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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. III, No. 355, 10th Waxing of Tagu 1378 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Thursday, 6 April 2017

Rakhine committee discusses recommendations

A committee chaired by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday discussed plans recommended by the commission headed by former UN head Dr. Kofi Annan.

The work coordination meeting 2/2017 of the Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace and Development in Rakhine State was held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered an opening speech and was briefed on the progress of work regarding the decisions made at the previous meeting 1/2017 by

the secretary of the committee. The vice chairman of the committee and the Union Minister for Border Affairs then clarified matters on implementation of the reports presented by Rakhine State and recommendations made in the interim report submitted by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State and the Chief Minister of Rakhine State.

The chairmen of several committees on immigration, citizenship, resettlement, and socio-economic development, along with the committee on cooperation with UN agencies and international

organisations presented work progress reports and the participants took part in discussions.

The participants also discussed plans regarding the interim report of the commission led by former UN Chief Dr. Kofi Annan in an effective manner, related work procedures which were in conformity with the actual situation of the region and preventive measures for addressing the killing and threatening of the people who had given interviews to the media and cooperated with the government. —Myanmar News Agency



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at yesterday's meeting. PHOTO: MNA



Aid from the US Agency for International Development are delivered to villagers in Maungtau. PHOTO: MNA

Aid still flowing into Maungtau villages

Flow of food, water and supplies continues into Maungtau

THE government and international organisations continued humanitarian aid to communities in Maungtau, Rakhine State, delivering food and cash to the people from 18 February to 5 April.

The aid, which includes more than Ks439 million, 1,831 bags of rice, 1,496 viss of edible oil, 3,117 viss of salt and more than 3,734 viss of peas and beans, were arranged by the Ministry of Border Affairs, the Rakhine State Government and international organisations including the World Food Programme.

The total amount of aid from 4 October to 5 April has reached more than Ks736.62 million, more

than 29,380 bags of rice, 7,669 viss of dried fish, 14,757 gallons of fuel, 22,826 viss of cooking oil, more than 16,861 viss of salt, more than 45,191 viss of peas and beans, 34,800 cans of fish, snacks including biscuits, 968 viss of onion, 5,659 viss of dried noodles, 77 packages of clothes, 322 packs of dried chili powder, 142 bags of seasonal powders, 56 bags of potatoes, dried vegetables, fish paste, 165 bags of dried chillies, 500 eggs, 88 mosquito nets, 30 harvesters, five generators, more than 57 tons of nutrition powder, 2,222 bags of flour, 12 tents, 3,000 radios, 465 solar panels and one vehicle.—Myanmar News Agency



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TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE

Workshop held to setup framework and process for private sector development

PRIVATE Sector Development Committee held its first workshop in Nay Pyi Taw Park Royal Hotel on April 5.

The Committee Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe said the workshop was held to set up a framework and successfully implement programs for the systematic development of the private sector that will have a huge impact on the development of the national economy. The Private Sector is the main economic engine that would drive the national economy and it must be developed for the national economy to develop. With the consensus of the majority, only the five most important components of private sector was included in the devel-

opment framework for the first 5 years program because the private sector was very wide and it was not possible to include all its components in the framework. The 5 components included were, development of laws and procedures, sourcing of financing, encouraging trade and investment, redefining government involvement in the economy and services and human resources development. He added that requests submitted to include additional components would be considered.

Furthermore, Vice President said monthly meetings were held with business owners selected and grouped by sector to resolve the difficulties they were facing. While the government was doing

its part, related work committees would continuously and systematically record, review, co-ordinate and resolve short and long term works. Short and long term priority works included in the work program would be implemented according to a scheduled timetable. As the duration of the program was 5 years, yearly priority works would be identified and coordinated. Government's conducts on private sector development would be explained to the attending donors at the workshop. Areas for public involvement and donor participation would be discussed and identified.

Moving onto the second part, the Vice President said that discussions, explanations and exchange

of views would be held for the committee members to understand and implement the framework and program in addition to discussing future works. This would greatly support the future works. A very important step for the economic development of the country would be taken if the work committees, private business owners, associations and donor organizations jointly implemented the properly drawn up private sector development framework and programs.

Afterwards, a partner association for private sector development, Da Na Facility group leader Mr. Peter Brimble and Private Sector Development Committee joint secretary, Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization Director General U Aung Soe explained about matters relating to the framework and program.

Then, each component was discussed by responsible personnel from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Economic Forum and Young Entrepreneurs Association.

