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SPECIAL**



Pull-out supplement

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Upper: Fire in Ngasarkyu village, Maungdaw Township, on 22 September. Lower: Improvised explosive devices- IEDs found in Chein Khar Li Village, Yathedaung Township, Rakhine State, on 23 September. **PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

Houses burnt, IEDs found in Maungdaw region

Seven Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) suspected of being planted by Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorists were found yesterday in Chein Khar Li Village, Yathedaung Township. **SEE PAGE-2**

Cost of terrorist attacks compiled

According to the Maungdaw District General Administration Department, data collecting teams started conducting ground surveys yesterday to determine the losses and damages from last month's terrorist attacks and to collect information for administrative purposes.

The data collection is being conducted by five teams consisting of personnel from the Maungdaw District General Administration Department and five other related departments, said U Ye Htut, deputy commissioner of Maungdaw District General Administration Department.

"Ground surveys are being conducted to get the true losses and damages resulting from the terrorist attacks. While the attacks were unfolding, contact with village/ward administrators, heads of ten and hundred households were lost and detailed information were not obtainable. Data on ethnic nationals were obtained, but data on Muslims were not accurately obtained. In order to determine losses and damages accurately, the latest data needs to be compared with previous data and that is why five teams are collecting data now.

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Products of Dagon Beverages Co.,Ltd won Gold and Silver Medals in "The International Brewing Awards (BREWING OSCARS) 2017,England."

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"Be Proud With Dagon"

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint meets Myanmar Press Council, attends journalism diploma graduation

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint met with officials from the Myanmar Press Council in Kyauktada Township, Yangon yesterday morning.

In the meeting, the Union Minister said the media was observed being used for political matters with fake news and views of international media on the northern Rakhine State terrorist events. The Union Minister added that the ministry will cooperate with the Myanmar Press Council's process on setting up a Media Monitoring Committee that observes and differentiates fake news, while news media organisations and private media should analyse their performance, progress and development. He urged all to discuss what ought to be done to develop the status of the news media.

The Union Minister and officials from Myanmar Press Council then discussed distribu-



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint poses for a documentary photo with dignitaries following the graduation ceremony of Multimedia Journalism Diploma Programme in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

tion of true news from Myanmar to the world. Also discussed were programmes to be drawn up for cooperation.

The meeting was attended by officials from Ministry of Information, two vice chairmen and members of the Myanmar Press Council.

In the afternoon, the Union

Minister attended the certificate presenting ceremony of the third full-time and part-time Multimedia Journalism Diploma Programme Graduation Ceremony (2017) of the Myanmar Journalism Institute (MJI) held at the Sule Shangri La Hotel in Yangon.

At the ceremony, MJI executive director U Thiha Saw

delivered an opening speech, followed by comments from the Union Minister, who said the country's media sector consists mostly of people who came over from the literature sector and learnt media work on the job, by observation and self-study. It is encouraging to see youths entering the media sector through

systematic courses like this one, he said. Media personnel need to be well-versed in basic media principles as well as knowledgeable and observant of media ethic, the Union Minister said.

Afterwards, videos depicting news gathering, news writing, print, audio, video and on-line media activities conducted during the course were shown. The 32 trainees who attended the third multimedia journalism course (2017) were presented with certificates in the ceremony.

The Myanmar Journalism Institute was established in 2014 and has a full-time diploma course for untrained and inexperienced journalists, and a part-time and short-term diploma courses for working journalists. The MJI has so far presented diplomas to 700 trainees in the trainer course and 120 trainees in the multimedia news training course.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Houses burnt, IEDs found in Maungtaw region

SEVEN Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) suspected of being planted by Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorists were found yesterday in Chein Khar Li Village, Yathedaung Township, according to authorities.

While on patrol, security forces found two IEDs made from automobile pistons with a diameter of 4.5 inches and a length of 9 inches and five IEDs made from 9-inch long iron pipe with a diameter of 4.5 inches hidden in a hole in the ground covered with straw. The bombs were deactivated and no injuries were reported. Police from Innidin are inves-

tigating. On Friday, security forces responding to reports of multiple fires in Ngasarkyu and Kyein Chaung villages, Maungtaw Township found six houses destroyed by fire. The cause of the fires is under investigation.

On the same day, eight Hindu houses were burnt down in Kyein Chaung, causing damage estimated at Ks800,000.

The fires were found to have started from a Muslim house and spread to nearby Hindu houses. The cause of the fire is being investigated and a case will be opened according to the law. —Myanmar News Agency ■



The outbreak of fire started at a Muslim house is seen before spread to Hindu houses in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Cost of terrorist attacks compiled

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The main data will be collected first and other required data will also be collected. It is estimated to take about a month to collect the data and the data will assist in the re-development works", said U

Ye Htut.

Teams 1 and 2 started data collection yesterday, it is learnt. Team 1 is conducting surveys in six wards of Maungtaw as well as Shwezar, Kap-pakaung, Paungzar, Kanyintaw, Zinpaingnya, Kyikanpyin, Nwayonetaung, Thihokyun,

Myothugyi, Myo U, Kanyintan (Myoma), Pantawpyin, Padin, Nyaungchaung, Tatoochaung, Duchiatan, Dunyaungpingyi, Panyaungpingyi, Thayekontan, Gawduthaya and Aungzeya villages, while team 2 is conducting surveys in villages south of Maungtaw which in-

clude eight wards in Myinlut town, Kyaukpandu, Thinbawke, Innidin, Thawinchaung, Thabyetaw, Kyaungtaung, Alethankyaw, Kanpu, Udaung, Ohntaw, Wacha, Kanyintan, Thanda and Zawmatet villages.

