



Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu holds talks with Mr. Vijay Gokhale, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India co-chaired the FOC in New Delhi on 7 June. PHOTO: MNA

MOFA delegation arrives back Yangon after attending 17th round of Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations

A MYANMAR delegation led by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar attended the 17th round of Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) held in New Delhi, India on 7 June 2018 and arrived back Yangon in the morning of 9 June 2018. U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Vijay Gokhale, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India co-chaired the

FOC, which was held at the meeting hall of the Taj Mahal Hotel in New Delhi at noon on 7 June 2018. The Myanmar delegation comprising of U Myit Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Moe Kyaw Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to India and responsible officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi attended the FOC while the Indian delegation was led by Mr. Vijay Gokhale, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of

External Affairs. At the Foreign Office Consultations, both sides extensively discussed wide range of matters pertaining to the promotion of the bilateral relations and multi-faceted cooperation including security and defence cooperation, boundary and border matters, development cooperation, promotion of trade and investment and consular and cultural cooperation as well as potential areas of future cooperation between the two countries.—Myanmar News Agency ■

SWRR Deputy Minister inspects Maungtaw resettlement works, provide assistance



Deputy Minister U Soe Aung provides aids to Hindus at the temporary camp in Maungtaw Township. PHOTO: THET LWIN SOE (IPRD)

DEPUTY Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (SWRR) U Soe Aung, Rakhine State minister for security and border affairs Col. Phone Tint, State minister for planning and finance U Kyaw Aye Thein and other officials inspected the housing construction project in Shwe Zar Village, Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, conducted with the assistance of the government of India. Hindustan Prefab Limited Deputy General Manager A. Shashikanta Sharma and other officials explained to the Deputy Minister and party the construction status of

148 houses. The deputy also assured the party of completing the construction work on time and using standard quality construction material. Some 40 local people are being employed in the construction work, it is learnt. Next, the Deputy Minister and party visited the temporary camp for Hindus in Maungtaw Township and encouraged the people there after providing 89 bags of rice, 107 viss of cooking oil, 428 viss of peas and some 22 viss of salt worth Ks2.8 million for 1,255 persons from 293 households.— Zin Oo, Naing Lin Kyi ■

Paper reading session on archival research method held to commemorate International Archives Day

PAPERS about the archival research method were held at the Nay Pyi Taw National Archives Department (NAD) yesterday morning to commemorate International Archives Day. In his address at the event, Ministry of Planning and Finance permanent secretary U Tun Tun Naing said the International Council on Archives (ICA) was established in 9 June 1948 as a non-government organisation. Its aim was to promote the management and use of records and archives, and the preservation of the archival heritage of humanity around the world through the sharing of experiences, research and ideas on professional archival and re-

ords management matters, and on the management and organisation of archival institutions. The National Archives Department of Myanmar was established in 1972 and this is the first time such an event is being held. NAD is a member country of ICA, as well as a regional member of the Southeast Asia Regional Branch of International Council on Archives (SARBICA). The department collects archived records, uses various technology and methods to maintain records, provides archived records to government departments, the public, students and research works according to the National Records and Archives Law.

The 70th anniversary of International Archives Day was commemorated by an exhibition at the Myanmar national archives for the public and a paper reading session through which the aim of the ICA and the role of the national archives were presented. Government departments, related departments and entities are urged to help maintain and preserve the country's history and cultural records and heritage, said the permanent secretary. Next, NAD director (retired) Daw Khin Khin Tun, University Library Chief Librarian (retired) Daw Tin Phone Nwe, Universities' Historical Research De-



Planning and Finance Permanent Secretary U Tun Tun Naing addresses paper reading session to mark International Archives Day in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

partment director (retired) Myanmar Historical Commission member U Mya Han and NAD assistant director Dr. Lat Lat Soe read four papers on archival methods. The paper reading session was attended by Union Election Commission member U Myint Naing, Ministry of Information

permanent secretary U Myo Myint Maung, heads of departments, experts who will read the papers, and invited guests. To commemorate International Archives Day, the national archives in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw are displaying national heritage records from 1 to 14 June.— Myanmar News Agency ■

This interview originally appeared in NHK. We re-publish it with the permission from NHK.—GNLM

Exclusive: Interview with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

MYANMAR'S LEADER Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sat down for her first one-on-one interview with NHK in 5 years. In the interview, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told NHK World correspondent Orié Sugimoto that deep-rooted communal sentiment in Rakhine State cannot be resolved overnight.

