

NEWS IN brief

NZ minister sacked after 'altercation'

AFP, Wellington
A government minister who allegedly had a physical altercation with a press secretary was fired by New Zealand Premier Jacinda Ardern yesterday. The prime minister did not detail what Customs Minister Meka Whaitiri did during the incident last month, but said a report into the matter convinced her the minister needed to go.

Palestinian teen shot dead by Israeli fire

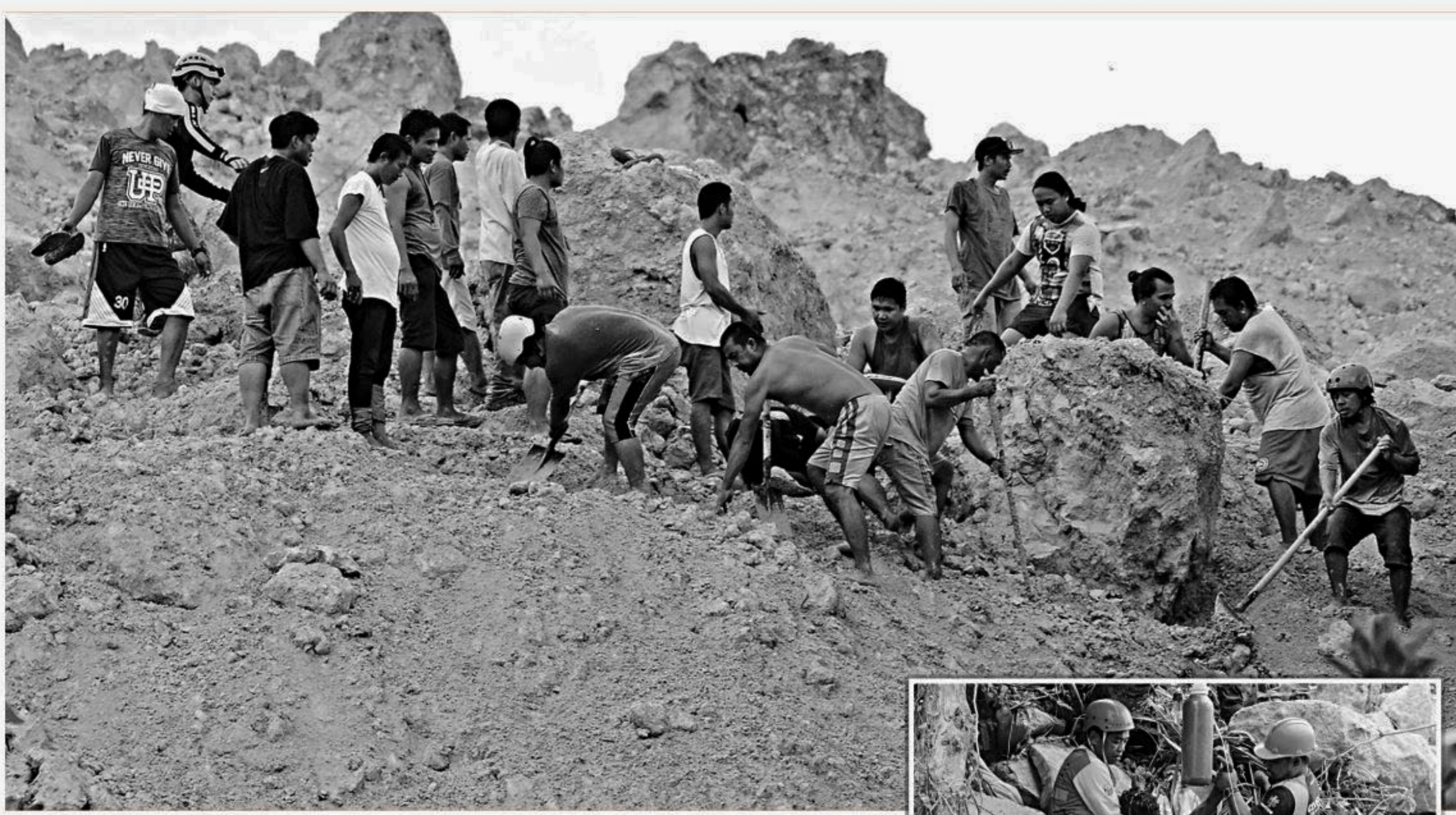
AFP, Gaza City
A Palestinian teenager was shot dead by Israeli fire in clashes near the border in southern Gaza late Wednesday, the health ministry in the enclave said. The ministry said Mumin Abu Ayeda, 15, was shot along the heavily-fortified border east of Rafah in southern Gaza.