The team includes staff

from the General Administration Department and also from the land records department, agriculture department, border area ethnic national development department, and the education and immigration departments.—Tin Maung Lwin, Min Htat Aung ■

Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 10th regular meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs

VICE President U Myint Swe, Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee, attended the 10th meeting between the Private Sector Development Committee and Myanmar entrepreneurs held at the UMFCCI in Yangon at 9 am yesterday morning, and delivered a speech.

Also, present at the meeting were Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint, U Khin Maung Cho, Dr Than Myint and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Ministers U Aung Htoo, U Win Maw Tun and U Maung Maung Win, Yangon Region Ministers, UMFCCI President and members, officials from Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Rice Federation, Myanmar Printers & Publishers Association, Myanmar Furniture Industry Association, Sagaing Region Merchants and Industry Association, and Shan State (North) Merchants and Industry Association.

In his speech to the meeting, the Vice President said these meetings had been held regularly monthly since 2016 December and had reached the tenth time. During the nine meetings from 2016 December to 2017 August, entrepreneurs had submitted 142 suggestions that were collected by UMFCCI and the Ministry of Commerce



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at the 10th meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs at UMFCCI in Yangon on 23 September 2017. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

had relayed these suggestions to the relevant ministerial departments, states and regions work committees. 136 replies to the suggestions had been sent back to the entrepreneurs. Some of the remaining suggestions are related to laws and would need time to respond.

Private Sector Development Committee meetings were held every two months and four had been held so far. Five work committees responsible for five main components were holding their respective work committee meetings monthly and to date 46 work committee meetings have been held. Responsible persons from these work committees also went to states and regions to meet with entrepreneurs and

resolve the problems the entrepreneurs were facing. Private sector development is being implemented to be successful in real life situations. As of end August foreign investment this year totaled about US\$ 3.9 billion which is an increase of 2.9 billion over a similar period last year, said the Vice President.

Private sector development needs to be conducted not only in developed, stable and peaceful regions but also in less developed, unstable and less peaceful regions as well. Only through this will work opportunities and income increase in these regions. For example, the Government is supporting the development of Kanyinchaung Trade Zone in Maungtaw region,

Rakhine State while respective entrepreneurs and businesses in the region were seen to be investing in it. All need to work together to bring in more local and foreign investment. This will support peace and stability in the region as well.

The Investment Law was amended for private sector development throughout the entire country without leaving any region.

Tax rates were also adjusted and tax exemptions of seven years for least developed regions, five years for mid-level developed regions and 3 years for developed regions were set. Cooperation between government and private sector is required for country wide private

sector development.

In discussing problems during the meeting, entrepreneurs are urged to discuss problems faced by the business sector and industries instead of individual businesses added the Vice President.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho, Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein explained about work done by sectors on private sector development.

Next, UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win gave suggestions on private sector development and officials from Myanmar Printers & Publishers Association, Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar furniture Industry Association, Myanmar Rice Federation, Sagaing Region Merchants and Industry Association, Shan State (North) Merchants and Industry Association suggested and discussed about their respective sectors. The Vice President, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers and officials responded and provided suggestions and discussed coordination matters.

The meeting then came to a close after Vice President U Myint Swe delivered a closing speech.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Chinese media returns to Yangon after gathering information in Sittway and Maungtaw

NEWS media representatives from the People's Republic of China gathered information in Sittway yesterday morning and returned to Yangon in evening.

In the morning, the media group visited to Thatkal Pyin rescue camp in Sittway where Islamic people stay and hold talks with displaced people and officials from IDP camp, gathering information freely about healthcare and living in camp.

Then, the media group vis-

ited the temporary rescue camp of Maha Zaya Theidhi Adeikhtan temple where Hindus displaced people stay and hold talks with displaced people, gathering information about the situation of looking after them by government and social organizations.

Finally, the group gathered information at the temporary rescue camp of Hindus Temple in Kyaung Tat Lan ward, Sittway where Hindus displaced people fled from Maungtaw and



Chinese news media representatives taking photos to displaced people at Thatkal Pyin IDP camp in Sittway on 23 September 2017 morning. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Buthidaung townships live. In the evening, the Chinese media group left for Yangon from Sittway by air.

The Chinese media group including journalists from People's Daily, China Radio International and Phoenix TV (Hong

Kong) gathered information in Sittway and Maungtaw townships on 22 and 23 September.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Shanghai aims to push unmanned vehicle industry

SHANGHAI — Shanghai wants to build an industrial cluster for producers of unmanned vehicles.

Hu Weiguo, head of the Jinshan District Government in Shanghai, said on Saturday at the opening of the 2017 World Unmanned System Conference, that the district government had planned to push for the building of such a production base.

He said the government would encourage the research, production, testing and system integration of drones, self-driving vehicles and vessels, as well as intelligence robots in the industrial base.

China's unmanned system

industry is still in an early stage of development, said Sun Baiyuan, secretary general of the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems of China.

He said the industry needed strategic development, network safety protection and research on market application.