Q: The Myanmar government has agreed to have UN Agencies assist with the repatriation process of the so-called Rohingya people in Rakhine State, and to set up an independent committee to investigate human rights violations. These actions have been long required by the refugees themselves and international communities as well. Why did Myanmar take these actions at this time at this point?

A: I don't think it's quite this time at this point. It's a process. Perhaps, people are unaware of the fact that we have been negotiating with UN Agencies, as sure kind of MoU we can agree to and this goes back to quite some time ago to the recommendations of Dr. Kofi Annan's commission. And, of course, with the regard to the national latest investigation team, this is something that was advised by our advisory board. And we take very seriously that advice because after all, we appointed them because we believe they will be able to give us a valuable perception of the situation.

Q: As we cannot see that, may I ask you why it took such a long time for Myanmar to come out with these actions? What's the difficulty in taking these actions?

A: Well, I don't think you can say that it took us a long time because if you remember the advisory board made their recommendations just a few months

back. So, I don't think you can say we have taken a long time over the national investigation team. With regard to the UNDP and the UNHCR MoU, we've been negotiating and to negotiate and come to an agreement on MoU, we need to look into all the implications, both sides. There are some things that we agreed to immediately and there are some things over which we had to trash out a few obstacles. So, if we want to have a MoU that is meaningful and also at the same time, truly implementable, I think it's worthwhile to take a bit of time.

Q: What was the difficult point for Myanmar to comply with?

A: I don't think there was one difficult point as such either for us or UN Agencies. I think it was a question of many points. But none of them really is inseparable, which is why we've come to an agreement now.

Q: Myanmar has been criticized for alleged violence against so-called Rohingya Muslims. I also heard the Myanmar government saying that this issue is very complicated, complex, sometimes it's not right for the international community to intervene in this issue. Could you explain why this issue is so complicated and difficult for Myanmar, and why sometimes it's not right for the international community to intervene in this issue?

A: First of all, of course, it's a long standing issue. People forget that it goes back a couple of centuries. It's not something that happened yesterday. You cannot resolve a problem that has been existing for such a long time in a few months. And our government took over the responsibility of that administration just 2 years ago. And you cannot resolve a problem like that overnight. And very few



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, right, interviewed by NHK World correspondent Orié Sugimoto. **PHOTO: MNA**

people outside of Myanmar and even very few people in Myanmar are aware of all the historical issues that are involved. So, it's not just for the world outside. It's also for our people inside the country to understand what's going on and why we take the steps that we take. It's most important that our people should understand. Because we are the one who must in the long run preserve the stability and security of our country.

Q: Is it too risky for Myanmar not to wait for or not to take enough time to explain to the people of Myanmar and to explain the international community how complex this issue is?

A: I think it's risky for anybody to go head long into a problem without considering all the various aspects involved.

Q: Can you please explain what the risk for Myanmar is in doing things more quickly?

A: You cannot hurry over everything. The things that require time have to be given time. You cannot force issues. You cannot say to people, for example, "Now forget about the problem and start a new page." You can't just order them. You have to create a situation which will enable them to understand why they have to find different ways of resolving all the problems.

Q: Can you talk more about

the independent committee to investigate the human rights violation in Rakhine State such as the members of the committee? Are you sure that it will be reliable and independent and will explain to the international community that the Myanmar government is trying to follow the rule of law?

A: We cannot at the moment tell you exactly who is going to be in the commission. But we will only appoint people in whose integrity and whose ability we have full confidence.

Q: Do you believe that having an investigation committee which is independent will improve the situation and gain the understanding of the international community as well?

A: The advisory board believes that this is something that should be done. And as for the full confidence, and in the goodwill as well as the wisdom of the advisory board, we think that this will be a positive move that will help the situation.

Q: Why did you choose this national initiative, rather than an international initiative such as the UN fact-finding mission?

