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Local Daily News

August 22, 2017

Civil society coalition criticizes police's action against demonstrators

Radio Timor-Leste, August 21, 2017 language source: Tetun

Representative of civil society coalition, Inocencio Xavier has strongly criticized the National Police Force (PNTL) that used force in responding to the peace rally, which the students held at UNTL Campus. Mr. Xavier said he was concerned about the police's violent action against the protestors as it breached the law and violated human rights. "The security authority should have secured the peace rally, but it did not happen. They should cooperate and communicate with the protestors in order to avoid acts of violence. However, the police fired the demonstrators using tear gas," he said. The students of all universities in the Timorese Capital Dili on Monday (21/8) held the peace rally protesting the Parliament's policy on selling the state-owned cars by auction, which according to the public it is against the law.

Australian veterans ready to facilitate maritime border negotiation

Radio Timor-Leste, August 22, 2017 language source: Bahasa Indonesia

Veterans of Australia are ready to help facilitate the process of negotiation between Timor-Leste and Australia regarding the ongoing maritime boundary dispute. Representative of the Australian Veteran, Michel Stone made the comments during his speech marking ceremony of launching a documentary film at Resistance Museum hall last Friday in Dili. Mr. Stone affirmed that the negotiation for this year would be conducted in the upcoming September and its result would be announced shortly after the negotiation. In regard to this matter, Timor-Leste's negotiation team, which Xanana Gusmao leads, is heading to Australia.

MAP to import cows from Australia

Radio Timor-Leste, August 21, 2017 language source: Bahasa Indonesia

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAP) is planning to import 20 cows from the country's neighbor, Australia. Representative of MAP, Joanita Vong made the comments in line with the MAP's plan of offering cows to its communities living in rural areas. Ms. Vong affirmed that negotiation of importing the cows between the Government of Timor-Leste and Australia was ongoing. "In relation to the process of importing cows into the country, we are currently making negotiation with the Government of Australia through a Memorandum of Understanding," she said.

Australian embassy holds dialog with woman groups in Covalima

Televisaun Timor-Leste, August 21, 2017 language source: Tetun

First Secretary of the Australian Embassy's Political Affairs, Johana Leahy has paid a visit to Covalima Municipality to have a dialog with woman groups in the area. During the dialog, members of the woman groups in the area conveyed the progresses they achieved during the implementation of the program, which the Australian Embassy supported. Ms. Leahy said she was pleased as she directly had dialog with the members of those woman groups. "Seeing the progresses achieved and listening to the members of these woman groups in Suai of Covalima," she said.

PNTL uses force to dismiss MUTL rallies, bypassing the campus autonomy

Suara Timor Lorosae, August 22, 2017 Language source: Tetun

The Timorese National Police (PNTL) from Public Order Battalion (BOP) used force to dismiss Timor-Leste's Universities Students Movement (MUTL)'s rally against National Parliament (PN)'s cars auction in front of PN Office yesterday (21/08). According to Minister of Interior, Longuinhos Monteiro, the police received order from the Ministry of Interior to dismiss the rally forcibly after it turned into anarchism. "If there was no anarchism of stoning the state cars, there would be no force used, the manifestation should be disciplined and respectful, that's it, but they stoned the state cars, destroy other people's property, it was not true, therefore, I ordered PNTL to use force when the rally turned into anarchism," Minister Monteiro told journalists at PN Monday (21/08).

On the other hand, a student of Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL), Joao Manuel lamented, in an attempt to dismiss the rally, police entered UNTL Campus and shot tear gas to students who were following teaching and learning process in the classrooms. In addition, UNTL Rector, Francisco Miguel Martins said the rally was organized by MUTL not UNTL students, MUTL just used the space in front of UNTL Campus to do manifestation. Responding to MUTL's protest, PN President, Aderito Hugo has ordered PN Administration to revise the price of PN members' cars auction since August 18, 2017.