During the meeting, there were drone shows for fire fighting and automated delivery, unmanned vehicles for digging and demolition, as well as self-driving boats for testing water quality.

Industry representatives from the United States, Britain and Germany among others attended the meeting. —Xinhua ■

High-speed passenger train derails in northern India

NEW DELHI — A high-speed passenger train derailed in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, railway officials said.

"A coach of Agra-Gwalior Express train got off the tracks near the Agra Cantonment railway station this afternoon. There are no casualties in the incident," a railway official said.

The passenger train runs between the tourist town of Agra in Uttar Pradesh and Gwalior city in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official added. This is the eight incident of train derailment in India and five in the state in the past 40 days. —Xinhua ■

Brunei calls on examining root causes to address terrorism threat

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN — It is important to examine the root causes of terrorism comprehensively such as poverty, marginalization and alienation, notably among youth, to address the terrorism threats, Brunei's permanent mission to the United Nations said on Saturday.

According to a speech text obtained by Xinhua, Brunei reiterated that terrorism should not be linked to any particular race, religion, nationality or ethnicity at the General Debate of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

"Like many others, we are concerned with the constant threats of terrorism and violent extremism. Sadly, in various parts of the world, the casualties resulting from terrorist attacks continue to shock us all. We condemn such horrendous acts and convey our deepest sympathy

as well as condolences to the families of the victims," Lim Jock Seng, Brunei's Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, said.

"It is our hope that by focusing on education, youth development, creating job opportunities, advocating the responsible use of social media, and promoting dialogue among different faiths and civilizations will greatly help in our efforts to bring about positive changes," Lim said.

"Working closely with youth, religious leaders and local communities will be essential to help realize this. Hence, we welcome all efforts of the international community to prevent and eradicate terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations," Lim concluded. —Xinhua ■

Japan, S Korea vow to promote security cooperation over N Korea

NEW YORK — Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono and his South Korean counterpart Kang Kyung Wha agreed on Friday to promote security cooperation in response to the rising nuclear threat posed by North Korea.

In a meeting in New York, Kono and Kang concurred on the need to study "various ideas" for deeper security cooperation, but a Japanese official who briefed reporters about the meeting declined to specify the nature of such options.

They also agreed to ensure bilateral and trilateral coordination with the United States in applying maximum pressure on North Korea — in concert with other countries — so as to compel Pyongyang to give up its pursuit of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. Following the 3 September test of what Pyongyang said was a hydrogen bomb that can be mounted on an intercontinental ballistic missile, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho suggested to reporters Thursday in New York that the North could detonate a hydrogen bomb over the Pacific Ocean.

There is growing speculation that North Korea may conduct yet another provocative act around the founding anniversary of its ruling Workers' Party of Korea on 10 October.

Despite differences between Tokyo and Seoul over issues such as Korean "comfort women" forced into wartime brothels for the Japanese military, Kono



North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho arrives at a hotel in New York on 22 September, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

and Kang agreed to manage these issues well so as to build a future-oriented relationship, according to the official.

Aside from the matter of comfort women, the issue of South Koreans seeking compensation for forced labour during Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula remains another thorny issue between the two neighbours. Kono said he looks forward to welcoming South Korean President Moon Jae In and Kang in Japan during a trilateral summit with China that the

three governments are planning to hold by the end of the year. In a separate meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif on the fringes of the UN General Assembly, Kono said Japan wants to cooperate with Tehran and other countries in ensuring a rigorous enforcement of UN sanctions on North Korea, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry. Zarif was quoted by the ministry as saying that Iran is opposed to the development of nuclear weapons, including nuclear tests. —Kyodo News ■

Bangladesh grants bail to two detained Myanmar journalists

DHAKA — Two journalists from Myanmar, who had been detained in Bangladesh while reporting on the influx of thousands of Rohingya Muslims, have been released on bail, a police official said on Saturday. The journalists, Minzayar Oo and Hkun Lat, were detained in early September in the Cox's Bazar border region of Bangladesh, where refugees are arriving from Myanmar to escape a military offensive against insurgents.

"A court granted them bail, but they can't go back to their country now," police official Ranajit Kumar Barua, told Reuters by

telephone, adding that the court would decide whether the two could leave the country at a separate hearing which may take place sometime in the next week.

The two were arrested for violating immigration laws, but no charge sheet against the two has been filed yet, said Barua, denying reports that the two had been charged with espionage activities. A lawyer for the two journalists also confirmed their release, but did not provide any further detail.

Bangladesh police had said that the pair were detained for engaging in journalistic work for a German magazine, while on

tourist visas. Germany's GEO magazine, which had assigned Minzayar Oo to cover the Rohingya crisis, said he had travelled to Bangladesh on 6 September, and was detained the next day. Minzayar Oo is one of Myanmar's most prominent photographers and has worked for various media outlets, covering the country's emergence from military rule. He has previously worked as a contractor with Reuters.

Hkun Lat is also a well-known photographer in Myanmar and has won prizes for his coverage of conflict in frontier regions. —Reuters ■

Myanmar affairs should be assessed objectively

Khin Maung Oo

DURING the general debate of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly held on 20 September 2017 in New York, U Henry Van Thio, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar gave an address, in which he gave priority to the affairs in the Rakhine State as many countries were quite eager to know what the Myanmar government had to say about this matter.

