Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects …

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Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa road is 115 miles, 5 furlong long. A 40-mile section from Monywa will be upgraded by the Myanmar Government under a BOT system and the remaining 75-mile, 5-furlong section will be upgraded with US$181 million supported by the Government of India. The 69 bridges on Kalewa-Tamu road will be upgraded and the remaining 75-mile, 5-furlong long. A 40-boundary road section is on the main road from Monywa to Mandalay, and Thailand, and will greatly benefit the flow of goods in the region.

Afterwards, the Vice President presented Ks10 million for the road and bridges are being upgraded so that connects India, Myanmar and Thailand, and will greatly benefit the flow of goods in the region.

The participants at the meeting discussed implementation of ASEAN Vision 2025, promoting relations with ASEAN and its dialogue partners and preparations for the 3rd ASEAN Summit and related meetings to be held in November in Singapore.

The Vice President said a Myanmar-India border economic and trade relations can be developed rapidly so that the people to use this opportunity. The Vice President urged the two countries to coordinate changes that would result in ease of obtaining visas, said the Vice President.

Border Trade with India

After the meeting, the Vice President arrived at the Yazagyo Dam multi-purpose project, where Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department Director General U Kyaw Min. Haing gave a brief about electricity generation, water distribution, silt entry into the dam, the status of water overflowing the spillway, works conducted to increase water storage capacity and maintenance of the dam. In response to the explanations, the Vice President spoke of removing silt from the dam to achieve full storage capacity, conducting systematic reviews before the actual silt removal work, using the best methods, coordinating the use of the silt in agriculture, preparing to increase the water supply for agriculture works and taking special care in maintaining the dam because severe weather occurs in the region every year.

The Vice President inspected the spillway and then went on to Khpawt State, where he met with the local populace.

Silt to be dredged out of Yazagyo Dam

In the afternoon, the Vice President arrived at the Yazagyo Dam multi-purpose project, where Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department Director General U Kyaw Min. Haing gave a brief about electricity generation, water distribution, silt entry into the dam, the status of water overflowing the spillway, works conducted to increase water storage capacity and maintenance of the dam. In response to the explanations, the Vice President spoke of removing silt from the dam to achieve full storage capacity, conducting systematic reviews before the actual silt removal work, using the best methods, coordinating the use of the silt in agriculture, preparing to increase the water supply for agriculture works and taking special care in maintaining the dam because severe weather occurs in the region every year.

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Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends IAMM, AUMM in NY

Myanmar’s Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin attended the Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting — IAMM in New York, where he is attending the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The participants at the meeting discussed implementation of ASEAN Vision 2025, promoting relations with ASEAN and its dialogue partners and preparations for the 3rd ASEAN Summit and related meetings to be held in November in Singapore.

Following the meeting, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting with the UN Secretary-General and the President of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly-AUMM at the UN Headquarters at 6pm local time.

The meeting was attended by UN Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres, president of 73rd UNGA Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces and foreign ministers of ASEAN member countries.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on promoting the relations between ASEAN and UN, stability and security, sustainable development and disaster management in ASEAN region.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe meets US Secretary of State

UNION Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe met United States Secretary of State Mr. Michael R. Pompeo at Lotte New York Palace Hotel in New York, United States on 27 September.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on resolving the Rakhine issues, bilateral diplomatic relation and future cooperation processes.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Myanmar Ambassador to the United States U Aung Lin, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Mr. TH. David Hale and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Mr. Patrick Murphy.
Myanmar delegation leader, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe delivers a general debate statement at 73rd Session of United Nations General Assembly


In his statement, the Union Minister stressed the need for the United Nations to take constructive and peaceful approaches to create a better organization which is relevant to all nations. He apprised the Assembly of the Government’s efforts on democratic transition, bringing about sustainable development, and building a society where stability, peace and harmony prevail, and finding a long-lasting solution on the issue of Rakhine State including repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State.

He also explained Myanmar’s position on the recent report of Human Rights Council’s Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, the International Criminal Court’s ruling in connection with Rakhine State, the Government’s commitment to address the issue of accountability through the establishment of the Independent Commission of Enquiry on its own initiative.

