



Prepared News Script and Weather Forecast Map Varsity BET 2018 Newscasting Competition

SCRIPT 1

100,000 Rohingya Refugees in Grave Danger From Monsoon Rains, UN Says

More than 100,000 Rohingya refugees huddled in squalid, muddy camps in Bangladesh will be in grave danger from landslides when the mid-year monsoon season begins, a U.N. humanitarian report said.

There are now more than 900,000 Rohingyas in the Cox's Bazar area of Bangladesh, after 688,000 fled violence in Myanmar that flared up in late August. Aid workers say the camps sheltering the new arrivals are completely inadequate.

"Landslide and flood risk hazard mapping reveal that at least 100,000 people are in grave danger from these risks and require relocation to new areas or within the neighborhoods that they live in," the U.N. report said.

"The lack of space remains the main challenge for the sector as sites are highly congested leading to extremely hard living conditions with no space for service provisions and facilities. In addition, congestion brings increased protection risks and favors disease outbreak such as the diphtheria outbreak currently escalating in most of the sites."

Although a rapid vaccination program appears to have staved off the risk of cholera, 4,865 have confirmed, probable or suspected diphtheria, and 35 have died.

The World Health Organization has vaccinated over 500,000 Rohingyas against diphtheria and on Saturday health workers began giving 350,000 children a second dose. The WHO also has 2,500 doses of anti-toxin, which is in short supply globally, to treat the deadly effects of the disease.

But a new health concern has arisen - mumps. The U.N. report said there had been an increase in cases in the past few weeks, and Rohingya refugees and host communities had never been vaccinated against the highly contagious disease, which is rarely fatal but can cause complications such as meningitis.

Most of the Rohingya refugees - almost 585,000 - are in an overcrowded area called Kutupalong-Balukhali.



“A high percentage of the land is unsuitable for human settlement as risks of flooding and landslides are high and are further aggravated by the congestion and extensive terracing of the hills,” the U.N. report said.

“The anticipated flooding and landslides in the upcoming monsoon season will make a bad situation much worse.”

A recent engineering assessment said all roads in the camp would be inaccessible for trucks, and the World Food Programme is considering using porters to distribute food, minutes of a Jan. 24 meeting of aid agencies involved in logistics said.

The Bangladeshi government allocated 2,000 acres (809 hectares) for a new camp in Ukhia, prompting an influx of people before anything was ready.

“Humanitarian partners are now building necessary infrastructure in challenging conditions, with extremely limited space,” the U.N. report said.

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SCRIPT 2

Drones Are Helping Scientists Fight Wildlife Extinction

Researchers in Australia suggest that counting wildlife using drones is more accurate than traditional methods, according to a [paper](#) published on Tuesday in the British Ecological Society journal "Methods in Ecology and Evolution."

Counting a species is crucial to conservation efforts.

"With so many animals across the world facing extinction, our need for accurate wildlife data has never been greater," said Jarrod Hodgson, lead author of the research paper and Ph.D candidate at the University of Adelaide's School of Biological Sciences. "Accurate monitoring can detect small changes in animal numbers. That is important because if we had to wait for a big shift in those numbers to notice the decline, it might be too late to conserve a threatened species."

Drones have previously been used to monitor different animals, such as elephants and nesting birds. But it was uncertain how accurate drones were for counting species, according to the researchers.

To test the method, the team created fake bird colonies on a beach in Adelaide, Australia, using 2,000 decoy ducks. They were modeled after Crested Tern seabirds.

Wildlife experts on the ground counted the fake birds with binoculars and telescopes, while a drone flew overhead and took pictures. Another group of scientists counted the number of birds they could see from the drone images.

Jarrod Hodgson, lead author of the research paper, stands with a fake bird colony.

"In a wild population, the true number of individuals is not known. This makes it very difficult to test the accuracy of a counting approach," Hodgson told CNN Tech. "We needed to test the technology where we knew the correct answer."

The researchers found that the drone approach was more precise than counting on the ground.

Because counting species in photographs is time intensive, the researchers also trained a computer algorithm to count the birds automatically. Those



results were nearly as accurate as scientists reviewing the photos, according to the team.

A real Crested Tern colony.