In regard to the Rakhine State Affair, the State Counsellor herself clarified on 19th September in her nationwide broadcast on radio and TV for the benefit of the Diplomatic Corps, all Myanmar citizens as well as the global audience. Now, the Vice-President has taken great pains to apprise the United Nations General Assembly what has actually happened at the

ground level and the Myanmar government's efforts to bring back stability in the region. At the same time he took this opportunity to explain in detail the position of the government regarding this matter.

The Rakhine State Affair was really attributed to the aggressive and violent attacks of ARSA extremist terrorists on border police outposts, ethnic Rakhine nationals, Hindus and Mro ethnic nationals, among others. The attacks were systematically timed to coincide with the oncoming UNGA, and just a few hours after issuing the final report of the advisory commission on Rakhine State led by Mr. Kofi Annan. Due to the terrorist attacks, security forces, governmental personnel, local minorities and Hindu residents suffered a lot and most were displaced. Here, we would like to claim that it was unfair of the international

community to be inordinately worried and concerned about the exodus of Muslims to the neighboring country, without even noticing or having any concern whatsoever for the plight and suffering of others who died as a result of the violent attacks and inhumane slaughter of innocent civilians. Their silence and indifference in this matter speaks volumes about their inner feelings, as those who died at the hands of the ARSA terrorists were also human beings just like the people who fled to Bangladesh.

The State Counsellor on the other hand has expressed to the international community that the deep sorrow of the Myanmar Government for the sufferings of all members of the communities which suffered from the tragic events. She also assured that all violators of human rights would be punished in accordance with the law.

The Vice-President also stated clearly at the UN General Assembly that the government would provide humanitarian assistance without any discrimination based on race or religion. He also added that Myanmar stood with all countries of the world in denouncing terrorism.

Accordingly, the UN and its agencies, and all countries of the world should assess the Rakhine State Affair objectively leaving aside any pre-conceived ideas they might have. They would do well to listen carefully to both sides of the story instead of just focusing their attention on the barrage of hate speech and propaganda based on race and religion being disseminated daily by certain countries and organizations. Most of the time, a well-oiled and well-funded propaganda machine can successfully drown out the voice of truth, reason and logic quite easily. ■

Food Industry Asia to drive Greater Mekong Subregion food safety agenda

Food Industry Asia has pledged to support the six countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) in building capacity and strengthening food safety systems across the region.

By Denice Cabel

FOOD Industry Asia (FIA) has pledged to support the six countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) in building capacity and strengthening food safety systems across the region. Representing the private sector, FIA will bring together governments, policymakers and industry leaders through high-level dialogue to drive the food safety agenda.

This commitment was made at a conference on the "GMS: Towards Inclusive, Safe, and Sustainable Agriculture Value Chains", held recently in Siem Reap, Cambodia, which culminated with The Second GMS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (GMS AMM-2).

The GMS comprises the Kingdom of Cambodia; People's Republic of China, specifically Yunnan province and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Republic of the Union of Myanmar; Kingdom of Thailand; and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The AMM-2 brought together the agriculture ministers from these countries, who each endorsed the GMS Strategy and Siem Reap Action

Plan for Promoting Safe and Environment-Friendly Agro-Based Value Chains in the GMS for 2018-2022.

Working with the GMS Working Group on Agriculture (GMS WGA) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), FIA engaged in a series of discussions with senior officials of the GMS ministries of agriculture, including a formal public-private dialogue and roundtable. The food industry body also facilitated a policy forum on food safety and sustainable management of land and water for the production of a reliable supply of safe and quality agri-food products, which highlighted the role of agri-food value chains in the development of the subregion, particularly its potential for agritourism.

Matt Kovac, FIA's executive director, said, "Our ambition is to have strong collaboration between the private and public sectors in the GMS through sustainable multi-stakeholder partnerships designed to improve food safety standards through a range of capacity-building efforts."

In support of these efforts, representatives from FIA member companies Cargill, Nestlé, GS1 and Waters Corporation participated in the AMM-2

and related discussions.

Kim Keat Ng, chairman of FIA's Science and Technical Committee, delivered a statement at the AMM-2, detailing the commitment made by FIA. He highlighted a number of areas for collaboration that are expected to immediately yield positive results, including:

1. Traceability through the piloting of GS1 barcode-based systems for facilitation and monitoring of cross-border trade, as well as the establishment of Government-to-Government, Business-to-Government, and Government-to-Business data-sharing;
2. Establishment of mechanisms for laboratory capacity-building across leadership, management and technical levels;
3. Food safety risk communication through the collaborative development of the ICT platforms such as AINS 2.0 as a GMS food safety communication tool and knowledge repository unit;
4. Promotion of the harmonisation of food safety standards that will enhance trade through the facilitation of public-private dialogues; and
5. Enhancing national legislation and regulations on food safety through

public-private forums.

FIA, according to the statement delivered by Mr Ng, "recognises that a regional approach to food policy, driven by private and public interests, will enhance protection of consumers and suppliers in the GMS, support scaling up of productivity and quality of products, and thus facilitate product marketing."

"Using the power of partnership, FIA and the GMS WGA have the opportunity to improve food safety in the region through multi-stakeholder efforts, with the adoption of a risk-based approach built on successful models that address the whole supply chain, while simultaneously promoting a climate for sustainable growth," the statement added.