A: We've explained repeatedly why we cannot accept the UN fact-finding mission with regard to this initiative as I've been explaining earlier. This is

something that is recommended by the advisory board and they have been in the situation to study what's happening in Rakhine. And since they recommended it very seriously, we take it very seriously as well.

Q: In Cox Bazaar, many refugees are hesitating to return to Myanmar because they are afraid of facing violence if they come back to Myanmar. This fact is making it even more difficult to start voluntary repatriation. So, how will Myanmar restore trust with the refugees and also with the international community?

A: Trust is a 2-way business. I don't think it's just up to just Myanmar to establish trust. I think the other side also has to take necessary steps in order to establish trust.

For example, we understand that the forms that are required to fill in in accordance with the MoU agreed between Myanmar and Bangladesh have not been distributed widely to the refugees.

Unless these forms been distributed and unless the refugees know that there's a legal and safe way for them to return to Rakhine. Then we will not be able to make quick progress. So I think, it's a 2-way process. MoU is agreed to by 2 or more parties, and it's competent on all parties involved to implement their responsibilities.

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Exclusive: Interview with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

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Q: I understand that all parties have a lot of work to do to restore and establish mutual trust. For the Myanmar side, what can you do?

A: We have carried out all our responsibilities in line with the MoU. If you study the MoU, if you look at what we've been doing, I think you'll find that we have carried out all our responsibilities. But trust is not something that you can create just by signing a piece of paper and it's the people who have to take a risk on whether or not the situation is trustworthy. If you're not prepared to try out a situation, you can never tell for sure whether it's acceptable or not.

Q: I understand that Myanmar has taken all possible actions to restore the trust. But from now on, what kind of actions do you plan to take?

A: Trust is not something that you establish within a limited amount of time. You cannot say, well, trust has been established to Degree A, and now. And the next 4 months we go to Degree B. It doesn't work like that. It's an ongoing process. And as I said, everybody concerned must be positive and committed to the process of reestablishing trust.

Q: Recent actions by the Myanmar government like the agreement with the UN, establishment of the independent committee to restore mutual trust and with other parties... can we understand it in that way?

A: Are you saying that did we undertake to sign the MoU with the UNDP and UNHCR and to form the investigation team in order to create trust?

Q: I don't mean to say it's the only purpose. But is it in line with Myanmar...?

A: I think I've explained several times now that it's in line with the recommendations that were made by Dr. Kofi Annan's commission and by our advisory board. The commission and the board both were formed at our initiative and obviously, we put people whose wisdom and goodwill we believe, so their recommendations have to be taken very seriously indeed.

Q: I know it's very difficult for you to clarify but can I ask when do you expect the

actual return of the refugees will start?

A: That depends much on us as but also on Bangladesh. It's a 2-way business. Until the refugees have been given the forms, until they've been informed fully of all the steps they need to take to come back to Rakhine, we will not be able to carry forward the process very quickly. As you know, some have come back but not through the official channels. And the ones who came back, said that they were not aware of the need to fill in forms and to follow a certain procedure.

Q: Inside Myanmar, among many Myanmar citizens, there is deep rooted discrimination or hatred against so-called Rohingya people or Rohingya Muslims or sometimes Bengali. As a leader of this country, and as a leader of democracy do you have messages for those people of this country?

A: We have been working on it ever since our government took over the administration. One of the first things we did after we came into the administration on the 1st of April was to form a committee for the rule of law and development in Rakhine. Because we realized that the animosity, the distrust and if you like, the fear and hate in Rakhine were rooted in the fact that it's a region where there's very little prosperity and very little security. Which is why we formed the committee for the rule of law and development. Since then, we were looking to the long term solution of the Rakhine problem, if you like. We'd like to see it as a challenge, rather than a problem. So as I said, it's ongoing. You cannot wipe out what has happened in history for more than a century within a few months, not even within a few years. It is something that you have to work on consistently. If you look at other countries, you'll find that, often, even long standing democracies have problems. Making sure that all the different communities are at peace, and I have learned to trust and like each other.

Q: Just recently, Japan Ambassador Mr. Maruyama was invited to Maungdaw and Sittwe to observe the situation. How do you evaluate the role of Japan in this issue?

