by intensifying government spending after investments and exports fueled the growth in the first half that reached 5.01 per cent. —Xinhua

Cambodia confirms outbreak of Trichinellosis in central Kampong Thom province

PHNOM PENH — The Cambodia’s Ministry of Health confirmed on Tuesday an outbreak of Trichinellosis in an area in central Kampong Thom province that has left eight people dead and 25 others hospitalized.

Trichinellosis is a disease that people can get by eating raw or undercooked meat from animals infected with the microscopic parasite Trichinella.

In its statement, the first symptoms of Trichinellosis include nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, fatigue, fever, and abdominal discomfort. Abdominal pains can occur one to two days after infection, and further symptoms such as headaches, fevers, chills, cough, swelling of the face and eyes, aching joints and muscle pains, itchy skin, diarrhea, or constipation usually start two to eight weeks after eating contaminated meat.

If the infection is heavy, patients may experience difficulty in coordinating movements, and have heart and breathing problems, it said, adding that in severe cases, death can occur. —Xinhua

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (155)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (155) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.9.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO (703)

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301928

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In its statement, the ministry said 33 villagers living in Prey Long (forest) area in Sandan district had fallen ill earlier this month, about three weeks after they ate contaminated wild meat that was undercooked, and eight of them had subsequently died in recent weeks.

"The samples of 3 patients' muscle tissue were tested by the Calmette Hospital's laboratory and the result confirmed that there were Trichinella larvae in their muscle tissue," the statement said.

It added that another test on the blood samples from other nine patients by a Vietnamese hospital's laboratory confirmed that there were eggs of Trichinella worms in their blood.

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Thai junta says knows whereabouts of former PM Yingluck

BANGKOK — Thailand’s junta leader said on Thursday that he knows where ousted former prime minister Yingluck Shinawatra is but will not disclose her location until after a verdict is delivered later this week in her negligence trial.

Yingluck disappeared from Thailand shortly before a Supreme Court verdict scheduled on 25 August. Her lawyer said she was ill with an ear problem and could not appear in court.

“I know, but I won’t say yet,” Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a then-army chief who toppled Yingluck’s government in a May 2014 coup, told reporters after a weekly cabinet meeting.

“I’ll tell you where she is after 27 September. I have spies,” he said, adding that to his knowledge Yingluck has not sought asylum abroad.

A verdict is to be delivered on Wednesday, 27 September. Yingluck faces up to 10 years in prison if found guilty of negligence over a costly rice subsidy scheme that helped to bring her to power in a 2011 general election.

Yingluck, who was active on social media, has not commented publicly since disappearing from public view last month.

Her Puea Thai Party has said that the party does not know where Yingluck is. Reuters reported last month that she had fled to Dubai where her brother and former prime minister Thaksin has a home and lives in self-imposed exile to avoid a 2008 jail sentence for corruption. Thai authorities investigating how she escaped said last week they have questioned three police officers who admitted to helping Yingluck flee.— Reuters

North Korea accuses US of declaring war, says can take countermeasures

PYONGYANG — North Korea’s foreign minister said on Monday that US President Donald Trump had declared war on North Korea and that Pyongyang reserves the right to take countermeasures, including shooting down US strategic bombers even if they are not in the country’s air space.

“The whole world should clearly remember it was the US who first declared war on our country,” Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho told reporters in New York.

“Since the United States declared war on our country, we will have every right to make countermeasures, including the right to shoot down United States strategic bombers even when they are not inside the airspace border of our country.”

Ri, who made the remarks before leaving New York where he had attended last week’s UN General Assembly, made the statement then returned from his car to the press microphones to add: “In light of the declaration of war by Trump, all options will be on the operations table of the supreme leadership of the DPRK (Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea).”

His words echoed warnings from the Trump administration that all options were on the table in dealing with North Korea’s nuclear and missile development and its threats to have a weapon capable of reaching the continental United States.