Positive reaction from the GMS WGA was elicited for the suggestions provided by Mr Ng on FIA's behalf. In the coming months, the working group will make progress on how those suggestions can be pushed forward, as well as other initiatives that will ensure the production of safe and environment-friendly food, while forging closer links between the GMS's ministries of agriculture and FIA. ■

Chinese media: 'There were no limitations on us'

REPRESENTATIVES of Chinese news media organisations who were allowed to gather first-hand news and information in northern Rakhine State said that after their reporting trip, they agreed that the situation in western Myanmar is complicated and will take a long time to resolve. The journalists also said there were no restrictions placed on them as far as what questions could be asked or who they could talk to.

The following are excerpts from interviews with members of the Chinese media who visited and reported on Thursday and Friday from the conflict areas in Maungtau, Rakhine State, where terrorist attacks occurred on 25 August.

Alice Lau, Director of the News Department, Phoenix TV, Hong Kong: During the trip to Maungtau, we met with the Islamic community, the local Rakhine ethnic community and the Hindu minority there. We also



Director of News Department-Phoenix TV, Hong Kong. PHOTO: MNA

visited the areas which were destroyed in fire and IDP camps. At the camps, we found ethnic Rakhine and Hindu people. We found that the number of Buddhists are higher than others at the camps.

As a journalist, I will report what I saw and heard during the trip without bias.

Before the trip to Maungtau, I observed the reports of western media, eastern media and local media in Myanmar on

Rakhine issue. As State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said, the Rakhine issue is very complicated. I accepted that this issue needs space and time to be solved. I really want to see peace in northern Rakhine.

We welcomed the State Counsellor's decision to allow international media to visit the conflict areas in northern Rakhine because it would help all to distinguish right and wrong news.



Chief Correspondent - People's Daily. PHOTO: MNA

During our trip, we could get access freely to information and local authorities also assisted us in collecting information.

To solve this issue, Myanmar needs to walk a long way, because the Rakhine issue is very complicated.

Sun Guangyong, Chief Correspondent, The Peoples Daily: We also visited Islamic villages living at peace and IDP camps where ethnic Rakhine villagers and Hindu villagers are being

sheltered. We also visited nearly all places in conflict areas in Maungtau.

There were no limitations on us regarding collecting information and that satisfied us. We also visited Nay Pyi Taw and collected information regarding the Rakhine issue. When we cover an issue, just focusing on one area is not acceptable, and we should approach an issue in a country from all corners. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Senior General pay obeisance to remain of Kengtung Monastery Sayadaw

YESTERDAY morning, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla paid their respects to Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Arzeya of Kengtung Dhammawdaya Pariyatti Monastery, who died on 11 July. The remains of the Sayadaw was kept for public obeisance at the temporary structure on Phaya Kosu Hill, Kengtung, where the funeral service will be held.

After remarking on performing the necessary traditional funeral service, providing health care, drinking water and rest room facilities for public attending the funeral service, the Senior General took five precepts from Tuya Monastery Sayadaw Maha Gandavasaca Pandita Bhaddanta Pyinyatharmi and donated offerings to the monks and collective cash donations for the funeral service. The funeral service will

be held on 15 October.

The Senior General then inspected the construction of the Abaya Mudra Buddha image near Pankwe Village, Kentung and the Buddha garden where the image is being constructed.

Afterwards the Senior General and party inspected agriculture and livestock breeding works conducted in Kentung military cantonment area. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife donate offerings cash to the monks. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Kidney cleansing machines installed in Pyay General Hospital

Five kidney cleansing machines have been installed for the first time in Pyay General Hospital in Bago region, according to a report in the City News Daily yesterday.

The machines were installed on 20 September using the donations of 150 well-wish-

ers. The Ministry of Health and Sports also provided assistance.

The first patient who enjoyed the benefit of the kidney cleansing machine was a snake bite patient whose kidneys were adversely affected. For such patients, recovery

is possible if they have their kidneys cleansed in time. Snake bite patients have to take anti-venom injected first. If their kidneys are affected, they had to be referred to Yangon General Hospital, said Dr Khin May Thwin, the Medical Superintendent of the Pyay

General Hospital.

"In Yangon, kidney cleansing costs the patients between Ks60,000 and Ks70,000 per time. It does not include the transportation costs and accommodation costs. Now, it is very good to offer the kidney cleansing service in Pyay Gen-

eral Hospital", she added.

Patients from six townships in Pyay District, from Tharyarwady District, and from AungLan, Thayet and Kamma townships in Magway Region are receiving medical treatment at the Pyay General Hospital.—GNLM ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). — Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office

Three selected for Peace Music Festival in Sittway



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and MPs attend the event to select contestants from Sittway for Peace Music Festival 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**



A contestant participates in the event to select contestants from Sittway for Peace Music Festival 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

AN event to select contestants from Sittway for Peace Music Festival 2017 was held at Thabin hall in Yangon Region hluttaw on 23 September and selected 3 contestants in the event.

In the contest, three singers namely Aung Myat Min, Latt Phyo and Phyu Hla were selected.

The contestant selection was previously slated to be held in Sittway on 27 August but due to terrorist attacks in Maung-taw on 25 August and with respect and sympathy to families affected by the attacks, it was postponed and held in Yangon instead.