It is learnt that at the workshop, the role of the partner associations helping the workshop, laws and procedures component, sourcing of financing component, encouraging trade and investment component, redefining government involvement in the economy and services component and hu-



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the workshop on Private Sector Development Committee. PHOTO: MNA

man resources development component would be discussed.

Private Sector Development Committee Vice Chairman Union Minister Dr. Than Myint, committee members Union Ministers Dr. Aung Thu, U Thein Swe, U Khin Maung Cho, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Ministers Dr. Tun Naing, and U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung, Private Sector Development committee members, members of Entrepreneur Association, representatives of international organizations helping and supporting private sector development, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General and responsible persons attended the workshop.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Internet connectivity boost in Maungtaw

INTERNET connectivity in Maungtaw has slowed down because of the increasing number of mobile phone users in Maungtaw, but the Ministry for Transport and Communications, Myanmar Post and Telecommunications (Maungtaw) says the problem will be solved this coming May.

"There is only one GSM mobile tower in Maungtaw Township, and with the number of mobile users increasing, the internet line is getting slower. Starting from the second week of February this year one GSM mobile tower is being constructed in MaungNi, ShweSar

and Myoma East villages each and after completion they will be able to provide reliable, 24-hour internet connectivity in May," said U Aung Zaw, the in-charge of Myanmar Post and Telecommunications (Maungtaw).

"The towers in MaungNi and ShweSar are completed with only installation of the machinery left. We are trying to complete the tower in Myoma East on time too, and hope to have all three towers in operation by May," he added. The improvement are welcome, local residents said. "We used to have good internet connectivity before

and it wasn't this bad. But now you have to get up at 3 or 4 am in the morning when there aren't many people using it to get good connectivity", said Ko Hla Myint, a local resident. "In the afternoon, the signal disappears most of the time, but I think after operation of the new towers begin we will have good connectivity again."

The mobile tower currently in use was constructed in 2011 and began operation in 2012. After Sit-tway, Buthidaung and Maungtaw have the most internet users, said an official from MPT.—*Ramanya, Tin Soe*



Gale destroys houses

BUILDINGS and houses in Kwan Chan Kone village tract, Laymyethna Township, Hinthada District were destroyed or damaged by a strong gale at 5 p.m. on 4th April.

There were no reported deaths or injuries, but about 20 homes were reported to be destroyed. An additional 250 houses had damaged to roofs or walls. The roof of the dining hall of the monastery in Phayagone village was also damaged.

The ceiling and roof of a one-storey school measuring 30 by 60 feet in Gwedauk Kwin

Village was blown off. Also, the corrugated zinc roof of Basic Education Middle School (affiliated) in west Kwan Chan Kone Village was similarly blown off. There was also damaged to the roof of a latrine of the village dispensary.

Regional Hluttaw representative U Soe Than, Head of District Police Force, Police Lt.Col. Tint Wai, Township Administrator, U Htoo Htet Aung, Head of Township Fire Services Department and its permanent firefighters were went to the site at 5am on Wednesday and helped in clearance works.—*IPRD*

Newspapers to be distributed in turns this Thingyan

THE Ministry of Information, News and Periodicals Enterprise announced that daily newspapers will be printed during the Thingyan Festival.

The Mirror and The Global New Light of Myanmar will print on 13, 14, 15 April and the Myanmar Alinn newspaper will temporarily cease printing during this period.

The Myanmar Alinn will resume publication on 16,17 April and The Mirror and The Global New Light of Myanmar will temporarily cease printing on those days.

Similarly the Mandalay News Sector from the Sub-Printing House (Mandalay) will temporarily cease printing on April 15, the extra page in ethnic languages from the Sub-Printing House (Mawlamyine) will temporarily cease printing on April 16, and will resume normal production after the Thingyan holidays. Advertisements can be received by the newspapers offices, which will remain open during Thingyan. All newspapers will resume normal production starting April 18.—*News and Periodicals Enterprise*

Three women in Maungtaw allege rape

THREE women from Kyargaungtaung Village in Maungtaw Township filed cases at the Ngakhura police station, alleging that they had been raped 3 months ago, according to the State Counsellor

Office Information Committee.

Ma Phartaymar Khar-tu and Ma Zawmilar Khar-tu made complaints at Ngakhura police station in the evening of 30 March, while Ma Mawria Khartu

filed a case on the morning of 31 March.

In response to their complaints, Ngakhura police station opened cases under section 376 of the Penal Code, arranging to interrogate witnesses and

culprits who allegedly raped the women. Forensic testing has been down to find the culprits, according to the State Counsellor Office Information Committee.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Murder suspect arrested in Maungtaw

A man suspected of involvement in the murder in Maungtaw that occurred a month ago was arrested police force on Monday by border guards.