27 drown as riverboat capsizes in DR Congo

AFP, Mbandaka
At least 27 people drowned when an overloaded riverboat capsized in northern Democratic Republic of Congo, a local official said Wednesday. The incident happened late on Monday night when the roof of the boat, which was overloaded with merchandise, caved in, causing the vessel to founder as it sailed down a tributary of the Congo River.

Boko Haram kills 9 villagers in Nigeria

AFP, Kano
Nine people were killed and nine others injured when Boko Haram fighters raided two villages in northeast Nigeria, the civilian militia said yesterday. Jihadists in pickup trucks attacked Kalari Abdiye and nearby Amarwa, on Wednesday evening.



Residents dig amongst boulders as they search for survivors after a landslide triggered by monsoon rains hit a village in Naga City, Cebu province in central Philippines yesterday. Inset, rescue workers provide first aid to a rescued resident. Twelve people were killed and dozens missing after the landslide inflicted more misery on the already storm-battered nation.

PHOTO: AFP



Imran writes to Modi

Says Islamabad remains ready to discuss terrorism; India, Pakistan ministers set to meet in US on the sidelines of UNGA this month

AGENCIES

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking that India and Pakistan resume dialogue that has been suspended since 2015. In the letter addressing the PM as "Modi Sahab", Imran Khan also suggests a meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries.

Pakistan "remains ready" to discuss terrorism, the new Pakistan prime minister wrote.

Referring to Modi's letter after he was sworn in last month, Imran Khan said he endorsed his sentiment that the only way forward for the two nations "lies in constructive engagement". In his victory speech, the cricketer turned politician had said that Pakistan would respond with two steps if India took one.

Government sources have told NDTV that resumption of dialogue is not on the cards. "Talks and terror can't go together," they say, reasserting New

Delhi's stand. However, a meeting between the foreign ministers on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly next week is not ruled out.

This is the second outreach by Imran Khan, who is perceived as a man close to the Pakistan army and whose



campaign speeches were full of anti-India rhetoric.

The letter is dated September 14 but its details have emerged a day after a soldier's throat was slit by Pakistani troops at the International Border, after which the Border Security Force lodged a strong protest with the

Pakistan Rangers.

"Pakistan and India have an undeniably challenging relationship. We, however, owe it to our peoples, especially the future generations, to peacefully resolve all outstanding issues, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, to bridge differences and achieve a mutually beneficial outcome," said Khan.

He added that Siachen and Sir Creek also needed close attention to move towards a resolution.

The Modi government has insisted that Pakistan act against anti-India Islamist militant groups that operate from its soil before it can resume peace talks to resolve long standing differences over the Himalayan region of Kashmir and other disputes.

Pakistan denies aiding and abetting attacks in India including in Kashmir and says it is fighting militant groups for its own security, reported Reuters.

ACTIVISTS' ARREST

India top court reserves verdict

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's Supreme Court yesterday reserved its judgement on a plea seeking the immediate release of five leading rights activists accused of having links with Maoists and in connection with violence during a backward caste rally.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, reserved the verdict after counsel for both parties concluded their submissions.

On Wednesday, the apex court had said that it would look into the case with a hawk's eye as liberty cannot be "sacrificed at the altar of conjectures". The bench yesterday asked the Maharashtra state police to file their case diary pertaining to the ongoing probe in the case by September 24.