On Saturday, Ri told the UN General Assembly that targeting the US mainland with its rockets was inevitable after Mr Evil President’ Trump called Pyongyang’s leader a “rocket man” on a suicide mission.—Reuters

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

FOR MYINT & ASSOCIATES OFFSHORE SUPPLY BASE,
AYEYARWADDY REGION

Myint & Associates Offshore Supply Base Ltd. (M&AOSB) is proposing to construct an Offshore Supply Base (OSB) near Ngap Yoke Kaung Bay in Ayeayarwaddy Region, which is located approximately 40 km south of the town of Ngwe Saung. The facilities will initially include a jetty with a platform of about 0.6 ha and 30.4 acre for the onshore base plus 1.1 acre of access road. There is currently no infrastructure at the proposed Project. An access road will be included in the Project to connect to the nearest road within the village. The construction phase is estimated to take from 1.5 to 2 years to complete, commencing around 2018.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Environmental Conservation Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, M&AOSB are required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in order to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activity. Environmental Resources Management (ERM), on behalf of M&AOSB, is currently undertaking an EI in Study, which includes stakeholder engagement in Ngap Yoke Kaung. The EIA will be conducted in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2013).

Any information requests, or queries, comments and suggestions on the Project can be provided to esiafeedback@myintassociatesosb.com or 09-7949-3109. Information on the proponents of the project and this announcement are also available on the Myint & Associates Offshore Supply Base Ltd. website at www.myintassociatesosb.com.
Pretty Woman musical headed to Broadway

LOS ANGELES — The musical adaptation of the blockbuster 1990 romantic comedy “Pretty Woman” is going to Broadway.

The creative team will include musician Bryan Adams and Garry Marshall, the director of the film, as well as a cast led by Samantha Barks, one of the stars of the film version of “Les Misérables,” and Tony winner Steve Kazee, reported Deadline.

The musical will play a try-out run at Chicago’s Oriental Theater early next year. It plans to open at the Broadway next year in autumn.

“Pretty Woman” will have a score by Adams and frequent collaborator Jim Vallance.

Banks will make her Broadway debut with the musical and Kazee will be returning to Broadway for the first time since “Once,” the 2012 musical that won him a Tony for lead actor in a musical. No other casting has yet been set.

The hit movie “Pretty Woman” starred Julia Roberts opposite Richard Gere. The storyline follows the unexpected romance that develops between a prostitute and the businessman who hires her.

The design team will include David Rockwell (sets), Gregg Barnes (costumes), Kenneth Posner and Philip S Rosenberg (lights) and John Shivers (sound).—PTI

Idina Menzel marries Aaron Lohr

LOS ANGELES — Broadway actress and “Frozen” star Idina Menzel has tied the knot with her “Rent” co-star Aaron Lohr.

The two have been dating since 2015 and got engaged a year ago.

Menzel, 46, shared the news on Twitter, calling the ceremony “magical” and Lohr, 41, “the love of my life.”

“Wanted to let you know... Married the love of my life #aaronlohr this weekend @ our home. Dad and son walked me down aisle. It was magical,” she wrote.

The happy couple moved in together 2015 after purchasing a house in Encino, California.

Menzel was previously married to fellow Broadway star Taye Diggs from 2003 until December 2013. They share a son, Walker, 7.—PTI

Julianne Hough to play fitness pioneer Betty Weider

LOS ANGELES — Actress Julianne Hough has been roped in to portray female fitness pioneer Betty Weider in George Gallo’s upcoming movie “Bigger”.

A pin-up model who became a leading role model for women in diet and fitness, Betty was the wife of Joe Weider, and together they co-founded Shape magazine, which remains the most successful women’s health and fitness publication today.

“Bigger” tells the story of the Weider brothers, who rose from poverty to create the Mr Olympia competition, forever changing the face of professional bodybuilding. They would go on to build an empire of equipment and nutrition supplement, reported Deadline. Hough, 29, joins Tyler Hoechlin, Aneurin Barnard and Kevin Durand.

Gallo is helming from a script he wrote with Andy Weiss, from an original script written by Brad and Ellen Furman. Shooting starts next month.—PTI

El Gouna Film Festival bids to revive Egypt’s leading role in Mideast cinema industry: co-founder

CAIRO — The ongoing first edition of El Gouna Film Festival (GFF) is one of the means to revive Egypt’s leading role in the Middle East cinema industry and to show the world the country’s filmmaking capabilities, said Egyptian business tycoon and GFF co-founder Samih Sawiris in an interview with Xinhua.