Border guards police

force on patrol in Maung-gyitaung Village, Maung-taw Township, interrogated three suspicious men and discovered one of them to be wanted for the 5 March murder of a man in Buthi-

daung. Bodiya, 20, a local resident is suspected of being one of the suspects behind the murder of Maung-gyitaung resident Zarmar Hussein on 5 March.

The two men with

Bodiya at the time of his arrest are Marmad Armain, 25, and Colli Mullah, 22. Action will be taken against them for breaching Act 144, a curfew violation.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Fire destroys house in Aung Tharya Village, Maungtaw

A house in Aung Tharya village in Maungtaw township was destroyed by fire Tuesday evening, according to the State Counsellor's Office Information Team.

The house with wooden floors and walls

and a zinc sheet roof owned by Daw Saw Thein Yin was destroyed by the fire, but there were no casualties of people or animals.

The value of the house is Ks50,000.—*Myanmar News Agency*



No casualties were found at the burnt house. PHOTO: MNA

Humanitarian Assistance after 9/10 Attacks (October 9 Attacks) in Rakhine State

(From 18-2-2017 to 5-4-2017)

Sr. No.	Supporting consumer goods, household goods and business materials	Department / Organization					Total
		Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement	Ministry of Border Affairs	International Organizations (including WFP)	Rakhine State Government	Local Donors	
1	Cash (kyat in million)	-	-	170.21	268.94	-	439.15
2	Rice (bag)	-	1500	331.81	-	-	1831.81
3	Cooking oil (viss)	-	1000	496.25	-	-	1496.25
4	Salt (viss)	-	3000	117.97	-	-	3117.97
5	Peas (viss)	-	3000	734.6	-	-	3734.60

The State Counsellor's Office the Information Committee has announced that during the period from 9 October 2016 to 3 April 2017, 23 people have died and 10 people are still missing in Maungtaw, Rakhine State.

List of missing people in Maungtaw

No	Date	Name	Death	Detained/ Missing	Remark
1.	9.10.2016	Maung Maung Soe (alias) Runamayar and Mahmat Kali	2	-	
2.	14.10.2016	Scrutinizing	1	-	
3.	7.11.2016	Mahmout Pharo (alias) Faisal	-	2	Found
4.	17.11.2016	Jamar (alias) Fawmar Hussein	1	-	
5.	13.12.2016	Habi Rohman	-	1	
6.	21.12.2016	Dusmahmat (alias) Runamayar	1	-	
7.	25.12.2016	Rafi	1	-	
8.	26.12.2016	Sira Zuhout	1	-	
9.	28.12.2016	Swedu Armi	1	-	
10.	29.12.2016	Anamula	1	1	Found with knife injuries
11.	2.1.2017	Lar Luu	-	1	
12.	13.1.2017	Scrutinizing	-	-	
13.	14.1.2017	Friya (alias) Friya Zuhaut	1	1	Found
14.	20.1.2017	Sunta Ahmad, Mahmat Shafi and Mahmat Zubai	-	-	
15.	22.1.2017	Eibyar Hein	3	1	
16.	27.1.2017	Shafi Rahmout and Swedu Armein	-	2	
17.	28.1.2017	Zaw Ki Ahmed	-	-	
18.	4.2.2017	Eidris	1	-	
19.	24.2.2017	Mahmat Cassim	-	-	
20.	26.2.2017	Tun Thar Maung	1	1	
21.	2.3.2017	Nuhkarin	11	-	
22.	5.3.2017	Zarmar Hussein	1	-	
23.	10.3.2017	Mahmat Sawli	1	-	
24.	12.3.2017	Mahmat Sufi	1	1	
25.	16.3.2017	Soli Mulla	-	-	
26.	30.3.2017	Yar Yar	1	1	
27.	31.3.2017	Shivali and Nuhmahmat	-	1	
28.	1.4.2017	Nuhmahmat, Abdullaha, Dulami, Ibrahim and Hamid Dulla	1	3	Abdullaha, Dulami were found tied up
29.	2.4.2017	Aniwa Ashat	1	-	
Total			23	15	

Note: Of the 15 people abducted, 5 people were found.