MALDIVES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Who will come out on top?

Restrictions on media and alleged changes to voting practices raise questions over fairness of polls

More than a quarter of a million people will vote on Sunday for the next leader of the small Indian Ocean nation of the Maldives in an election criticised internationally for a lack of transparency and suppression of government critics. Restrictions on the media and alleged changes to voting practices have also raised questions over the fairness of the poll.

WHO HAS THE EDGE IN THE ELECTION?

With no opinion polls, calling a winner is difficult. Non-government organisations and diplomats who have travelled to the country say opposition candidate Ibrahim Mohamed Solih (Ibu), pledging greater democracy and a corruption crackdown, would be likely to win if there were free and fair elections. President Abdulla Yameen, who is seeking a second five-year tenure, is campaigning on a promise to boost the economy in a Chinese-backed infrastructure drive - a vote-winning strategy, say his supporters. But his government has locked up scores of popular leaders who backed him in the 2013 polls including his half-brother, former president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.



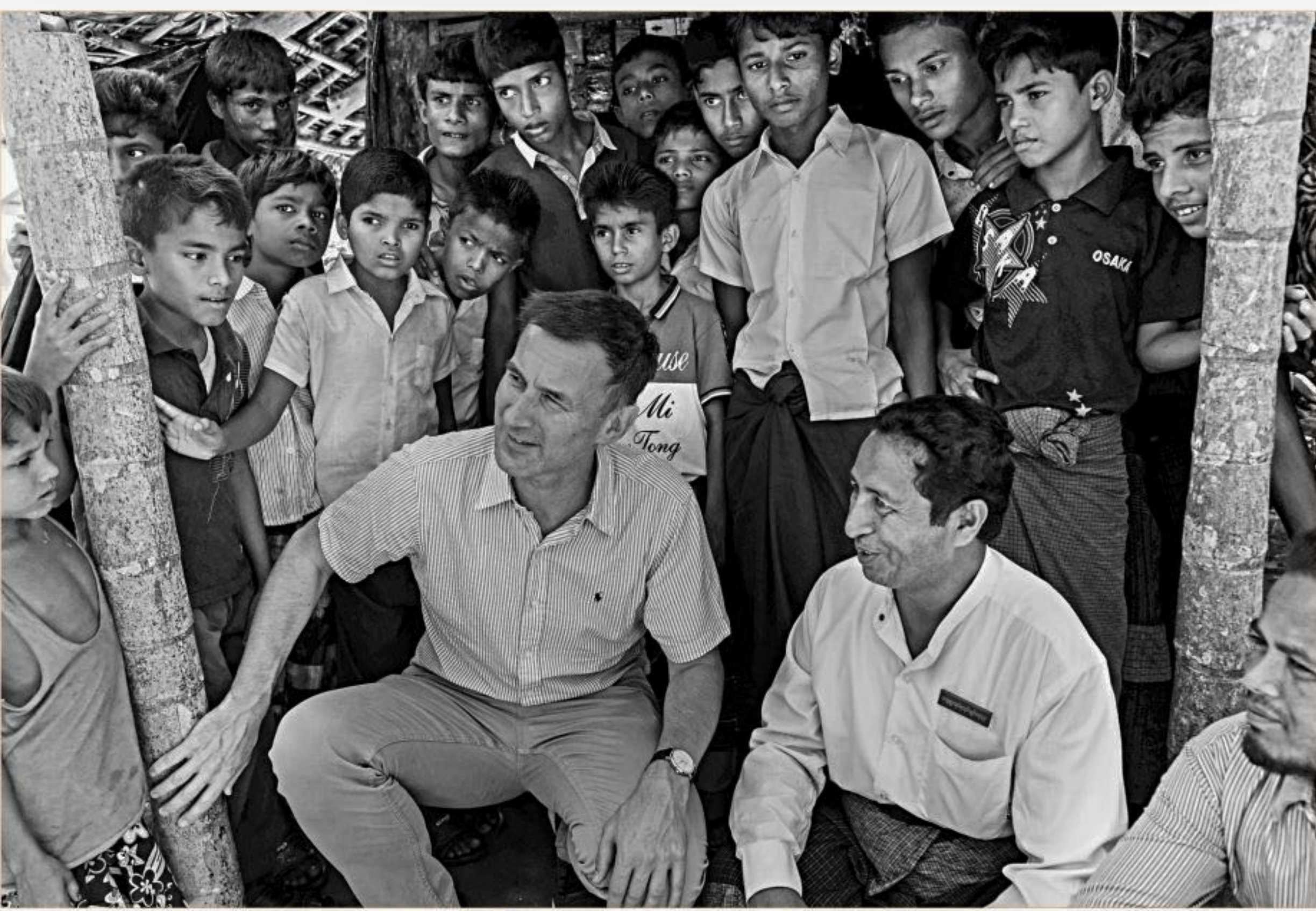
HOW ABOUT THE ELECTION MONITORS?

