

■ NATIONAL

STATE COUNSELLOR RECEIVES JAPANESE DELEGATION

▶ PAGE 3



■ NATIONAL

WEAPONS AND AMMUNITIONS SEIZED NEAR YANLONEKYAING

▶ PAGE 2

■ NATIONAL

PERFORMANCES IN ONE-YEAR PERIOD OF MINISTRY OF HOTELS AND TOURISM AND AYEYAWADY REGION GOVERNMENT

▶ PAGES 5+6,11+12

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Maungtaw investigators travel to Bangladeshi refugee camps

U Zaw Myint Pe, Secretary of Maungtaw Investigation Commission, and its members — U Tun Myat, Dr Aung Tun Thet, Dr. Daw Thet Thet Zin, U Nyunt Swe, and Daw Kyein Ngai Man — met with villagers from 18 March to 22 March in the Cox’s Bazaar refugee camp in Bangladesh in an effort to fulfil their mission for a complete and thorough investigation. Thousands of residents in northern Rakhine fled across the border to Bangladesh after insurgent attacks on border police outposts in October and November, 2016.

Meanwhile, remaining members of the commission went to the Maungtaw District for the fourth time to monitor the progress of coordination work done by the commission in the villages that were harmed in the wake of the attacks, return of displaced villagers to their locations and peace and stability of the area.

The aim of Maungtaw Investigation Commission is to submit suggestions, practical solutions, and assessments of the problems

SEE PAGE 3 >>



Members of the Maungtaw investigation commission hold talks with Bangladeshi authorities in Cox’s Bazaar, Bangladesh. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

China suspends bank account of MNDAA

The Union government welcomed China’s move to suspend the bank account used by an armed group fighting the troops of the Tatmadaw, in a move to prevent potential damage to diplomatic ties.

“Very constructive move from China, as the stability and peace in the border area is of common interest for both sides,” said U Zaw Htay, the spokesperson of the government of Myanmar.

The move comes a day af-

ter the meeting with the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar. At the meeting, the two sides discussed cooperation for peace, stability and security of the border between the two countries.

Following the attack by the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) on 6th March, which killed at least 30 civilians, State Counsellor Daw

“The stability and peace in the border area is of common interest for both sides.”

Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the chairperson of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, strongly urged all the armed groups to abandon the armed attacks, say-

ing that the violence would bring about nothing but sorrow and suffering for the innocent local tribes and races. She urged them to join the dialogue for national peace and march together with the people on the path of peace with unified strong spirit on the basis of equality. Reuters has revealed that an ethnic rebel armed group fighting Myanmar forces near the Chinese border had been openly soliciting funds via China’s giant

state-owned lender Agricultural Bank Of China (AgBank). Over nearly two years, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) raised more than US\$500,000, deposited directly in an AgBank account or sent via two mobile payment services - Tencent Holdings’ WeChat Pay and Alipay, part of Ant Financial, which is affiliated with U.S.-listed Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba.

SEE PAGE 2 >>



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Myanmar attains medium human development status

IN a 2016 report on Human Development of the United Nations, Myanmar's Human Development Index has moved up to rank 145 out of 188 countries, attaining medium human development status. The report was released by the UN Development Program yesterday at U Thant Hall in UNDP's office, with representative Miss Renata Dessallien and financial consultant Thomas Caren speaking at the press conference.

According to the report, Myanmar's Human Development Index (HDI) for 2016 reached 0.556, an increase from 0.536 in 2014 when it ranked 148 out of 188 countries.

However, Myanmar's HDI remains below the average for East Asia and Pacific (0.720). It was attributed to the fact that Myanmar is still performing below the average of Southeast Asia in such areas as maternal health and mortality rate for children under five years of age.

"We are pleased with the government and people of Myanmar for achieving to a medium level of human development," it was stated in the 2016 UNDP Report.

"The world is working for easy access to education, health and cleanliness for all with an additional focus on female em-

powerment and freedom from poverty. This increase in HDI is a sign that the world is heading in the right direction. This is a good predictor for Myanmar's pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," stated Helen Clark of the UNDP Chief Administration Office.

The HDI measures not only economic growth, but also the quality of growth in terms of human development and human wellbeing.

Myanmar's ability to achieve the SDGs is linked to its continued commitment to improve human development for its people, the report said.

Almost 1.5 billion people, between 1990-2015 worldwide, lived in multidimensional poverty-reflecting acute deprivations in health, education and standards of living, according to the report.

