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Picture

State Counsellor receives UNDP Resident Representative

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr. Knut Ostby, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative a.i, yesterday at Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. During this meeting, they exchanged views on matters relating to cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Action taken on resolution related to Myanmar at Special Session of UNHRC

Myanmar dissociates itself from the resolution

At the request of the member states of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the 27th Special Session of the Human Rights Council on Myanmar was held on 5 December 2017 in Geneva. At the meeting, Bangladesh delegation submitted a draft resolution entitled "Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar".

After the introduction of the resolution, Permanent Representative U Htin Lynn of Myanmar delivered a statement. Main points of his statement are as follows:

- Myanmar opposes any country specific resolution. The resolution gives rise also to polarization, division and confrontation. It does not reflect the principles of the Human Rights Council such as impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity.
- The draft resolution is focusing on a particular group of people belonging to a particular faith. The promotion and protection of Human Rights should be for all people of the globe irrespective of race, religion and gender.

- Some elements in the draft resolution are infringing on the state sovereignty of Myanmar. Allegations without sufficient and concrete body of evidence are also incorporated in the text.
- International assistance should be part of the solution, not part of the problem.
- It fails to condemn the attacks of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army-ARSA.
- For these reasons, Myanmar delegation shall dissociate itself from the resolution under consideration.
- Myanmar will continue to work relentlessly to address challenges of the Rakhine state with or without a resolution by the Human Rights Council.

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International assistance should be part of the solution, not part of the problem.



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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State Counsellor receives Executive Director at Rafto Foundation for Human Rights and NBC Director

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Union of Myanmar, received Mr. Jostein Hole Kobbeltvedt, Executive Director at Rafto Foundation for Human Rights and Mr. Audun Aagre, Omsensgt, Director of Norwegian Burma Committee

(NBC Myanmar), on 6 December 2017 at 10:00 am at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During this meeting, they exchanged views on matters pertaining to the peace process in Myanmar and situation in Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Executive Director Mr. Jostein Hole Kobbeltvedt in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Statement by Ambassador H.E. Mr. Htin Lynn, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Myanmar at the 27th Special Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Consideration and action on A/HRC/S-27/L.1
Geneva, 5 December 2017

Mr. President,

Paragraph 117 e (i) of document A/HRC/RES/5/1 on working culture of the Human Rights Council explicitly mentioned the need for minimizing unnecessary duplication of initiatives with the General Assembly/Third Committee. The holding of Special Session today and its intended outcome thereon is a clear departure from this decision.

As a matter of principle and like many is this chamber, Myanmar opposes any country specific resolutions. They are not conducive to meaningful dialogue but give rise also to polarization, division and even confrontation.

The country specific resolution today is no exception. It is regrettable to see that our collective efforts in acting as responsible members of the council for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe are slowly and gradually drifting away from the cardinal principles of impartiality, objectivity, non-selectiveness and balance. Pre-determined politicization and partiality seems to be taking roots in our work.

Myanmar undoubtedly is the one who has the highest concern about challenges in Rakhine State. Myanmar welcomes the assistance and efforts by the international community in addressing the issue. However, it should be part of the solution, not part of the problem. While we share the concern by the international community, any effort by the international community should not be fanning the flame on the ground.

The draft resolution is focusing on a particular group of people belonging to a particular faith. Promoting and Protection of Human Rights should be for all people of the globe irrespective of race, religion and gender. A United Nations forum such as Human Rights Council should not be a platform for such a biased approach, setting a bad precedence for the Council.

Let me turn to the text of draft resolution under consideration.

Some elements in the draft resolution is infringing on the state sovereignty of Myanmar. Some are far from truth and not in line with situation on the ground. Using unverified figures in the draft resolution is also unethical and unprofessional. Allegations without sufficient and concrete body of evidence are also incorporated in the text.

It is also questionable that whether considering Myanmar at all forums of the United Nations is based on a genuine goodwill or otherwise. It is also questionable

that whether we are spending the budget of the United Nations effectively and efficiently.