Union Minister for Informa-

tion Dr. Pe Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thien, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, region ministers, the director general from Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) and officials and invited guests attended the event.

The level 1 contest was held

in specified towns across the country and selected 3 contestants from each town. For Hpa-an, the level 1 music contest will be held in 1 October and broadcasted live on MRTV, www.facebook.com/mrtvwebmediaportal and www.facebook.com/peacemusicfestival.

More information about

Peace Music Festival is available on Facebook page www.facebook.com/peacemusicfestival.

Peace Music Festival is held in specified towns. Peace Music Festival families and donors provided assistances to charity organizations and IDP camps in the towns where held the contest. —Myanmar News Agency

Suite with wifi and bars, sir? Dutch hotel offers hard cell

AMSTERDAM — A beaming Syrian refugee called Monjid welcomes guests to Amsterdam's newest hotel, offering them hummus and olives before walking them from the bright pink reception area to their cell.

The Movement Hotel, which opened this month in one tower of the Bijlmerbajes, once the Netherlands' most notorious prison, offers both a unique experience for its guests and a glimpse of a more hopeful future for its employees.

The hotel is staffed and run by asylum-seekers, selected from a group of 600, mostly Syrians, who are being temporarily housed by the Dutch government — not under lock and key — in other parts of the complex.

The staff know their residence status is uncertain, but all hope to gain experience and build up their resumes as they dream of future employment in a more normal life.

"We heard from the (Dutch) government that if the situation in Syria is safe, we must go back," said the hotel manager, Hachem, who like other staff asked that his surname not be used because of the potential danger to his family in Syria.

Once he has been in the

Netherlands five years, however, he hopes to get permission to remain long-term.

Rob Hoogerwerf, the Dutchman who organized the project with donations and the help of various authorities, says the staff are working toward a certificate that would let them work in the hospitality industry in the Netherlands — or wherever they end up.

"We are helping them, or at least we would like to help them, to find their way."

For guests, the hotel offers an experience of a bit of Amsterdam history, complete with observation cameras in the elevators and barbed wire on some of the outer walls. The prison was shut in June 2016.

"We were looking for something different ... and at the last moment, we saw this place," said Andrea Legaspi, a Spanish law student attracted by the chance to get some kind of feel of prison life. Sure enough, she found a name carved into her cell, and had a view through the bars down into the prison exercise yard — as well as a comfortable bed and wifi.

The Bijlmerbajes once housed notorious criminals, including the group that kidnapped

beer magnate Freddy Heineken in 1983 for a 17 million euro ransom.

The prison's name comes from the Bijlmer neighborhood to the southeast and "bajes", a Yiddish slang term for jail that entered Dutch via Amsterdam's

Jewish population.

Last week the city announced that next year it will start redeveloping the whole area into a new "Bajes" neighbourhood designed by the architecture firm OMA. That means the hotel will probably have

to close on 2 January, though Hoogerwerf is hoping for an extension. Rooms cost 99-140 euros (\$119-\$168) a night. Each is decorated with a single word on the wall intended to invoke the many contradictions of the place: "Freedom?" —Reuters ■



A visitor takes photos inside the former The Bijlmerbajes prison turned Movement Hotel. The staff know their residence status is uncertain, but all hope to gain experience and build up their resumes as they dream of future employment in a more normal life. "We heard from the (Dutch) government that if the situation in Syria is safe, we must go back," said the hotel manager, Hachem, who like other staff asked that his surname not be used because of the potential danger to his family in Syria. Once he has been in the Netherlands five years, however, he hopes to get permission to remain long-term. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

“Terrorism is a very difficult problem and we have to take into consideration the security and normal lives of the people”: Mr. Miroslaw ZASADA

A wide-ranging interview with Charge d'affaires of Poland's representative office in Myanmar Mr Miroslaw Zasada by the Global New Light of Myanmar and MRTV touched upon democratic and economic reform, peace process and bilateral relations between Poland and Myanmar.

Q: Please share some of Poland's history with democracy and peace.

A: Poland has a long history of difficulties like Myanmar. Last year we celebrated the 1050th anniversary of the founding of the Polish State. During the Second World War people, in spite of the difficulties from the war, became enthusiastic about new times and the possibility of the reconstruction of new life. Decisions of the higher-ups without any consultation with our nation, we were suggested to join the so-called Socialist Camp guided by the Soviet Union of Stalin. So the enthusiasm we had was destroyed in the next years. Finally in the year 1989, thanks to the activity of solidarity, Poland regained full sovereignty, democracy and possibility to decide about our future. The big value of this period was that it was without violence. It was based on agreement between the socialist government and the opposition who were guided by solidarity and who wanted a real democratic state.

In the beginning the agreement was called “Our Parliament, Your President”. Later in the first democratic elections the majority was gained by the opposition. We started out reforms in 1990 and they were quite profound. We had to change everything; the structure of the government, the structure of the economy, moving from a central control economy to a market economy.

In socialist times we did have private companies but they were small. Big companies belonged to the State but people were enthusiastic because they thought “finally we have democracy.” True, we started to live like people in the West but the beginning was very difficult because people had discovered something we had not known before. One was unemployment and our shops began to be filled with many different products but many people did not have the money to buy it. So the people were surprised that we had freedom and a market economy but they had no money and no job to do.