Many international organisations including the EU have declined the offer to visit and monitor the election. The Elections Commission has said 61 international monitors are expected, but they have not said who they will be. Locally they expect more than 2,000 monitors, but observers have expressed concern over new vote-counting rules they say will prevent them from seeing individual ballot papers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER THE ELECTION?

Most analysts and diplomats expect a chaotic situation with the loser not accepting the result. If Yameen loses, the opposition expects him to declare a state of emergency, use the Elections Commission and the Supreme Court to annul the poll and either call for a fresh election, or change the constitution to extend his term. Opposition candidate Ibu could also face arrest, they add. If Ibu loses, the opposition is expected to protest across the country, but diplomats expect Yameen to use a state of emergency, police, and the military to control any such protests.

SOURCE: REUTERS



British foreign minister Jeremy Hunt (C) meets Muslim villagers in Maungdaw, Rakhine state, yesterday. The international community should consider referring the treatment of Rohingya in Myanmar to the ICC unless those responsible are tried and held accountable in the country, Hunt said on Twitter posting during the visit to Myanmar.

PHOTO: AFP

Germany okays arms sale to Saudi Arabia

REUTERS, Berlin

Germany approved a delivery of weapons to Saudi Arabia, a government document showed on Wednesday, after saying it would halt arms sales to countries involved in the war in Yemen.

The government signed off on the consignment of four artillery positioning systems, Economy Minister Peter Altmaier wrote in a letter to lawmakers seen by Reuters. The vehicle-mounted systems can locate enemy fire, enabling accurate counter-strikes.

The weapons delivery is the first documented one to Riyadh since March, when Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition agreed to the Yemen-related ban.

Germany is one of the world's five biggest arms exporters, according to the SIPRI research group.

US STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Terror attacks down but global threat more 'complex'

AFP, Washington

The near-defeat of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria has forced a dispersal of the group that has made the global threat of terror attacks much more complex, the US State Department said in a report Wednesday.

Islamic State, Al-Qaeda and related jihadists have decentralized and are adopting new technologies like simple chemical weapons and small drone systems to be able to pose a threat far from their traditional operating zones, according to the department's report on terrorism in 2017.

"They have become more dispersed and clandestine, turning to the internet to inspire attacks by distant followers, and, as a result, have made themselves less susceptible to conventional military action," it said.

"Further, the return or relocation of foreign terrorist fighters from the battlefield has contributed to a growing cadre of experienced, sophisticated, and connected ter-

rorist networks, which can plan and execute terrorist attacks."

State Department Coordinator for Counterterrorism Nathan Sales said global terror attacks fell 23 percent and deaths due to terrorism fell 27 percent in 2017 from 2016.

That decline was almost wholly due to the fall of Islamic State in Iraq, where coalition and government forces have captured most of the territory it once controlled.