Humanitarian Assistance after 9/10 Attacks (October 9 Attacks) in Rakhine State (From 4-11-2016 to 5-4-2017)

Sr. No.	Supporting consumer goods, household goods and business materials	Department / Organization					Total
		Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement	Ministry of Border Affairs	International Organizations (including WFP)	Rakhine State Government	Local Donors	
1	Cash (kyat in million)	161.21	-	176.65	273.85	142.65	754.36
2	Rice (bag)	1391	2600	1295.81	4300	1871.50	2986.11
3	Cooking oil (viss)	1394	400	501	1000	1175	3400
4	Salt (viss)	4200	-	-	3400	-	7600
5	Cooking oil (viss)	2989	871.2	9102.99	20	1394	13886.20
6	Salt (viss)	3213	1171.2	1648.342	-	798	6830.782
7	Peas (viss)	4410	1171.2	14001.162	1100	11120	40803.522
8	Total (kyat)	34000	-	-	-	-	34000
9	Various food (bag)	-	-	611	-	-	611
10	Rescue (viss)	-	-	1040	-	-	1040
11	Rescue (viss)	-	-	50.117	-	-	50.117
12	Under (viss)	-	-	-	-	100	100
13	Under (viss)	-	-	1179	-	20	1200
14	Under (viss)	-	-	42	-	5	47
15	Under (viss)	-	-	-	-	111	111
16	Under (viss)	-	-	-	-	141	141
17	Under (viss)	-	-	-	-	50	50
18	Under (viss)	-	-	-	-	11	11
19	Under (viss)	-	-	-	-	145	145
20	Under (viss)	-	-	-	-	500	500
21	Under (viss)	-	-	-	-	80	80
22	Under (viss)	-	-	-	-	30	30
23	Under (viss)	-	-	-	-	5	5
24	Under (viss)	-	-	97.113	-	-	97.113
25	Under (viss)	-	-	1212	-	-	1212
26	Under (viss)	-	-	82	-	-	82
27	Under (viss)	-	-	2600	-	-	2600
28	Under (viss)	-	-	465	-	-	465
29	Under (viss)	-	-	1	-	-	1

A Visit to the Moeyumgyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary

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We came into a stall and had fried gourd-fritters with plain-tea to quench our thirst and hunger. Looking east, we saw a restaurant in water connected with neighbouring islets by wooden bridges and beyond it were some new man-made islands, among which were some colourful boat guest-houses. We proceeded to that restaurant and the man-made islands. The restaurant was full of holiday-makers, a few of whom were foreigners. I saw some birds standing among the tall grasses growing wild on the edges of the man-made islands jutting out into the open lake and a bird-watching tower at the far end of a distant island. To the south was a vast expanse of water stretching away

into the distance. To the south, not far from the restaurant, was a small island covered by tall shady trees, whose straight trunks look like pillars of ancient temples. I espied some large birds hovering high and low over them. Off and on, I saw occasional flights of wild birds over the glistening surface of the wide water expanse. Although we hired an outboard motored-boat to skim over the open lake, as we were asked to await our turn some hours, we resigned ourselves to the desire of the boat-riding over the lake.

Most of the islands employed as resort-islands with stalls, restaurants and guest-houses huddled together near the northern bank of the lake, a few densely forested-islands being a few hundred yards

south apart from them. We went round the resort-islands, as they were connected with one another by wooden bridges. But since the outboard-motored boat was not available to us, we had to satisfy ourselves with the pleasant scene offered by the islands out of our reach. While going about in the resort-islands, I saw lots of holiday-makers enjoying their free time to their heart's content, some being inside the restaurants and many under the shady trees on the edges of the islands.

To my despair, I noticed some plastic bottles, rubbish, etc dispensed of into the water near the edges of the islands and some youngsters sitting with beer-bottles in front. So I wished the sale of beer and alcohol be limited accord-

ing to the age and the disposal of the rubbish more systematic. Anyway, the breaths of cool wind which came uninterrupted across the plains and the breath-taking beauty of the lake compensated us for our stiffness caused by the long constant posture in the car all the way and the weariness and intense heat given by the long ride and the wintry afternoon-sun. We left the lake at 2 pm.

As we left the lake farther and farther behind, more and more thoughts on the environmental conservation were still crowding in on me. One of them worrying me was that this lake was being threatened by encroaching of cultivators, undisciplined holiday-makers, overgrazing of the cattle from the near-by

villages, overfishing, etc., that other sanctuary lakes like Inlay Lake, In-daw-gyi Lake, In-daw-lay Lake, etc were in the same situation and that these natural lakes, which could promote greenness and beauty of the environment and regulate the climate, should be kept in pristine purity.

In fact, Myanmar abounds in sea-beaches, islets, sanctuary parks and lakes, hilly-towns, wooden mountains and hills, which constitute a high potential for ecotourism and there may be some more untouched places. If they all are to be explored and exploited, Myanmar could secure a top place in the list of the countries where tourism thrives to its maximum extent in Asia.