Some MPs changes state-own cars plates to private plates

Indepedente August 22, 2017 language source: Tetun

The state-own cars that used by People's Representatives (MPs) at National Parliament (PN) have not yet auctioned, but some MPs have changed the cars' plates to private plates amid public's outcry regarding the price of the auction. According to Independente's observation in the field, some of the Prado cars which usually had red plates and written with letter "MP" have been changed to white plate. Timorese civil society and intellectuals have strongly criticized PN's decision to auction the Prado Cars which bought with \$63,000 each car to \$8,000 per unit to PN members. But PN members seemed to ignore the public outcry and some of them have changed the cars' plates to private plates.

On the other hand, President for National Parliament, Aderito Hugo da Costa said parliament administration council was going to review the car auction price whether it was cheaper or more expensive and it was still under process. "The first collective decision to auction the car with \$8,000 has several reasons behind it, but I have ordered to review the price," Mr. Hugo said at PN yesterday (21/08).

Lu-Olo welcomes Australian Force Deputy Commander

Indepedente August 22, 2017 language source: Tetun

President of the Republic Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo welcomed the Australian Force Deputy Commander, Ray Griggs and Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste, Peter Doyle at the Palace of President in Aitarak Laran, Dili last Friday (18/08). Lu-Olo appreciated the bilateral cooperation between the two countries and the supports from Australian Government to Timor-Leste especially to the Timorese Defense Force (F-FDTL). "I am pleased to meet President of the Republic of Timor-Leste. We have good relationship in the area of military cooperation and today our military gives capacity building training to F-FDTL members in Timor-Leste and also some F-FDTL members currently study in Australia," Commander Griggs said.

PM Araujo launches the documentary film of the journey of TL- Australian veterans

Indepedente, August 22, 2017 language source: Tetun

Prime Minister (PM), Rui Maria de Araujo together with the representatives of Australian and Timor-Leste's veterans launched the documentary film about the journey of Australian and Timor-Leste's veterans "Timor-Awakening" at the Resistance Museum in Dili. When launching the documentary film, PM Araujo said Timor-Leste's veterans had awakened the Australian veterans. "I want to thank to all veterans and especial congratulation to Mrs. Ines Almeida and Mrs. Francisca Maia who have an initiative to create this documentary. I hope people can learn from this documentary film to see others people struggle and respect it," PM Araujo said.

TL Govt, Japan and WHO inaugurate HNGV's emergency building

Indepedente August 22, 2017 language source: Tetun

Prime Minister (PM), Rui Maria de Araujo accompanied by Deputy Minister for Health, Ana Isabel Soares, the Japanese Ambassador to Timor-Leste, Eiji Yamamoto and The World Health Organization (WHO)'s representative inaugurated the new National Hospital of Guido Valadares (HNGV)'s emergency building in Bidau, Dili. In the Inauguration Ceremony, PM Araujo called on health professionals to serve patients that entered emergency unit with tender and gentle to help reducing the pain that patients felt. PM Araujo thanked the Ministry of Health and also the people of Japan for supporting the Timorese Government to construct the building.

New government uncertainty extends into sixth week

Indepedente August 22, 2017

The final make up of Timor-Leste's new government remains unclear, after an abrupt announcement on Sunday from the Fretilin party that it would continue coalition negotiations with political parties. Fretilin, the lead vote winner from 22 July parliamentary election, had suggested it would form a coalition with the People's Liberation Party (PLP) and new youth party KHUNTO in order to gain majority power. The announcement followed a meeting between Fretilin's leader Mari Alkatiri and Xanana Gusmao, the Secretary General for Timorese Reconstruction (CNRT), Timor-Leste second most powerful political force. Alkatiri said his party would not announce the new government as planned, but continue negotiation talks, "We will present the formation government to the president of the republic next week," Alkatiri said on Sunday.