A: Japan has been very pos-

itive and practical in its contribution of aid and assistance to the resolution of the situation in Rakhine. We appreciate it very much. It's also our policy to make sure that those countries that are providing aid and assistance in that part of our country can go there frequently to see how we are carrying out the projects of which we agreed.

Q: Do you feel that the Japanese stance is a bit different from other countries?

A: Each country's stance is different. Of course, some countries tend to stick together and some countries act individually. But I think, basically, there are no 2 countries which have taken exactly the same stand. There are always nuances.



We'd like to see it as a challenge, rather than a problem. So as I said, it's ongoing. You cannot wipe out what has happened in history for more than a century within a few months, not even within a few years.

Q: What do you believe is the specialty of the Myanmar-Japan relationship?

A: I would not like to put it as a specialty on Japan-Myanmar relations. Because then, it will imply that we don't have good relations with other countries. But, I think we can say that we have always valued the deep friendship between Japan and Myanmar, which is based on the friendship and understanding between our peoples. I always say that it all comes down to that. There's nothing that can replace friendship and understanding between people. Government comes and government goes. People go on forever. I think part of our special relationship as you call it with Japan is very much rooted in the fact that there's a deep friendship between our people.

Q: Moving on to the democracy and development of Myanmar. Two years after the establishment of the new government, can you please describe achievements in per-

centages and numbers?

A: Absolutely impossible to explain in percentage and number. Actually, I've never thought of it that way. I have to go back to the work "process." The development of a country is a process. It never comes to an end. And even the very-well developed democracies have challenges that they have to overcome time and again. And new challenges arrive as the world changes. So, we cannot fix the kind of ideal, you said, for democracy. It has to change all the time. But, basically for us, we think that the most important thing is for our people to be aware of their part of the responsibility for establishing democracy in the country. It's not just the responsibility of the government. I think in fact, that's

to which we have democracy. I think our people are a lot less frightened than they used to be before the election. I think you'll notice that there is much more open criticisms of their government and those connected to the government than they ever used to be in the past. That's an indication of the fact that democratic freedom has progressed. But we all have to be aware of the fact that the freedom brings with it the responsibility. And we have yet to know for sure how much the responsible part of this process has increased.

Q: As you mentioned, democracy is people-based. Do you feel the mindset of the people has changed compared to 2 years ago?

A: I said earlier that they are less frightened. That means their mindset is changing and we make it a point of repeating again and again, reiterating the fact that they have responsibility as well. Our government uses the word "responsibility" a lot. And I think it's important.

Q: As you mentioned, Myanmar is not fully democratic because you still have that influence of the military in politics as well. Is this fact making it more difficult to combat the challenging issues such as the Rakhine issue or reconciliation of ethnic minorities?

A: Let's say that it is an added dimension to the challenges that we have to face. And that's quite normal. Because as you said, and as I have explained, we are not a wholly democratic society yet because our constitution is not wholly democratic.

Q: We haven't seen physical progress in the amendment of the constitution. Do you have any roadmap to achieve that goal of amendment of the constitution?

A: We do have a roadmap, which is not going to be made public. But, at the same time, I think you will understand that in 2014, when we had a debate in the legislature with regard to the amendment of the constitution, we made it quite clear we want to bring about the amendment through peaceful negotiation and within the framework of the law, because we want to establish sound and healthy principles for the democratic machinery in our country.

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Q: Do you sometimes find difficulty in balancing the actual situation of Rakhine State or regarding national reconciliation and the power of the military? Are you finding such a dilemma?

A: I don't quite know what you mean. Because I don't think that is the strength of the military that has any direct effect on what's happening in Rakhine. I know that, and I'm sure you know that according to the constitution, elected government cannot direct military operations. So of course, we do not have the kind of overall control that will be exercised by a wholly democratic government.

Q: Recently, 2 Reuters journalists were arrested when covering the Rakhine issue. Myanmar is criticized for limiting the freedom of speech and being undemo-

cratic. The journalists were arrested when they are covering human rights issue in Rakhine state. How do you respond to these criticisms? Is democracy in Myanmar different from that in which the international community believes?