The research paper was co-authored by scientists from the University of Adelaide, Australian Antarctic Division, University of Tasmania and Monash University.

Hodgson said the researchers are still learning about how wildlife reacts to the presence of drones.

"The results will help to refine and improve drone monitoring protocols so that drones have minimal to non-existent impact on wildlife," he said. "This is particularly important for species that are prone to disturbance and where traditional methods involving close proximity to species are not possible or desirable."

The researchers are planning a similar drone test to monitor different species of seals and to detect the nests or tracks of difficult-to-observe animals.

Drones aren't the only technology scientists are using to count wildlife populations.

Last year, a group of researchers from the British Antarctic Survey and Canterbury Museum in New Zealand [demonstrated](#) that albatross birds can be seen and counted from space using high-resolution satellite imagery. Albatrosses, a type of big seabird, are one of the most threatened groups of birds in the world.



SCRIPT 3

Father of Kidnapped Argentine Girl Attempts to Commit Suicide

Jorge Gabriel Langone, 42, an Argentine accused of kidnapping his daughter, Alum Langone Avalos, 7, reportedly attempted to commit suicide on Tuesday morning.

Langone, who has been detained at the Makassar Immigration Office detention center, reportedly slashed his wrist with a broken bottle. He was rushed to Wahidin Sudirohusodo Hospital in Makassar, South Sulawesi, where he is still being treated.

Makassar Immigration Office head Andi Pallawarukka said on Wednesday that Langone had attempted to end his life as he did not want to be repatriated.

"The Argentinian Embassy in Jakarta scheduled Jorge's and his female friend's repatriation on Thursday, but he did not want to return to Argentina," he said.

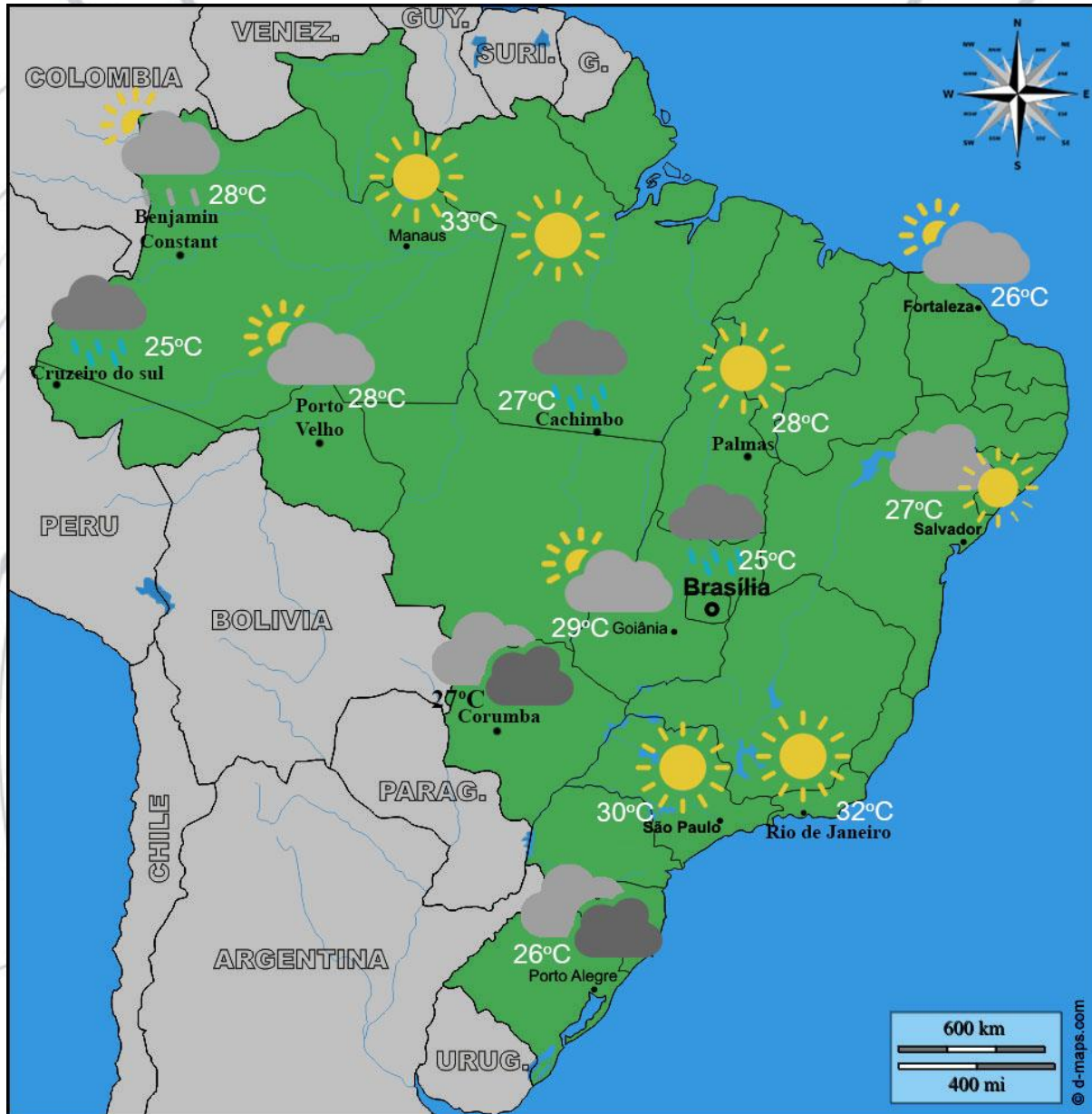
Pallawarukka said Langone would be deported to Argentina and face legal action for taking Alum out of Argentina without the consent of her mother, Elisabeth Avalos, in June last year.

