State Counsellor meets
Canadian Prime Minister

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who is visiting Viet Nam to attend a Special Meeting of leaders of ASEAN member countries and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), met with Mr. Justin Trudeau, the Prime Minister of Canada, at the Furama Resort in Da Nang yesterday.

During the meeting, they shared opinions on solutions for the Rakhine State issues and also discussed social welfare, relief and resettlement of Rakhine State, national verification processes, health, education and developmental processes in the region. They also shared their view on the Union Enterprise For Humanitarian Assistance Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHARD) in Myanmar.

National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Myanmar Ambassador to Vietnam U Kyaw Soe Win, Director-General of the Protocol Department U Thanl Zin, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms. Chrystia Freeland and other officials from Myanmar and Canada attended the meeting.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi previously met with Mr. Justin Trudeau on 8 June in Ottawa, Canada and discussed bilateral cooperation. —Myanmar News Agency

Rice harvest in Buthidaung, Maungtaw recorded for owners

By Honey Win

ACCORDING to the Agricultural Mechanisation Department (AMD), ripe monsoon rice in Buthidaung and Maungtaw region is being harvested by AMD to prevent waste, with the harvested rice systematically handed over to rice receiving and storing committees.

The AMD is using a total of 32 harvesters, 14 owned by the AMD and 18 owned by the state government, to harvest rice in Maungtaw region. The effort began on 26 October, and all ripe monsoon rice in Maungtaw region will be harvested within a 3-month period, it is learnt.

“Rice in Buthidaung and Maungtaw region is now ripe. We are using our harvesters to harvest it in order to prevent it from being wasted. After the rice is harvested, records are made of the amount harvested from each farmland based on ownership, and then systematically handed over to rice receiving and storing committees together with the record”, said AMD Director General U Soe Hlaing on 5 November.
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He added, “Though the loans from MCB exceeded the original target, foreign loans for FY 2016-2017 were K 1262 billion, and actual net loans from inland were K 5558 billion. So, it will not exceed the maximum amounts permitted to borrow-K 5000 billion according to the Budget Law. Union Government had intended to reduce the amount of loans from CBM year by year, being relieved of burden of government’s loan to some extent. By borrowing loans from CBM, net fulfillment did not exceed the original target amount and amount of total loans was found that it did not exceed the maximum amounts permitted to borrow from home and abroad. Moreover, constructive results were achieved based upon the national macro-economy, FY 2016-2017.”

Concerning the motion, U Soe Thein, Deputy Government of Myanmar Central Bank announced that interested parliamentarians to be enrolled for discussion, followed by discussions in support by parliamentarians concerning signing in the ASEAN agreement on protection and upgradation on human rights of migrant workers sent by the President U Hwel Tin of constituency 11 of Chin State discussed, “The biggest challenge on economy in 21st century is the great gap between richness and poverty. In the world, the rich became richer and the poor became poorer. According to the UNDP’s 2014 human development report, Myanmar stood no/150 of 187 nations. The country still in the list of 48 leased developed countries. As long as there is still the problem of unemployment, the affairs of migrant workers will still exist in future as well. The ASEAN agreement on protection and upgradation on human rights of migrant workers includes 8 chapters. As per the ILO figures 2015, 40 percent of the global economy is agriculture. Most of migrant workers work on agricultural jobs. Most of unconventional workers are living in poverty. So, unsystematic labor rights are acknowledged and implemented. According to ILO Statement 2015, 12.3 million of men, women and children were working in forced labor. Looking into ASEAN nations, Thailand is the country in which migrant workers are living, followed by Malaysia. In such a time when the transparent democratic government took office, rights of migrant workers must be brought about specifically”.

Then, Dr Khin Sithu of Loikaw constituency discussed, “Myanmar government is carrying out to bring about labor rights of migrant workers as a national priority cause. Migrant workers are now facing difficulties and challenges. More than 10 percent of Myanmar population has been working in Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, China, Bangladesh, South Korea and Japan. Most are in Thailand, Mekong region. According to IOM report, it reached 1.4 million. According to the Ministry of Labor, Thailand 76 percent of migrant workers are Myanmar laborers. Out of them, only 39 percent had officially registered. In preparing step by step migrant workers to be officially registered some were cheated by licensed agencies and some were subjected to fake agencies. The worst thing is human trafficking and sexual slavery.”

Afterward, U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population put forward the motion, “The agreement needs to be signed. If so, the ASEAN agreement on protection and up-gradation on human rights of migrant workers will emerge as a standard for ASEAN nations. And, migrant workers can have rights and protection in accordance with rules and regulations of member countries when they migrate within the region, hence the approval of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.”

Concerning that motion the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced the approval of Hluttaw, after taking the decision of Hluttaw.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint receives Resident Representative of HSF

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received delegation led by Resident Representative of Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Mr. Achim Munz yesterday afternoon at the receiving hall of the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw.

Discussions made during the meeting were the transforming process to Myanmar’s Democracy and local peace, experiences of Federal Democracy, procedures for the development of Hluttaw and aids and support for Hluttaw from Hanns Seidel Foundation.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat and officials from the Hluttaw also attended the meeting.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discuss loan from CBM, labours’ rights

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 November 2017. PHOTO: MNA