A: They weren't arrested for covering the Rakhine issue. They were arrested because they broke the Official Secret Act. And I think you are aware of the fact that everybody has free access to the court proceedings. Now, all of this is in accordance with due process. I'm sure the NHK correspondent attends the court proceedings regularly. What is important is that we should be working in accordance with due process and rule of law. They were arrested because they broke the Official Secret Act. We cannot say now whether they were guilty or not. That will be up to judiciary. It is for

the judiciary to decide. They were not arrested for covering the Rakhine issue.

Q: They were not arrested for covering the issue. But, while they were covering the issue...

A: And other issues. I think if you've been following the court proceedings, you will understand that there were other issues involved in breaking of the Official Secret Act.

Q: Many parties from the international community are demanding that Myanmar free those 2 journalists immediately. How do you see those voices from international community?

A: As I said, we follow the due process and everybody is free to follow the court proceedings to find out whether or not they are fair, whether or not they are in accordance with the rule of law.

Q: Regarding Myanmar-Japan relations, what kind of role do you expect Japan to play for democratization and the development of Myanmar as a whole, and for economic relations?

A: We expect Japan to play the role of understanding and a longstanding friend.

Q: Many Japanese companies are really willing to come to Myanmar, and to join the Myanmar economy. But they are concerned about the infrastructure, especially the electricity. Can we expect a better environment for those companies?

A: They should study what we have done in the way of infrastructure over the last couple of years. I think they will see that we've made considerable progress. Mind you, over the last 2 years, we have concentrated more on political needs than

our economic needs. Meaning to say, that we have given priority to the construction of roads and provision of electricity for regions for political necessity rather than for reasons where it is economically profitable. But, we can now concentrate more on economically profitable areas because we can handle the first priority quite adequately so far.

Q: Do you believe the economic relations of Myanmar and Japan will contribute to the future of Myanmar?

A: I hope it will contribute to the future of Japan as well.

Q: But what about Myanmar?

A: Of course, it will contribute to the future of both countries, if it's carried out in the right way. As I said, we should be fair. We have to look to each other's needs and each other's benefits. Not just our side. ■

13th Thuta Swesone literary awards presented to winners

THE Swesone Media Group presented the 13th Thuta Swesone literary awards to the winners yesterday at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon.

At the ceremony, U Tin Kha (Saya Tekkatho Tin Kha) received the Thuta Swesone Lifetime Achievement Literary Award, which was presented by Sithu Dr. Thaw Kaung, who won five Lifetime Achievement Literary Awards including a Thuta Swesone Lifetime Achievement Literary Award. Hein Latt received the Translation Award presented by writer Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt. Dr. Yi Yi Hla (Yuwady Khin Oo) presented Saya Sein Win Sein with an International Affairs Award. Saya Kyaw Htet Tun received the Biography Award presented by Sithu U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit), patron of Myanmar Writers' Association. Yangon Region minister for Rakhine ethnic affairs U Zaw Aye Maung presented Saya Myint Thein Hlaing with the Belle-letters (beautiful or fine writing) Award. Saya Than Win Hlaing received the Reference Literature Award and Dr. Khin Maung Nyo received the Science Literature Award, which were presented by Swesone Media Group chairman Dr.



Sithu Dr. Thaw Kaung presents Thuta Swesone Lifetime Achievement Literary Award to U Tin Kha (Saya Tekkatho Tin Kha) in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

Tin Tun Oo. Prof. Thein, and Dr. Su received the Applied Science Literature Award presented by Swesone Media Group Managing Director Dr. Khin Moe Moe. The Thuta Swesone literary awards for this year were selected from among the books published in 2016. The lifetime achievement award winner received Ks2 million, and literary award winners in each category received Ks1 million each.

During the ceremony, Swesone Media Group also donated and presented a total of Ks5.8 million to the 2018 Sarsodaw Day homage ceremony to el-

derly literary experts and journalists, 14th homage ceremony to elders aged over 100 and two Thuta Swesone libraries in Hinthada Township.