The government's policies decided to make short but painful reforms to get quick results. It worked because soon after in the mid-1990s Poland could say it had a good economy to move forward and we could join the EU in 2004. But,



Charge d'affaires of Poland's representative office in Myanmar Mr Miroslaw Zasada. speaks during the interview with GNLM and MRTV at the Residence in Yangon. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

We have to make painstaking and long reforms to get good results and unfortunately when you make a reform at home where there are four or five people you can get results quickly in a short time but if it's in a big country with 38 million people, it needs patience and people will suffer in the beginning. . .

and this is an important message for Myanmar, when we started our reforms people had to wait at least 5-6 years to see the positive results. We have to make painstaking and long reforms to get good results and unfortunately when you make a reform at home where there are four or five people you can get results quickly in a short time but if it's in a big country with 38 million people, it needs patience and people will suffer in the beginning but it worked because we joined all these important organizations that we aspired and dreamt about.

We joined NATO and EU, which is an extremely important and successful organization that helps people live normally in Europe. EU is a bit bureaucratic but it has one success and that is the opening of borders which leads to free flow of products, services and people.

Q: What is your opinion on the Myanmar's government's reform and democratization process?

A: I am not in a position to give my opinion

or give suggestions on what the government should do because it's your country and your own decision but I must say at this point we understand Myanmar very well because we were in a similar situation. We had a nondemocratic government and Myanmar had a similar history so even though we are in different parts of the world, certain economic and political processes are similar because we are humans and we make more or less the same decisions. We admire that you also made a transition peacefully without war or fighting. I'm lucky to have been in Myanmar during its important part of history. I came here in August 2015 and I formed part of the EU monitoring mission with my colleague from Spain during your November elections.

We were surprised that a country that had no democratic experience was behaving in such a well-organized way. The elections were organized well and even people who did not know how to vote were being advised and instructed. The institution of the new government and the State Counsellor was peaceful but the

difference between Poland and Myanmar is that you have ethnic regions that are still waiting for the peace and stability. Poland doesn't have this problem because our minorities are very small and we were integrated. I admire Madam Daw Aung San Suu Kyi that she says peace is important and her work for the second panglong peace conference.

Q: The State Counsellor mentioned terrorist attacks by Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army and that unbalanced reporting are fueling the flames in Rakhine State. She pointed out that despite the exodus of Muslim people; fifty Muslim villages chose to remain intact so she invited diplomats to visit Rakhine State. So what is your opinion on her statement and will you join the trip to Rakhine?

A: First of all it was a great statement and it summarized the present situation and desire of the government and the desire for peace. Terrorism is a very difficult problem and we have to take into consideration the security and normal lives of the people. I would like to join to see how it is, not because I don't believe Madam Daw Aung San Suu Kyi but because I want to see what it is like in that area. I was in Sittway to visit an IDP camp but I hadn't left the municipality of Sittway but I like to talk to the normal people because this is the way to discover the country.

SEE PAGE-H

Interview with Charge d'affaires of Poland

FROM PAGE-G

Q: Poland developed a market economy so Myanmar is trying to do that too so what will be the priorities between Myanmar and Poland for economic co-operation?

A: Economic cooperation is important and in the case of Myanmar we started with assistance in 2012 by holding seminars with the ministries, especially the Ministry of Planning, to share our problems and experiences with transformation and to teach you how to avoid the mistakes we

made in the 1990s. Polish businessmen from seven different companies came to talk to UMFCI when the memorandum of understanding was signed with the Polish Ministry of Commerce. They talked to different foreign chambers and different business communities to discover what can we do and how can we cooperate.

Of course we have to take into consideration that Polish companies are not as big or important as those in Western Europe because we had no big private companies until the 1990s. Our desire is to exchange goods because we are from

different climate areas and our products may be interesting for the Myanmar people and vice versa.

Q: Lastly could you tell us future plans for strengthening ties between Myanmar and Poland?

A: We opened our representative office in 2014 with the strong desire to open co-operation on all levels including political ones. Exchange of visits is important but the number of visits is not so big now. Our foreign affairs minister and the Speaker

of the Upper Chamber of Parliament visited Myanmar in 2012 and we've had the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw to Poland in 2015 and now we expect important visits in the near future because it will be a big step forward in our political cooperation. The climate is very good on both sides of the country but it will be more efficient if you do what we did and open your embassy in Warsaw because now the ambassador of Myanmar to Poland is in Berlin. Berlin is not far from Poland but it is still outside the country so opening your embassy in Warsaw will be a great step forward.

Be unique, be yourself

FROM SUPPLEMENT-A

I didn't mean that I was not rich. My parents never let me to do unnecessary things. Sometimes, I wanted to be like her. So I tried to be like her by doing everything she did until I knew that it was wasting my precious time and giving me depression. Buying cosmetics and skin care products, going to the cinemas or to the supermarkets with friends and buying everything that is popular didn't suit me. So I tried to be being me again. Sometimes I told my mom about that. She said, "You don't have to be beautiful and rich to have friends. That kind of friends are fake friends. Try to find a true friend instead of having many friends. Also, beauty on the face never lasts long. Instead, beauty comes from your deepest heart. Don't focus on unimportant things. Just focus on your studies. Do not let your surrounding influences you, my daughter." Thank to my mother, I remembered my ambition and kept on studying my lessons. We had tutorials very often and I always got good marks in every tutorial and exam. The thing that I didn't understand was that no one, except my family, complimented me. Instead, they praised the ones who was wearing a nice dress or a branded watch or an expensive handbag. Of course, it is good to have such expensive and branded things but I think they are focusing on the wrong sides. My friend sometimes called me 'a strange girl'. Maybe it was strange to them because I was quite different from other girls.