The meeting marks a stark contrast from the stance CNRT made on August 4 when it said it would not form a coalition government. At the time Gusmao said he would also resign as head of the party. "This is the right moment for Fretilin, as the winning party of the 2017 elections, to assume, and with full legitimacy, the reins of government," Gusmao said at the time. The two parties had jointly ruled through a parliamentary majority alliance that Gusmao set-up in 2015. CNRT lost eight seats in Parliament, with Fretilin taking a majority 29,7 percent of vote compared to 29,5 per cent, giving Fretilin leader Mari Alkatiri a narrow victory. Fretilin fell short of winning the 33 seats needed in the 65-seats parliament for one party to rule alone.

Fretilin requests to postpone the Fourth Legislative swearing in ceremony

Diário, August 22, 2017. Language source: Tetun

The most voted party, FRETILIN has requested National Parliament (PN) to postpone the swearing in ceremony for new members of parliament until August 28. President of PN, Adérito Hugo da Costa said FRETILIN needed more time to negotiate with other elected parties to form coalition. "We have set a date to swear in the new PN members for today (yesterday, red) and we have prepared everything, but FRETILIN has submitted a proposal to postpone the inauguration ceremony," Hugo told journalists at the National Parliament on Monday (21/08).

August 21, 2017

Xanana gives his support for Fretilin to rule the country: Alkatiri

Televisaun Timor-Leste, August 17, 2017 language source: Tetun

Timor-Leste's historical leader, Xanana Gusmao who is also the president of CNRT Party has given his support for the Fretilin Party to rule Timor-Leste for the next five years. Fretilin Party Secretary-General made the comments after having a meeting with members of Khunto party on Thursday (17/8). Alkatiri said he had met with Xanana where he had declared his support for the Fretilin Party to form new government. He added that the PD Party had also communicated with his party about possibility of re-talking about the process of establishing the new government.

Xanana to continue leading Maritime Border Negotiation team

GMN, August 19, 2017 language source: Tetun

Timor-Leste's National Leader, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao thanked the Fretilin Party for giving him the opportunity to continue leading the country's Maritime Border Negotiation Team. Xanana made the comments after meeting with the Fretilin Party's Secretary-General Mari Alkatiri last Friday (18/8) at Hotel Novo Turismo. Meanwhile, Alkatiri affirmed that Mr. Xanana and his team members would continue working for the process of negotiations as he had experience. "No change to the maritime negotiation team, the chief of the team is brother Xanana and also his team member like the current minister, Agio Pereira," he said.

KAK learns Parliament's resolution on selling cars by auction

Radio Timor-Leste August 18, 2017 language source: Tetun

The Anti-Corruption Commission (KAK) is learning and analyzing the National Parliament's resolution on selling 65 state-own cars by auction, which is suspected of acts of corruption. Deputy Commissioner of KAK, Manuel Bucar made the comments regarding the Student Movement's (MUTL) demand on KAK to launch investigation into the referred case. "The Anti-Corruption Commission is currently collecting data in relation to the Parliament's resolution on selling cars by auction and is learning the case as everything should be based on legality," he said. MUTL also sent an official letter to the president of the republic and the Public Prosecution Office to look at this matter. Meanwhile, Civil Society Coalition called on the country's Audit Court to hold an audit into the Parliament regarding its resolution.

Fretilin to present structure of new govt

Radio Timor-Leste, August 18, 2017 language source: Tetun

The Fretilin party is planning to present structure of new government on Tuesday (22/8) to the President of the Republic. Secretary-General of the Fretilin Party said PLP and Kuntho Parties were confirmed to join the 7th constitutional of Timor-Leste. "I am going to present this structure to the coalition party and also to the president of the republic on Tuesday," he said. Alkatiri added that coalition with PLP and Khunto did not close door for the Democratic Party (PD) and CNRT to join the new government.