Mr. President,

- Multiple elements in some of the PPs and OPs are simply copied from the recommendations of Rakhine Advisory Commission led by Dr. Kofi Annan and pasted in the text of the draft resolution. Elements such as freedom of movement, humanitarian access, inter-communal dialogue, economic and social development, citizenship law, national verification in the recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission were pick up selectively and reproduced negatively. As the government is already implementing the Advisory Committee's recommendations, we should ask ourselves what is the value added we could possibly achieve in this exercise.

- The draft resolution fails to condemn the attacks of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army- ARSA against police and military posts on 25 August 2017 which had triggered unprecedented humanitarian situation in Rakhine State. Since their first attack in October 9, 2016, the so-called "ARSA" claimed responsibility in an 18-minute video released very shortly. Shying away to denounce such terrorist attacks by their name is tacitly approving their acts. If it is the cases, these acts will go on wherever these people are.

- We have been dissociating ourselves from an independent, international Fact-Finding Mission to Myanmar as it is not in harmony with the situation on the ground and our national circumstances. As of today, this position remains unchanged.

- In relation to the OP 20, Myanmar has been responding and providing all necessary information as and when requested by all special procedure mandate holders. Like many member states, we are not in a position to invite and receive them all into the country at this juncture.

- By virtue of OP 21 and 22, Myanmar will be on the agenda of almost all forthcoming regular sessions of the Council if we include reporting requirements of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar and Fact-Finding Mission. This undue attention is redundant and excessive for a country which has been facilitating the mandate of successive Special Rapporteurs into the country since 1992.

Mr. President,

For these reasons, my delegation shall dissociate itself from the resolution under consideration.

The complexity of Rakhine issue is gigantic, and thus requires a closer and better understanding of the challenges in Rakhine State by the International Community.

Myanmar is responding the calls made by the international community with progress being made and continue to make on the ground. We shall continue to work relentlessly to address immediate and long term challenges of the Rakhine State, with or without a resolution by the Human Rights Council.—MNA ■

Action taken on resolution related to Myanmar at Special Session of UNHRC

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(The full text of statement is appeared separately.)

The delegation of the People's Republic of China, member of the Human Rights Council, called for a vote on the draft resolution.

The resolution was adopted with 33 vote in favour, 3 against and 9 abstention. Two members of the Human Rights Council did not participate in the voting. Those who voted against the resolution are the People's Republic of China which called for vote, the Republic of the Philippines,

the ASEAN Chair for 2017 and Burundi.

The Government of Myanmar has been exerting its efforts to resolve the issue of Rakhine State internally as well as through cooperation with Bangladesh at bilateral context. The delegation of China has called for vote citing the reason that the resolution would not positively contribute to the situation on the ground, but even further complicate the situation. As 14, out of 47 members Human Rights Council, did not support the resolution

consensus was not reached in adopting the resolution.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar expressed its appreciation to those member states of the Human Rights Council who have shown their understanding towards Myanmar by calling for a vote or by voting against or abstention or by not participating in the voting amid enormous pressure encountered with regard to the issue of Rakhine State, it was learnt.—MNA ■

Over 5500 acres of paddies winnowed in Maungtaw

THE Rakhine State government announced yesterday that more than 5,549 acres of paddy fields belonging to farmers who fled to Bangladesh have recently been winnowed.

Authorities formed a committee to winnow the fields using tractors from 26 October to 5 December.

According to the committee, the winnowing process led by Agriculture Mechanization Department, has been being carried out in many villages, such as Myothugyi, Ohntaw,

Kanpu, Kyaungtaung, Ale-tankyaw, Nwaryonetaung, Warcha, Thanda, Myinlut, Kyeekanpyin, Thihokyun, Oodaung, Laungdon, Aungsitpyin, Sabeigone, Thabyetaw, Zawmathet, Doetan, Ywarthitkay, Kyaukpannu, Tatoonchaung, Ducheeyartan, Thayaykone-tan, Thawonchaung, and Ngakuya.