I wore simple clothes while the others wore attractive clothes with fashionable designs. Sometimes, my clothes were the same design with different colors because I didn't want to spend a minute to think what to wear. I was praying, brushing my teeth,

tidying my bed and helping my mother in the morning while the other girls were thinking what to wear and making themselves beautiful. I usually stayed at home and read books while the others went to the cinema or supermarket with friends. I usually talked to my family while the others chatted with friends. I didn't go to the canteen because my mom always said that homemade foods are more delicious and healthy. I was watching TV channels which are knowledgeable while the others go to beauty salon. Maybe these are the reasons that everyone hated me. I am not in that kind of society. In fact, my parents were very conservative and they rarely let me go outside. So, I was usually lonely in my school. However, I had a lot of friends when I was needed. I mean I was used when they needed me. For example, I always went to school without absence and I paid great attention to my teachers and made note every day. So I caught up with my lessons. Some students did not attend class regularly. So they missed lessons. When the exam was drawing near, they borrowed my books. They talked to me with very good words only when they wanted to borrow my books. Of course, I lent my notebook because I believed that helping a person who needs help is one of the good virtues. Actually, I didn't want to propagate hatred between them and me. Some friends are good but most of my friends are fair-weather friends but I didn't blame them because I understood that life is full of both bad things and good things I always told to myself "The world is fair for everyone and it has place for everyone who is trying in his or her own ways. Sometimes, you need to forgive people so that you can forget your pains and

your past. Forgiveness can give you mind-peace. In fact, it is the pains that make you strong and mature. And never try to take a revenge because it has no good on both sides. Open your heart and give love to your rivals, enemies and people who hurt you. It is your love and kindness which are the best weapons to kill them. Never proud of yourself because of your standard, your money and your beauty because it is your nearest enemies that will destroy your beautiful life. Always humble yourself and give your genuine smile. Never stop trying to become what you want to be. Never be depressed because of other peoples' words because people criticizes those who work so hard. Besides, everything has its result. So, never think that all your hard work and payments are not precious and meaningless. Try to be a good friend instead of finding true friends. Also, you can find your best friends in library." Of course, I wanted to be beautiful and popular as I was one of the teenagers. But I never lose control of myself. So, books became my best friend. As I read books, I understand the nature of different kinds of people. I began to enjoy being lonely and doing everything I wanted to. And I began to understand that silence is one kind of peace. I stayed in my own life styles ignoring the disdainful eyes. I kept on trying doing the things that I needed to do and neglecting the things that I wanted to do.

Although I was not a beautiful girl and not famous in my class, I believed that one day I would be beautiful, well-known and be loved by everyone because of my qualities, wisdom and virtues (courage, honesty, kindness, patience and endurance). Now, I am a young business lady. I can earn my own money and give it to my

family. I have my own house to live with my family. My parents are proud of me. My relatives are also proud of me. Of course, life is not always comfortable. Sometimes I have difficulties and problems but I can overcome my hard times with maturity. In conclusion, I would like to say that fame, success, people's love and care can be gained not only by physical appearance and prosperity. So, don't be too depressed because you can't do exactly what the others do like travelling with friends, going to an expensive restaurant, going to beauty salon, buying the branded things and so on. If you just do what makes you happy, time will cure you. So, never let your surroundings influence you. When I was young, I, too, think that I would never have friends or someone to share my life and I would never be a successful person. But in my real life, it is quite different. In reality, people prefer a person's unique quality and ability more than physical appearance and ownership. They are not very impressive even if a person can do what the others can also do. Furthermore, in my opinion, everyone has his or her beauty. It depends on a person's eyes and conception. So, don't put too much effort to make yourself beautiful or make yourself to look like your beautiful friend or an actor or an actress. Instead, focus on your studies and learn as much as you can while you are young so that you can get everything you want by your wisdom. Think that you are perfect. In fact, perfect doesn't mean you get everything you want. It doesn't mean that you are rich.

Perfect means you are satisfied with what you have. So, stay in your own styles and do your own ways. So, be unique and be yourself.

Change Your Feeling and Make a Good Copy

FROM SUPPLEMENT-A

First is "Changing your feeling for the positive." We need to train ourselves and be focus to be able to see the good things. Even if our environment or situation cannot support us had a pleasant feeling, just try it and find it for any goodness. And change our perception to

the good side. Seeing to the good instead of bad can bring a peace to our mind definitely.

Second is "Copying the good habits to your routines."

To lead to a certain success, a good way is to copy the good habits and thinking form from those who are already suc-

cessful in our eyes. Listen to & learn from the successful so that we can recognize how successful people talk, think, and behave then apply them as the learning tools in us.

But "Remember this" In adopting the habits from the other ones. You need to adopt and copy only good things which

are actually required to be changed for your growth.

Definitely, changing your feeling to the positive could bring you somewhere peace exists and copying the good habits to your routine would help you reach somewhere the success exists.

Good Luck.