Later, Chairman Dr. Tin Tun Oo and Managing Director Dr. Khin Moe Moe of Swesone Media Group presented gifts to Chairman Sithu Dr. Thaw Kaung and the members of Thuta Swesone Literary Award Selection Committee, following which Saya Hein Latt, Dr. Khin Maung Nyo and U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) delivered the note of thanks. —Nanda Win, Mi Mi Phyo ■

UCSB Chairperson visits Civil Service Organisations, Institutes in Ireland, Estonia

ON the invitation of the representative office of the European Union (EU) in Yangon, a delegation led by Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) Chairman Dr Win Thein visited the Institute of Public Administration in Ireland and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Estonia from 27 May to 9 June.

During their visit, they met with Director-General of Institute of Public Administration Dr. Marian O'Sullivan and former Director-General Dr. Brian Cawley.

At the meeting, they discussed the role of civil servants, strategy formation and administration processes. They also focused on the quality framework of the civil servants, techniques in conducting courses, transforming public sector budgeting, the plan for human resources development, along with the leadership skills of senior officials.

Later, the delegation visited Estonia, where they met with Minister of Public Administration Mr. Janek Maggi and discussed transformational processes of public administration and civil servants. Afterwards, the delegation also met with Ambassador Mr. Mart Tarmak from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia

and discussed the implementation of e-Governance.

The delegation also met with Head of Top Civil Service Excellency centre Ms. Eve Limbach-Pirn at the State Chancellery and discussed the appointment and capacity assessment of civil servants, launching human resources development courses for civil servants and setting a framework for appointing high-ranking officials. The delegation also met with Mayors of Tallinn City Government and Parnu and ICT-based e-Services, where civil servants' appointments, conducting better training courses and regional administration transformation services were discussed. They also met with Professor Dr. Tilna Randma from Tallinn Technical University and discussed the conducting of training courses for civil servants in each sector.

Next, the delegation met with officials from the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences and discussed police officer appointments, training and providing e-Services. The Union Civil Service Board Chairman and party arrived in Yangon yesterday afternoon.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Returnees feel better in Rakhine

Following is the second part of the interview with the returnees from Bangladesh conducted by our news team.

Mahmat Eunoss
Formerly from Nga Khu Ya, South village
Presently at his home in Nga Khu Ya

I was charged (and imprisoned) for going (illegally) to Bangladesh. I went there two or three times in the past. I returned after going there. I didn't go there with my family; they are in Nga Khu Ya. Now, my family and I have NVCs. We took (applied for) it, as the NVC is required to go to Maungtaw.

At present, there isn't much work. In the past, I was dealing in trade by buying products in Maungtaw and selling them here. When I was released under an amnesty, the government provided me with pots, pans, blankets and a mosquito net. Food for the family was also provided.

Abdusalem
Formerly from Nga Khu Ya, South village
Presently at his home in Nga Khu Ya

I'm the only one who got an NVC. My family still didn't get it. Although I have an NVC, permission has not yet been granted to go to the shrimp ponds and to fish in the creeks; so, we face some difficulties in making a living.

Nurusalem
Formerly from Nga Khu Ya, South village
Presently at his home in Nga Khu Ya

If possible, I want to call my relatives in Bangladesh to Myanmar right now. As I live in Myanmar, I abide by the law here. When families from the other side return, I'll explain to them how to abide by the law. Myanmar is better. I now have an NVC. My wife also has an NVC. I don't know in detail about the NVC. I also didn't hear about the other side telling people they can go back. In the past, I used to fish with a net. Now, I have no income because fishing works are not permitted.

Idris
Formerly from Nga Khu Ya, South village
Presently at his home in Nga Khu Ya

My siblings are in Bangladesh. I don't know what I can do if I have an NVC. But one needs



Mahmat Eunoss.



Abdusalem.



Nurusalem.



Idris.



Dill Mahmat.



Nuralem.



Atwal Hussan.



Suna Bibi.



Jamail Along.

If possible, I want to call my relatives in Bangladesh to Myanmar right now. As I live in Myanmar, I abide by the law here. When families from the other side return, I'll explain to them how to abide by the law.

to have some sort of identity if he/she is staying in any country. Both my wife and I have NVCs.