Australia to provide two patrol ships to F-FDTL

GMN TV, August 19, 2017 language source: Tetun

Australia is planning to provide capacity building for human resources of the Timorese Defense Force (F-FDTL) and also offer two patrol ships to the defense force. Australia Defense Force will also help train F-FDTL soldiers about peace keeping mission. F-FDTL Chief of Defense, Major General Lere Anan Timur made the comments after welcoming the Australian Defense Force's deputy admiral. In a meeting, which was held in Dili, the two countries' defense commanders were talking about Australia's support for F-FDTL's human resource capacity and the two ships, which Australia will provide for the country's defense force.

UNTL students produce bio-ethanol from banana peel and sugar cane

Suara Timor Lorosae, August 21, 2017 Language source: Tetun

The students of Chemistry from Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL) have produced bio-ethanol from banana peel and last Friday (18/08), the students demonstrated the use of the bio-ethanol to run a generator instead of gasoline. One of the students, Alfredo Fernandes said they wanted to put into practice the theory that they got and also to show the use of bio-ethanol from renewable resource as gasoline to run a machine to promote biodegradable fuel. "Today (last Friday, red), we demonstrated how to turn renewable resources such as sugar cane and banana peel into bio-ethanol to run a generator," Alfredo Fernandes said. UNTL Rector, Francisco Miguel Martins said these students could contribute to Timor-Leste's development in the future to take Timor-Leste out from its dependence on its limited oil and gas resources.

Basic school implements school garden

Suara Timor Lorosae, August 21, 2017 Language source: Tetun

Around 70 basic schools in Timor-Leste have implemented school garden program aiming to acquaint students with farmers' lives and nutrition that each vegetable contains. "Basic schools in Dili, Alleu, Liquisa, Ermera, Bobonaro, Ainaro, and Baucau have their own school gardens as laboratory to facilitate students' learning process," Director of School Social Activity of Ministry of Education, Belchior Maria Almeida said last Friday (18/08) in Kaikoli, Dili. He added the program also supported by Thailand's Princes' organization and also international agency through Avansa Agricultura Project.

After meeting Xanana, Govt members swearing in ceremony postpones

Indepedente August 21, 2017 language source: Tetun

It has been scheduled before that on Monday (21/08), the new National Parliament members will be inducted and the most voted party Fretilin will announce who will assume the post of Prime Minister, but it is postponed to next week after FRETILIN Party leaders met with the National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction Party (CNRT)'s President Xanana Gusmao last Friday (18/08). On Wednesday (16/08) and Thursday (17/08), General Secretary for Fretilin Mari Alkatiri had met with the political parties like Popular Liberation Party (PLP) and KHUNTO to form the Seventh Government and Alkatiri had pledged to announce the name of the Prime Minister Monday (21/08). Mr. Alkatiri said they would finalize the negotiation process with political parties to form the government. "Next week, we will present the structure of new government to the President of the Republic," said Alkatiri at the Timorese Defense Force (F-FDTL)'s head quarter in Fatuhada, Dili yesterday (20/08).

Leaders receive million of money and forget about veterans, Lere says

Indepedente August 21, 2017 language source: Tetun

The Timorese Defense Force (F-FDTL) Commander Major General Lere Anan Timur considers the countries' leaders have discriminated veterans. The leaders have received million of money, but they ignore the life condition of veterans who had fought for the country's independence. The former guerilla fighter said the veterans who got reform from F-FDTL institution in 2015 only received \$225 per month, but the country's leaders received thousands of dollar after their mandates ended. "Our colleagues who were reformed from F-FDTL in 2015 do not get good attention from the government and they only get \$225 per month as their pension, but the country's leaders get thousand to million per month," Lere told journalist at F-FDTL head quarter in Fatuhada, Dili after celebrating the Timorese Liberation Army (FALINTIL)'s Day on Sunday (20/08).

The third legislative MPs are "impotent"

Indepedente August 21, 2017 language source: Tetun

The third legislative members (MPs)' mandates have ended last Friday (18/08). But according to the research from civil society organization, during their mandates in the last five years, these MPs are impotent because they have not yet responded to public's outcry of discussing and approving several significant laws. Executive Director for Human Rights Association, (Yayasan Hak), Manuel Monteiro said the third legislative members were not productive because they did not do their jobs of monitoring government's programs' implementation properly and they did not produce many laws.