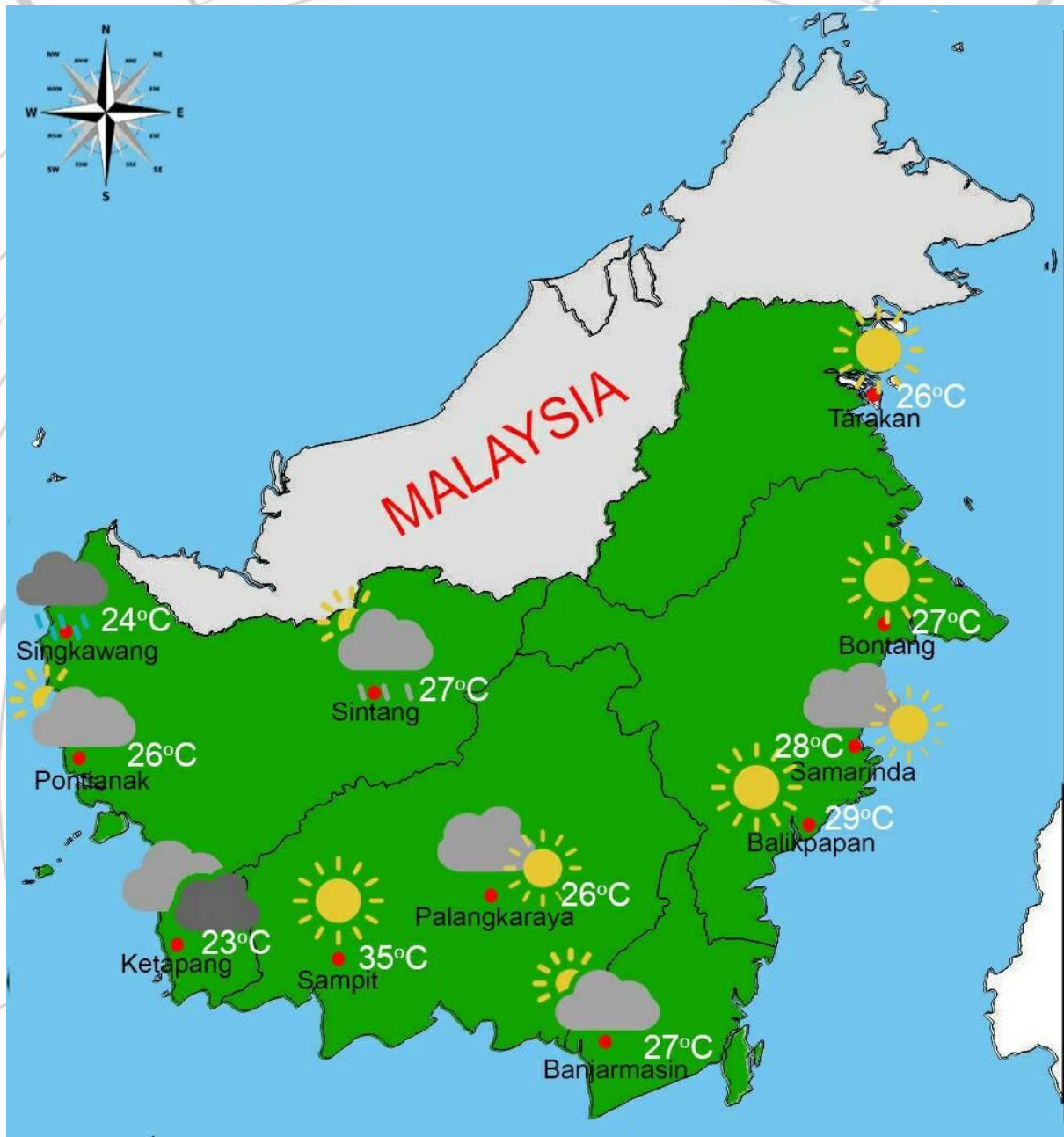
Langone and his female companion, Candela Soledad Guetereez, 33, were arrested in North Toraja, South Sulawesi, last Tuesday. He was arrested by Makassar immigration officers for entering Indonesia without a visa.