Dill Mahmat
Formerly from Nga Khu Ya, South village
Presently at his home in Nga Khu Ya

My family was with me when the incident occurred. After I was detained, they fled to Bangladesh. If possible, I want to call my family back.

Hamid Tusong
Formerly from Nga Khu Ya, South village
Presently at his home in

Nga Khu Ya

My eldest son and four family members fled to Bangladesh. They fled with others when the terrorist incident occurred. I want them to come back.

Until now, I don't know much about the NVC. I think I'll find out later. However, I have an NVC because I wanted it. There was no intimidation or harassment due to religion or race. But I didn't explain to others about getting an NVC. I personally think Myanmar is a better place to live. I want to see the people on the other side being called back. Many of them are facing difficulties.
Nuralem



Hamid Tusong.

Formerly from Nga Khu Ya, South village
Presently at his home in Nga Khu Ya

Both my wife and I have NVCs. I never heard of anyone urging people to return from Bangladesh to Myanmar.

Atwal Hussan
Formerly from Doetan village tract, Sintaung village
Presently at a relative's home in Nga Khu Ya

I was detained when I crossed back into Myanmar from Bangladesh. I went to Bangladesh after the incident occurred in 2016. I didn't hear anyone urging people or see notices being put up in relief camps in Bangladesh to return to Myanmar. It is better to stay here. I'm the only one who had an NVC. My family is still in Bangladesh. I want to bring them back. Staying in Nga Khu Ya is better than staying in Bangladesh. No identity was given in the Bangladesh relief camps. Everyone could freely enter and leave. I stayed at the Balukhali camp while in Bangladesh.

Suna Bibi
Formerly from Kyetyopyin village tract, Kyetyopyin Ywama
Presently in Kyetyopyin Village

I was going to Ooshaykya (village) from Kyetyopyin, when I was detained. I have family in the village (Kyetyopyin). Some of my sons and daughters went to Bangladesh. I want them to come back. Only one of my family members had an NVC. There was no difficulty in obtaining it and I'm thankful for this. Pots, pans and clothing have also been supplied. For now, I'm doing odd jobs, and I also farm a bit.

Jamail Along
Formerly from Kyetyopyin village tract, Kyetyopyin Ywama
Presently in Kyetyopyin Village

I came back from Bangladesh four to five months ago. I did odd jobs in Bangladesh. If food was provided, it was convenient, but when it was not provided, there were some difficulties in the Bangladesh camp. I stayed in Kutupalong camp in Bangladesh. We were living on the aid provided. I stayed there for a full month.

As I wanted to live in my own village, I came back in a small boat. I have no other intention. I didn't hear anyone saying anything about returning to Myanmar. I came back here alone. My family stayed behind in Bangladesh. They also want to come back. It was not easy to enter or leave the camp I was in. I had to sneak out. In the past, I operated a power tiller and repaired motorcycles. For now, I'm working as a mechanic for motorcycles for a living.—News Team ■

Israel government donates water purifiers, technology to UEHRD CITF

A CEREMONY was held in Sky Star Hotel, Yangon yesterday evening where Israel Government donated water purifiers and technology to Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) Construction and Infrastructure Task Force (CITF).

At the ceremony, UEHRD chief coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet delivered an opening speech and Israel Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Daniel

Zonshine explained about the donation.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung also delivered a speech. Speeches of appreciation were then delivered by Rakhine state minister for Chin ethnic affairs U Pon Bway on behalf of Rakhine State government and CITF leader U Kyaw Win.

Afterwards, the four water purifiers were presented by Israel Ambassador to Myanmar

and received by UEHRD chief coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet. UEHRD chief coordinator then transferred the water purifiers to CITF.

The water purifiers with a capacity of purifying 500 liters per hour will be used in Rakhine State it is learnt.

The ceremony was attended by officials from Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, officials from UEHRD and invited guests.—Myanmar News Agency ■



UEHRD Chief Coordinator Dr Aung Tun Thet accepts four water purifiers from Israel Ambassador Mr. Daniel Zonshine. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vaccination drive to counter anthrax planned in Meiktila Township

THE Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding & Veterinary Department will conduct a vaccination drive to counter anthrax in Meiktila Township.