In the previous 25 years, 1.1 billion of the world's population have better levels of sanitation and 1.6 billion now have access to clean water. The worldwide mortality rate of children under 5 in the years between 1990-2016 has decreased by half. The report also stated medical cases concerning HIV, malaria and tuberculosis has also decreased significantly.—*Ye Khaung Nyunt*

Maungtaw investigators travel to Bangladeshi refugee camps

>> FROM PAGE 1

that occurred after the attacks last year, in a report to the Union Government. Hence, the commission went to the refugee camps with great difficulty, seeking the cooperation of the Bangladesh Government and respective international organizations who had taken over the responsibilities of the refugee camps.

On 19 March, the commission met with Deputy Commissioner Mr MD Ali Hossain at the office of the Cox's Bazaar Deputy Commissioner. The meeting was attended by representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

In the afternoon, commission members Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin and Daw Kyein Ngai Man questioned 17 women at the Kutupalong Refugee Camp, with U Zaw Myint Pe and other members investigating men separately.

On 20 March, commission members went to the Balukhali refugee camp, interrogating five men and three women separately, with some men investigated in a group under the arrangement of IOM. In the afternoon, they proceeded to Leda refugee camp, where they spoke to five women and three men according to arrangements made by the IOM.

On 21 March, the commission left for Dhaka, with commission members U Tun Myat and Dr Aung Tun Thet meeting with representatives of IOM & UNHCR separately.

On the morning of 22 March, the Secretary and members of the Maungtaw Investigation Commission left Bangladesh by air, arriving at the Yangon International Airport in the afternoon.

It is learnt that U Myo Myint Than, the Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh, and Embassy staff made advance arrangements for the Bangladesh trip.—*Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor receives Japanese delegation



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mr. Tadashi Ogura. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received the delegation led by Mr. Tadashi Ogura, President of Noritake Co., Ltd. at the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to the history and development of the porcelain industry in

Japan and investment opportunities in Myanmar. Present at the meeting was Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Members of Parliament are lawmakers, not law breakers: Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker

MEMBERS of Parliament are required to follow rules and regulations, laws, and the constitution in working for regional development, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw told legislators in Mon State yesterday.

"The present time is a period of democracy transformation. We have been trying to establish a federal Union to let democracy flourish so that the country will be peaceful and developed, said U Win Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw.

"When there are democracy rights, there will be rule of law and then safety security for the people. As there is rule of law, the country will be in stability and have internal peace," he told Mon State's members of parliament at a meeting held at the State Hluttaw's Office in Mon State.

Members of Parliament are required to follow the restrictions, disciplines in the bylaw, and Hluttaw law when presenting the proposals or questioning. When making the law, it also required to amend those laws which need updating in accordance with time, reviewing the existing laws to be beneficial to the people and be the law for the benefit for the people.

Utilising legislative, executive and judicial power as separately as possible provides a system of checks and balances that must be worked out in accordance with rules and regulations, existing laws and the constitution. When making checks and balances, there will be serious attention not to be interfering beyond the restrictions, said the speaker.

"MPs are the legislators and



Speaker U Win Myint at Mon State Hluttaw. PHOTO: MNA

should be aware to not be law breakers and have the rights to negotiate with local authorities for the development of each constituency in accordance with the constitution."

In the fourth regular session of the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw recently, the Hluttaw approved Union Tax Law 2017, Union Budget Bill 2017, and the National Planning Bill for 2017-2018. Members of Parliament should work for the development of each area in accordance with the enacted law.

When we want to establish a democratic country, we all must work together with trust, understanding, cooperation, forgiveness, and being patient and generous for the people and the nation.

In a democratic country, the Hluttaw is the basic foundation for democracy and the people possess the central power in a democratic country. Thus, all members of parliament always

make efforts to generate firmly the work process of Hluttaw.

We always pay attention to the ethnic unification and emphasise working for the right of the nationalities. We have formed State level organisations and union-level organisations by appointing ethnics in suitable positions.

U Win Myint said we are consistently working to merge the federal policy and democracy. Members of Parliament need cooperation to establish a democratic federal union which has the right for self administration and self legislation.

After his speech, Members of Parliament presented the local developmental process and works in the Hluttaw and the speaker answered questions from the MPs. The meeting was also attended by Mon State Hluttaw Speaker Daw Tin Ei, Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw representatives.—*Myanmar News Agency*