Many villages in Sittway Township, totaling 378 acres of rice fields, have been winnowed in Chaungnwe, Partalate, Thingant, Kweetae, Kantkawkyun,



Harvesting rice in a model plot with the use of machinery in Kyaukpandu village, Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Mingan and Naryikan villages.

Using tractors, many villages in Minbya township were winnowed, totalling 238 acres of paddy fields, 330 acres of

paddy fields in Kyauktaw Township, 276 acres of rice fields in Yathaytaung Township, and 276 acres of paddy fields in Buthitaung Township.

Similarly, 96 acres of paddy fields were winnowed in Buthidaung Township from 10 November to 5 December.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Border Affairs Department builds four new villages in Maungtaw District

Houses for four villages of Mro ethnic villagers in Maungtaw District are under construction at a new location.

The new village of Kontaing for Mro ethnic villagers would have 48 single storey buildings each worth Ks 7 million are being built on a 40x60 ft. plot of land and will include a traditional Mro house with bamboo.

Khonhtaing (Mro) village near Dewanali village, northern Maungtaw region and 2 miles from the base of Mayyu Mountain was burnt and destroyed by more than 400 ARSA extremist terrorists on the afternoon of 28 August killing 7 and wounding 5 ethnic Mro nationals.

Remaining villagers had to flee to safe areas.

“The new Khontaing Village project is targeted to complete at the end of this fiscal year. Currently, developers of all housing projects here are facing shortage

of labours and some has hired labours from mainland,” said U Sow Lwin, Deputy Director of the Border Areas and National Races Development Affairs Department.

The department is also developing other four villages including Kyaukpandu and Nankarkaing in Maungtaw District and Zeton Village in Buthidaung.

Meanwhile, new Khonhtaing village beside Kyeinchaung-Bandoola road and Padaka creek will be on 35 acres of land. 96 single storey buildings each worth Ks 7 million will be built on a 40x60 ft. plot of land and will include a traditional Mro house, 3 multiple use hall, a clinic, a school and a monastery as well.

Ethnic Mro nationals lived peacefully with agriculture and new Khonhtaing (Mro) village will soon be developed with the full requisite of a village.— News Team ■



Workers constructing houses for four villages of ethnic Mro villagers in Maungtaw District. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

Village in-charge killed in Maungtaw

An in-charge of a village in Maungtaw District was killed by two unknown attackers on Tuesday.

Shaw Feik Amen from Dunyaungpingyi Village in the dis-

trict died on the spot with cuts and two bullet wounds at 9 pm.

Following an information on the attack, security forces inspected the place and found two bullet shells. A witness said

three unidentified men intruded the victim's home, gunned down and cut him. One bullet wound is found in his womb with several cuts on his neck and other parts.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Embassy personnel meet locals in Maungtaw

EMBASSY staff led by Mr. David Galbraith, First Secretary of the US Embassy and other diplomats from the embassies of Britain and Australia and from the Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) arrived in Maungtaw to meet with local people.

The first secretary and party went to see first-hand the situation on the ground several months after the 25 August terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorists. The group saw efforts being carried out by the State in the area — provisions of foods and other commodities needed by those who returned — and tasks of implementation of resettlement, it was learnt. The first secretary and party met with young volunteers from the programme 20 Days Youth for the People in Koetankauk village, Rathedaung township and Innidin village in Maungtaw Township and local nationals, asking about their



First Secretary of the US Embassy Mr. David Galbraith and other diplomats meet with villagers and observe the situation of villages in Maungtaw after the terrorist attacks. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

health and welfare. In the afternoon, they visited the construction of a new Mro village in Kaigyi along with harvest, winnowing and drying systems.

The party will stay for three days to observe responsible officials and regional officers and witness activities being carried out on the ground. — News Team ■