The Myanmar delegation leader’s full statement is as follows:

Mr. President,

We live in challenging times. This year’s theme, “Making the United Nations relevant to all people: global leadership and shared responsibilities for peaceful, equitable and sustainable societies” is, therefore, most appropriate. It serves to remind us of the need to strengthen the role of this important organization to overcome the complex challenges we face today. In this process, we must not forget the core principles of the UN Charter, including the principle of sovereign equality. It is also important to remember that, the promotion of economic, social, cultural and humanitarian interests, as well as the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, are to be attained through international cooperation. Nor should we forget the international character of the United Nations.

It is only through constructive and peaceful approaches that we will be able to create a better United Nations—one that is relevant to all nations. Only then can our hopes for global leadership of shared responsibilities become a reality.

Here, I wish to stress that Myanmar’s view on the role of the United Nations remains unchanged. There are no suitable multilateral platform other than the United Nations for countries of the world to work together to find solutions to overcome global challenges.

Mr. President,

Let me apprise this august assembly of our efforts to transform Myanmar from an authoritarian system to a democratic one; our effort to bring about sustainable development and to build a society where stability, peace, and harmony prevail. A country without peace and stability cannot achieve economic development. This is our conviction. Accordingly, our democratically-elected government has given priority to national reconciliation and peace since we assumed office.

Mr. President,

We are convinced that ethnic strife and armed conflicts in Myanmar can only be ended through political means. Lasting peace will become a reality only when the democratic federal union to which our people aspired is established.

We are, therefore, conducting negotiations at the Union Peace Conference – the 21st Century Panglong to reach agreement on the fundamental principles for a democratic federal union. The three Sessions of the conference held so far have adopted fifty-one fundamental principles which will become part of the Union Peace Accord. To ensure that the process is inclusive, we continue negotiations not only with the eight ethnic armed groups that have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) but also with those that have yet to come on board.

During the past year, two more ethnic armed groups, namely the New Mon State Party and the Lahbu Democratic Union, joined the peace process by signing the NCA. We will continue our endeavours to bring all ethnic armed organizations under the NCA umbrella and to the conference table.

Mr. President,

Essential to our endeavours to bring peace and prosperity to the nation is the need to ensure balanced development in the one; we are fully committed to ensuring accountability where there is concrete evidence of human rights violations committed in Rakhine State.

PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe.
Only way to resolve the issue swiftly and peacefully is through the implementation of the bilateral agreements, working together in the spirit of good neighbourliness, refraining from activities that might be inimical to the national interests of either Myanmar or Bangladesh.
Chinese FM endorses multilateralism, peace, free trade at UNGA

UNITED NATIONS — Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday delivered a speech at the General Debate of the UN General Assembly, endorsing multilateralism, world peace and free trade.

MULTILATERALISM

Wang said that the contemporary international order, which began with the founding of the United Nations, is based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and enhanced by the vision and practice of multilateralism.

The order has, over the past 70 years or more, brought about general peace and rapid development, he said.

“What we see today is that international rules and multilateral mechanisms are under attack, and the international landscape is filled with uncertainties and destabilizing factors,” the foreign minister said.

“China’s answer is clear-cut. All along, China has upheld the international order and pursued multilateralism,” he added.

The Chinese top diplomat suggested that to uphold multilateralism in the new era, efforts shall be made to adhere to the following principles:

Firstly, the world shall pursue win-win cooperation. The sure way for a bright future of the world is to replace confrontation with cooperation and coercion with consultation; to stick together as one big family instead of forming closed circles; and to promote common development through consultation instead of taking a winner-takes-all approach.

Secondly, all nations shall act upon rules and order. Practicing multilateralism is, first and foremost, about upholding the UN Charter, observing international law and the basic norms governing international relations and honoring international agreements reached upon through negotiations.

Thirdly, the world shall uphold fairness and justice. In international affairs, fairness and justice means equality between all countries, big or small. It means responsibility for big countries to help the small and the rich to assist the poor. Fairness and justice also mean respect for other countries’ sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, as well as their choice of development path and the right to a better life and to more development opportunities.

Fourth, all nations must act to deliver real results. “It is imperative that we work together to uphold the international system with the United Nations at its core as well as the multilateral trading system centering on the World Trade Organization,” Wang said.