In the first week of May, five people were infected with anthrax after they butchered an anthrax-infected cow in Zayakgon village, Meiktila Township in Mandalay region. Currently, they have been hospitalised.

“The prevention activities to control anthrax are being conducted from 4 May. We

provided free vaccinations to animals and medical treatment to the animals, which are not feeling well in the village. We have separated into four groups, led by the district officer. Each group will provide vaccinations and health education to the villagers. We are aiming to cover the entire township,” said Dr. Maung Maung, director of Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding & Veterinary Department.

Anthrax among animals is very common in Myanmar.

Anthrax is also known by other names depending on the region. Anthrax mostly occurs during the rainy season. The animals die of this disease when they devour the green grass in which pupa is hidden.

The Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding & Veterinary Department provided vaccinations to 18,373 animals of 5,715 owners in 121 villages of Meiktila Township from the first week of May until the first week of June 2018.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■

Transfer ceremony of Mandalay weather radar station held

A WEATHER radar station, built on Paleik-Saga Inn road, Kyaynikan Village, Mandalay city, was transferred during a ceremony on Friday morning.

The transfer ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Japan's Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama and Chief Representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Mr. Masayuki Karasawa.

“The Mandalay weather radar station can measure inland rainfall and wind speed. With the help of radar, the weather situation can be inves-

tigated more accurately. The image of the clouds can be taken from the ground. Also, images can be obtained from the satellite. Combining these two will enable timely weather forecasting and announcements,” said Director-General U Kyaw Moe Oo of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH).

In the past, weather reports were made once a day, but now five reports are made daily between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., in addition to sea reports at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

“The advantage of the weather radar is the ability to see in 3-D (three dimension) an approaching storm, allowing a more accurate investigation.

In the past, accurate analysis and forecast could not be made using only satellite images,” said DMH (upper Myanmar) Director U Kyaw Lwin Oo.

The Mandalay weather radar station is the third weather radar station constructed with the assistance of JICA. The work was started in the end of 2015 on the 50 metre (12-storey) high weather station.

The Kyaukphyu weather radar station was opened on 9 October 2015, while the Yangon weather radar station was opened on 24 October 2016.

The three weather radar stations were built with the assistance of JICA, at a cost of more than \$38 million.—Khaing Sat Wai ■

No illegal import of vehicles, no incidence of vehicle confiscation: MoI

MOI's PS refutes Myanmar Times' allegation on illegal car import

MINISTRY of Information refuted allegations that the ministry's vehicle import was not allowed by the Ministry of Commerce published by the Myanmar Times in its 7th June issue.

The Myanmar Times published the corrected version of the story in its 9th June issue, saying that there was no incidence of vehicle import nor confiscation of the Ministry of Information. In the wrong story, the reported expressed a quote from an official of the Ministry of Commerce.

“We contacted departments concerned of the Ministry of Commerce. They said no official of the Ministry of Commerce did not give comment to journalists,” said U Myo Myint Maung, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information yesterday. “Some donors offered to donate vehicles for mobile libraries. We are working to-

gether with the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and SVA foundation for the mobile libraries. In fact, a donor offered SVA to donate vehicles for the mobile libraries. We negotiated for every donor on the request of foundation for smooth of donation including import of vehicles,” he added.

He also quoted the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Commerce saying that a private company applied to import vehicles for mobile libraries, not the Information Ministry's libraries in the application.

“As the mobile libraries are related with Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Commerce told that they did not allow import of vehicles for mobile libraries of the Ministry of Information,” he added. Ministry of Information also complained the Myanmar Times for not covering the correction on the same page where the wrong story appeared.—Ma Honey ■

Gusty winds slam into Hainggyigyun Township

POWERFUL winds hit Pyinkhayine village in Hainggyigyun in Patheingyi District in Ayeyawady Region on 8 June. Three houses were destroyed in strong winds, and all the flattened houses are under urgent repair to alleviate the plight of storm victims. No casualties were reported dur-

ing the disaster. Governmental officials and local police rushed to the scene to carry out relief operations. Hainggyigyun and its environs are prone to natural disasters like storms in monsoon period, it is learnt.—Kyaw Thu Hein (Haingyi Kyun)/Myanmar Digital News ■