Sawiris is the founder of the Red Sea town of El Gouna north of world famous Hurghada resort city, which hosts the GFF co-founded by him and his brother Naguib Sawiris.

“The cinema is among the oldest industries that entered Egypt, at the same time when Hollywood started its black-and-white cinema. So, my brother and I have always had the desire to revive such a heritage and return Egypt to its filmmaking leading role in the Middle East,” Sawiris said.

Scheduled for 22-29 September, the newly-born gala screens about 60 films from around 40 countries, including 16 feature films, 18 short films and 12 long documentaries, in addition to 19 films outside the official competition and four in a special program.

“The GFF is a means to highlight to the world Egypt’s filmmaking capabilities, remind the world of Egypt’s cinema history and introduce to the world El Gouna resort town that hosts such a gala,” the Egyptian billionaire told Xinhua, adding that “it’s like hitting several birds with one stone.”

The new festival gathers Egyptian, Arab and international stars and moviemakers including top Egyptian comedian Adel Imam, veteran Egyptian actress Yousra, Arab stars Hend Sabry and Hiam Abbass and Hollywood stars Forest Whitaker and Dylan McDermott, besides dozens of others.

Although mainly funded by private sector sponsors, the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism partly helped in the finance due to the event’s assistance in refreshing the country’s tourism sector that has been ailing over the past few years.

Some world superstars and filmmakers think twice about visiting Egypt due to what they hear about the country’s security conditions after going through political stability followed by a wave of terrorist activities over the past few years.—Xinhua
Canada's Lucara sells world's largest uncut diamond for $53 million

SHANGHAI — Christie's sold nearly $15 million worth of art at its autumn auction in Shanghai on Sunday, with a painting by abstract master Zao Wou-Ki fetching more than $5 million. The combined 98.3 million yuan ($14.8 million) sale was 35 per cent higher than the previous year, the company said. Zao’s “24.12.2002 — Diptyque” sold for 33.6 million yuan, the most expensive work of art to be sold in Christie's Shanghai. The highest price for a Western work of art was 13.2 million yuan for Salvador Dali's sculpture “Elephant du triomphe”. “We have presented both young and established artists to an international audience and witnessed strong buying from Chinese and international clients,” said Charlotte Liu, Managing Director of Christie’s China. —Reuters

Moscow spices up the city with its spectacular 'Circle of Light' festival

MOSCOW — Spectacular 'Circle of light' festival opened with musical and multimedia show performed on Moscow's Ostankino Pond and Tower. The event will be held on 23-27 September. In 2017, large-scaled video projections and installations will be displayed at several city venues, including Moscow's Theater Square, Tsaritsyno park and Strogino pond. —Tass

Moscow TV Tower seen during the 2017 Circle of Light International Festival. PHOTO: TASS

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China, US to kick off first social, people-to-people dialogue

BEIJING — China and the United States will hold their first social and people-to-people dialogue on 28 September in Washington DC, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said at a routine press briefing on Monday. Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong will co-chair the dialogue with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. The two sides will have in-depth exchange of views on bilateral exchanges and cooperation in relevant areas, according to Lu. “China would like to work with the United States for a positive outcome from the dialogue,” Lu said. The meeting is one of the four high-level dialogues established during the Mara-Lago meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump in Florida in April. At that meeting, the two sides agreed to establish high-level dialogue mechanisms, including the diplomatic and security dialogue, the comprehensive economic dialogue, the law enforcement and cybersecurity dialogue, and the social and people-to-people dialogue.—Xinhua

MRTV Programme Schedule (27-9-2017, Wednesday)
**SPORT**

**Myanmar and South Korea football teams to play today at 2018 AFC U-16 Championship qualification**

**Kyaw Zin Tun**

MYANMAR U-16 football team will play against South Korea U-16 football team at 6:00pm after the match of the Philippines U-16 football team and People’s Republic of China football team at 3:00pm at Thuwanna Stadium, Yangon today.