WORLD PEACE

He said that as a major responsible country, China commits itself to the path of peaceful development, and China will work with other countries and contribute its share to global peace and security.

He outlined China’s stance on a slew of hotspot issues. On the situation of the Korean Peninsula, China encourages all sides to move along the direction of denuclearization and peace mechanism.

Regarding the Iranian nuclear issue, it is crucial for continued implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The question of Palestine must not be marginalized, Wang said, adding a new round of peace-promoting efforts need to be made to explore a new mediation mechanism.

The settlement of the issue involving Rakhine State of Myanmar shall begin by accelerating the return of the first batch of displaced persons. In addition, China supports the UN’s leading role in coordinating responses to non-traditional security challenges, Wang added.

Cambodia PM warns at UN against questioning of one-party election

UNITED NATIONS (United States) — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen warned on Friday against any questioning of the legitimacy of his controversial re-election after a top UN official dismissed criticism of the election.

Hun Sen, who has been in power for more than 33 years, saw his Cambodian People’s Party win all 125 seats in July’s parliamentary elections after a shuttering of media outlets and jailing of political opponents and journalists.

In a report to the UN Human Rights Council earlier this week, UN Special Rapporteur for Cambodia Rhona Smith said the elections had “condemned multiparty liberal democracy to history for the next five years.”

But speaking from the floor of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Hun Sen warned against any outside “interference” in Cambodian politics.

“The free choice of the Cambodian people and the legitimate result of this election is not a subject for question or debate,” the veteran strongman said in his speech. “Some external circles, however, who are on a mission to interfere in the domestic affairs of Cambodia still fail to see the quality and integrity of our election process by issuing statements against or attacking the election outcome.

“Such actions are a serious assault on the will of the Cambodian people.”

A loud crowd of protesters gathered outside the UN building to denounce the Cambodian leader, some holding signs and chanting. “Hun Sen is a traitor!”

In her report, Smith said the dissolution of the main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party and ban a large number of other senior opposition figures from all political activity “seriously calls into question the genuineness of these elections.”

But Hun Sen said he had transformed a country “previously famous for its killing fields” when the dictator Pol Pot oversaw a reign of terror that left up to two million people dead from starvation, overwork or execution.

“The Cambodian nation is enjoying the dividends of peace, stability and rapid development which had never been seen before in its modern history,” he said.

“Cambodia now enjoys full peace and has become a popular tourist destination in Southeast Asia, a food exporter, an outstanding performer in poverty reduction and has seen an improvement of all social indicators.”

The United Nations has played a key role in Cambodia’s elections since the end of the Pol Pot era and the country’s subsequent occupation by Viet Nam in the 1980s, sponsoring the first democratic polls in 1993. —AFP

Malaysia’s Anwar faces sodomy accuser in election

PORT DICKSON (Malaysia) — Malaysia’s leader-in-waiting Anwar Ibrahim started campaigning on Saturday for a poll set to return him to frontline politics — but faces a surprise rival in the form of an ex-aide who once accused him of sodomy.

Anwar is expected to easily win the local election on 13 October and re-enter parliament as an MP just months after being released from jail following his alliance’s shock election win.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, 93, has pledged to step aside within two years to hand power to Anwar, his former nemesis with whom he teamed up to oust scandal-plagued Najib Razak and his long-ruling coalition at the national polls in May.

Following the vote, Anwar, 71, received a royal pardon releasing him from prison where he was serving a sentence for sodomy in a case that his supporters said was politically motivated.

He needs to be elected as an MP to qualify to take over from Mahathir, and earlier this month a lawmaker from his party vacated his seat in the coastal town of Port Dickson to allow Anwar’s return to parliament.

On Saturday, hundreds of flag-waving supporters of the ruling Pact of Hope alliance marched to a hall in the town as Anwar and the other candidates formally registered for the poll.

But there was shock when it emerged that one of his six rivals in the election is Mohamad Saiiful Bukhari Azlan, a former volunteer in Anwar’s office whose accusations of sodomy led to him being jailed in 2015.

The ex-aide is running as an independent candidate. Ibrahim Suffian, who heads independent polling firm Merdeka Center, told AFP Anwar’s “detractors are out to embarrass him in any little way they can.” —AFP