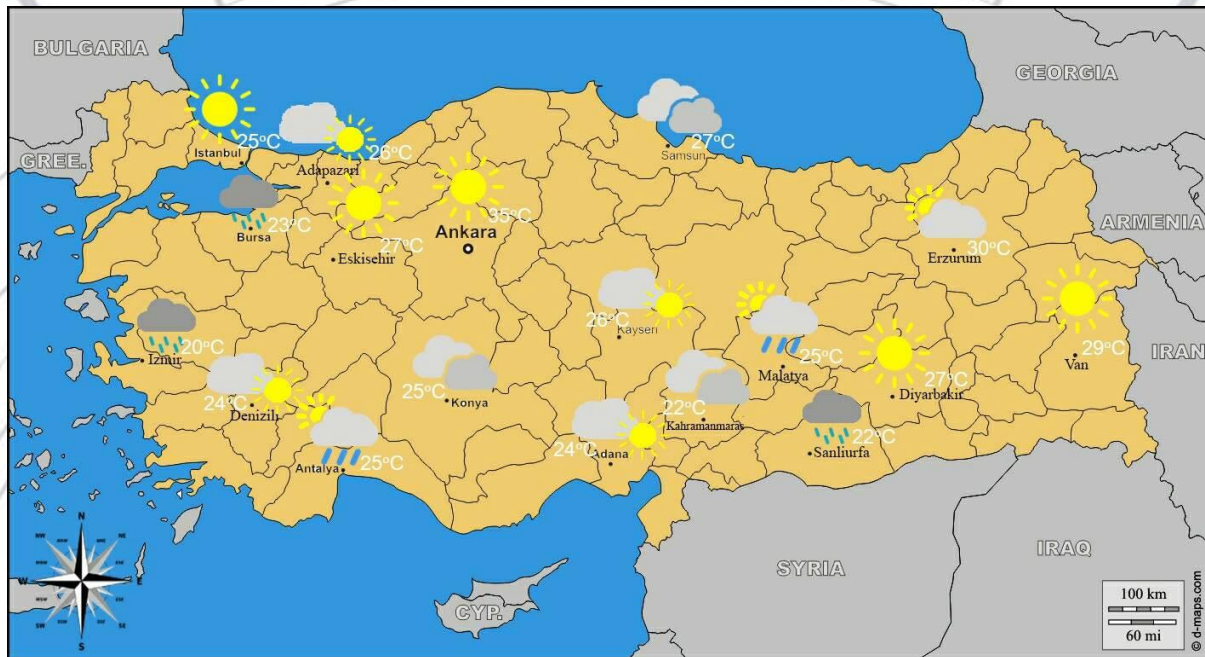
"We will take them to Jakarta, from where they will be flown to Argentina. The Argentinian Embassy has provided their tickets," said Pallawarukka



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