It is the 18th AFC U-16 football championship since 1985, but Myanmar team entered only 11 times including 2018. Myanmar advanced four times to Group stage and didn’t qualify six times as the competition experience of Myanmar U-16 football team is very low. Myanmar team’s today opponent, South Korea U-16 football team entered every event since 1985. South Korea was two champions in 1986 and 2002 and runners-up in 2008 and 2014. Advanced four times to quarter finals, five times to Round 1 and didn’t qualify four times.

South Korea U-16 football team had more experience than Myanmar U-16 football team in AFC U-16 Championship. Though the Philippines U-16 football team entered seven times since 1985, the Philippines team didn’t qualify any time. The Philippines team’s today opponent, People’s Republic of China U-16 football team entered every event and took two champions and three bronzes. Eight times advanced to Round 1, one time advanced to quarter final and didn’t qualify only three times. People’s Republic of China U-16 football team had more experience than the Philippines U-16 football team in AFC U-16 Championship. Myanmar and the Philippines football teams had less experience than their opponents, South Korea and People’s Republic of China football teams, but the results will be known later today.

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**Wenger praises Lacazette impact**

LONDON — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger hailed Alexandre Lacazette for adapting to the Premier League so quickly and says the French striker has a lot more to offer than just goals.

Lacazette, who scored twice as Arsenal beat West Bromwich Albion 2-0 on Monday, now has four goals in six league games. He became the first Arsenal player to find the net in his opening three home games in the league since 1988.

“He’s not only a goalscorer, his link up play is good,” said Wenger. “He fights as well, he’s not fazed by the physical challenges that West Brom gave us and overall he looks to adapt quickly and very well,” he told the club’s website (www.arsenal.com).

“I took him off because he was tired. He had an opportunity to score a hat-trick but I gave him the penalty as well ... what you want is to win the game and not to take any gambles because if they come back to 2-1 it can be nervy,” Wenger added.—Reuters

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**Thitsar Arman FC beat ISPE FC 4-0 at round two of Myanmar Women’s League 2016-2017**

**Kyaw Zin Tun**

THITSAr Arman FC beat Institute of Sports and Physical Education (ISPE) FC 4-0 at the round two of Myanmar Women’s League 2016-2017 at Padonmar Stadium yesterday evening.

In the first half, Thitsar Arman footballer Khin Moe Wai scored at 36 minutes mark. In the second half, Zar Chi Oo scored the second goal at 60 minutes mark, Thandar Moe scored the third goal at 72 minutes mark and Khin Moe Wai scored her second goal at 84 minutes mark.

In the first round of Myanmar Women’s League 2016-2017, Thitsar Arman FC and Institute of Sport and Physical Education FC have tied.

The second round of Myanmar Women’s League 2016-2017 began on 19 September with the match of Thitsar Arman beating Gandamar 7-0.

So far Myawady FC is at the top with 19 points after playing seven games with six games won and one game drew. Thitsar Arman FC followed the second with 18 points after playing eight games with five games won and three games drew. Sports and Physical Education FC is at the third place with 14 points after playing eight games with four games won, two games drew and two games lost. The match for today is Sports and Education FC playing against Gandamar FC in the evening at Aung San Stadium, Yangon.

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**Enjoy it while Benitez is there, Carragher tells Newcastle**

LONDON—Jamie Carragher does not expect Rafa Benitez to have a long stint at Newcastle United but backed the former England international Carragher, who was part of the Liverpool side that won the Champions League in 2005, said Benitez will ensure Newcastle are not in the relegation fight.

“I don’t think there’s any chance of Newcastle going down, just because of the manager. He is very pragmatic and he’ll make it very difficult,” he said.

“In every game Newcastle have, you’ll very rarely see them lose 4-0 or 5-0, as you might see teams in the bottom half of the table.

“I think that’s where Newcastle will be, but I don’t expect to see them in a relegation fight.”

Newcastle, who have nine points from six games, will look to bounce back from their 1-0 defeat at Brighton and Hove Albion when they host Liverpool in the Premier League on Sunday.

—Reuters

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**Arsenal’s Alexandre Lacazette.** Photo: REUTERS

**Newcastle United manager Rafael Benitez.** Photo: REUTERS

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**Thitsar Arman footballer (blue and white) and ISPE footballer (red and black) vie for ball at Padonmar Stadium yesterday.** PHOTO: MWL