But members of the group have dispersed away from the Middle East and are surfacing with their own operations and networks elsewhere, including Southeast Asia. Last year Islamic State operatives conducted attacks in England, Spain, Egypt, the United States and Philippines, the report noted.

The report pointed out that Islamic State is also now threatening China and Chinese interests around the world, after some Chinese nationals joined the group.

Militant groups dispersed away from the ME and are surfacing in SE Asia: report

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate General of Family Planning
IEM Unit
6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

Not more than two one child is better

Invitation for Tender

Memo no. DGFP/IEM/Radio-2596/2018/1348 Date: 20/09/2018

1. Ministry/ Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
2. Agency	Directorate General of Family Planning
3. Procuring Entity Name	Director IEM & Line Director IEC
4. Procuring Entity Code	None
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6. Invitation for	Selecting Consulting /Advertising firm for Campaign through Private FM & Community Radio
7. Invitation Ref No	DGFP/IEM/Radio-2596/2018/1348
8. Date	20/09/2018

KEY INFORMATION

9. Procurement Method	NCT
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10. Budget and Source of Fund	RPA (GOB)
11. Development partner	IDA

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12. Project/Programme Code	5-2781-5350
13. Project/Programme Name	Information, Education & Communication(IEC) under HPNSDP
14. Tender Package No	GD-3/2018-19
15. Tender Package Name	Selecting Consulting /Advertising firm for Campaign through Private FM & Community Radio
16. Tender Publication Date	20/09/2018
17. Tender Last selling Date	07/10/2018 During office hours.
18. Tender Receiving Date & Time	08/10/2018 up to 12.00 Noon.
19. Tender Opening Date & Time	08/10/2018 at 3.00 P.M
20. Name & Address of the office(s) of selling, Receiving, and Opening of Tender Document	1. Director, IEM & Line Director, IEC, IEM Unit, Directorate General of Family Planning (7 th floor), 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka. (Selling, Receiving, and Opening) 2. Purchase & Procurement -1, Branch, Medical Education & Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh Secretariat Dhaka (Receiving only).
21. Place/Date/Time if Pre-tender Meeting (Optional)	None

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

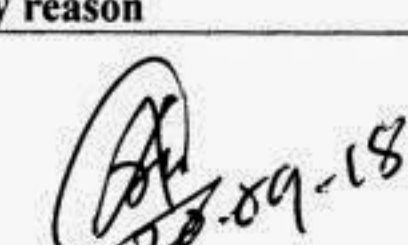
22. Eligibility Of Tenderer	The firm shall have to fulfill the qualifications criteria stipulated in the Tender Data Sheet(TDS) and other required conditions mentioned in the Tender Document
23. Brief Description of Goods	Campaign through Private FM & Community Radio
24. Brief Description of related Services	N/A
25. Price of Tender Document	Taka 3000/- (Three Thousand) (non-refundable) per Schedule & the aforesaid amount of taka should be paid through Treasury Challan of Bangladesh Bank/ Sonali Bank in favor of Director General of Family Planning, 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka, in the following code- '1-2781-0000-2366'

26. Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Taka)	Completion Time (In weeks/Months)
01	Campaign through Private FM & Community Radio	Director, IEM & Line Director, IEC, Directorate General of Family Planning (7 th floor), 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215	2,30,000/- (Two Lacs Thirty Thousand Taka)	08 (Eight) weeks from the date of signing of the contract

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

27. Name of official Inviting Tender	Ashrafunnessa
28. Designation of official Inviting Tender	Director, IEM & Line Director, IEC
29. Address of official Inviting Tender	IEM Unit, Directorate General of Family Planning (7 th floor), 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka. Phone: 9146535, Fax: 58151074
30. Contact details of official inviting Tender	Phone: 9146535, Fax: 58151074

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders without showing any reason


 Ashrafunnessa
 Director, IEM & Line Director, IEC
 Directorate General of Family Planning
 6, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

GD-2223