Monteiro said people were still concerned about road condition and sanitation including food security, but the MPs was not prioritizing these outcries during their mandate. "Not many laws were produced, for instance, the law of anti-corruption was not approved during their 5-year-mandate in Parliament and corruption continues existing in the country," Mr. Monteiro said at his office, Farol Dili (18/08).

Timor-Leste's ASEAN membership needed for regional identity

Indepedente August 21, 2017

Timor-Leste regional affiliation will remain uncertain if it does not become the eleventh member of the Association Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said political commentator Dr. Bec Strating. Writing in the interpreter on Friday, the Australian professor of politics said: "as long as Timor-Leste remains outside of ASEAN, its sense of regional identity remains ambiguous." "The perceived value of ASEAN for small states lies in its capacity to ameliorate regional security risks through collective security arrangements, and as a forum for promoting national interests in regional security discussion," Starting said. Starting said Timor-Leste's ascension to the treaty of Amity and Cooperation upon its independence as a state outside of Southeast Asia, Limits its regional inclusion.

Timor-Leste first applied for formal membership of ASEAN in March 2011, while Indonesia was chair. ASEAN membership is conditional on; geographical location; recognition by other states to be bound by the ASEAN charter; and ability and willingness to carry out obligations of membership. "The key challenges for Timor-Leste have been proving its capacity to meet membership obligations of membership."

People from Fretilin to assume the positions of PM, PN president and Minister of Defense

Diário Nacional, August 21, 2017 Language source: Tetun

As the most voted party in parliamentary election, Fretilin has constitutional rights to form new government. Thus, the party has prepared its potential people to assume important posts in the executive and legislative bodies such as Prime Minister (PM), President of National Parliament (PN) and Minister of Defense. Secretary General of Fretilin, Marí Alkatiri said these three positions would be assumed by FRETILIN, because FRETILIN had simply won the election.

"We will assume these three positions," he answered reporter's question with a smile after he attended the 42nd anniversary of FALINTIL in Fatuhada Dili on Sunday (20/08). According to the schedule, the inducting ceremony for new members of parliament will be held on August 21 (Today), but it is postponed because Xanana is in abroad. "The ceremony will be postponed until next week because Xanana is abroad to negotiate the maritime border, he is also elected as member of parliament, so we should respect and wait for him until he comes back," said Marí Alkatiri

PM Araujo launches the film "Timor Awakening"

Diário, August 21, 2017. Language source: Tetun

Prime Minister Rui Maria de Araújo, on Friday (18/08), launched a documentary film about Timorese resistance with title "Timor Awakening". "Timorese veterans have awakened the Australian veterans about their struggle during the World War II, I would like thank all Timorese veterans, we hope this initiative will remind people about Timorese people's struggle," said PM Araujo in his speech, at the Timorese Resistance Museum. At the same place the Director of Timor Awakening, Michael Stone said he wanted to

make this film because Australian veterans faced many problems and they had learned from Timorese veterans to strengthen their friendship relation.

PM Araujo recognizes doctors and health professionals don't serve patients well

Diário Nacional, August 21, 2017 Language source: Tetun

Prime Minister (PM), Rui Maria de Araújo recognizes that doctors and health professionals in hospital do not serve patients well because they treat patients like tools not human being. "I am calling on health professionals and doctors to think about human aspect when they serve people, and health care as very important aspect and to show our sympathy and attention for those who needs our technical service, in particularly in emergency unit, we should be friendly to serve patients and serve them with smile," PM Araujo said after inaugurating Emergency Unit's room at the Guido Valadares National Hospital (HNGV), on Saturday (19/08).

He also recognized it was not the institutional or structural problem, but the problem was on the capacity of each professional. PM Araujo said sometimes with a smile from doctors and health workers could reduce 50 % of pain felt by a patient and could make them feel comfortable with small things done by doctors.