

In solidarity with friends

DURING the recent 33rd ASEAN Summit in Singapore, national leaders discussed regional and international affairs and held prioritized discussions concerning the events in Rakhine State.

The ASEAN leaders admitted that the Rakhine State issue is complex and sensitive and voiced their support for Myanmar's efforts. They said they would actively provide constructive cooperation in creating a good environment for returnees from Bangladesh and in promoting stability, development and harmony between the communities in Rakhine State.

At a time when ASEAN leaders are providing assistance for Rakhine State in the true spirit of solidarity, it is unfortunate to hear about the draft resolution on human rights in Myanmar submitted by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the European Union (EU) at the Third Committee meeting of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly three days ago.

The resolution is one-sided, biased, devoid of any constructive intent, politicized, and does not reflect the positive political

and socio-economic development in Myanmar. It is a clear manifestation of the hostility and dictatorial intent of the co-sponsors of the resolution on a soft target. The sensational narrative of the draft resolution seems intent on increasing international pressure against Myanmar. It creates mistrust and further increases the polarization among the different communities in Rakhine and between Myanmar and the international community.

Adopting another ill-intentioned, selective and politically motivated resolution will not help the Myanmar Government's efforts in resolving the issue of Rakhine State, but would rather lead to further polarization and escalation of tensions among different religious

communities in the country.

The Myanmar Permanent Representative U Hau Do Suan delivered a statement at the 73rd UN General Assembly, calling for the UN to promote and advocate for peace, harmony and reconciliation, not hatred, mistrust or polarization.

The exact words of the Permanent Representative were, "The people of Myanmar are united as ever under the leadership of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar's relentless efforts to building peace, the rule of law, national reconciliation and development for all 54 million people. We shall strive with unwavering determination to achieve democracy with the support and good will of our friends near and far."

No matter the nature of the obstacle impeding upon Myanmar, we will continue forward with courage and unfaltering spirit.

This stance will be adopted not only for addressing the Rakhine issue but also for the entire country's peace and development concerns. We, the citizens of Myanmar, will join hands with each other and with our friends, associate countries and ASEAN countries, as we move forward with tireless vigour in promoting peace, human rights and development and protection of our sovereignty.

The Auspicious Occasion of Tazaungmon: the Kathina Festival

By Tun Myint Aung

TAZAUNGMON, corresponding to November, is the 8th month of the Myanmar lunar calendar. It is usually an opportune time to experience that the merry-making songs and music accompanied with the Myanmar orchestra consisting of drums, gongs, oboe, clappers, etc echo in the sky throughout the country; all the people celebrate the Kathina Festivals. The nearer the Fullmoon Day of Tazaungmon is getting, the louder the echo becomes because it is during only 29 days between the first waning day of Thidingyut and the full-moon day of Thazaungmon that the Kathina festivals are held in accordance with the set period and with the strict rules governed by the Vinaya of the Buddha. All the people without any distinction on the grounds of age, sex, wealth, status, etc

have opportunities to take part in the celebration activities of the festival by their own bits. The essence of the Kathina festival is the offering of new sets of robes to the monks, for most of their wearing may be drenched and wear out during the monsoon as they have to go on daily alms-rounds every morning, rainy or sunny, to receive alms-food from the devout lay persons and give blessings for their donation. In fact, it is a good idea that the donors anonymously can offer the Kathina robes to all monks as Sangika or Sangha in the Buddhist Order, not to individual monk personally, in consonance with the Buddhist canonical law.

The pious groups are formed apropos, with their free consent, and set their separate optional duties according to their own desire to collect some contributions from the devout donors in town or in village or in various social communities. Such groups are mushrooming everywhere during such period; almost every junction, ward, market, school, office and so on. It is really a daunting task to collect charity money or other offerings or the requisites for the monks. They have to assist



PHOTOS: PHOE KHWAR

and urge people to contribute pocket money as much as they can, by using loud-speakers or sound-boxes. The donees may announce the names of the donors and the amount of their contribution in detail. It is funny that a boy can contribute some pocket money to the charity-box and ask for the assistants to announce the names of the donors as spouses by using the names of girls he likes. If the girls know the truth about the boy and reprove him for the matter, he can say that sometimes names are common and may be identical. Sometimes, the assistants may announce many times the name of the donor who contributes much money. Sometimes, various announcements and cacophonous blaring music amplified through loudspeakers and modern hi-tech sound-boxes may be unbearable to ear-rending decibels.

It is enjoyable for us to listen to some traditional songs rhyming choruses which can reflect the social life of the Myanmar. However, popular songs concerning the Kathina festivals are not very many. Instead, the hit nat-songs are favourable to the youths. The

most common nat-song can be 'Ko Gyi Kyaw', which can stimulate the people to be active very easily and have a potency to make them dance at once to the song and music at any time. However, it has nothing at all to do with the Kathina Festival.

In addition, various forms of dance can be seen at every contribution centre as rehearsal for going round. The special one can be the performance of pairing U Shwe Yoe and Daw Moe. Each may have been widowed at an early age. The former is an old gangling guy, a

In fact, the Kathina festival is based on religious rites but largely blended with social customs and merry-making spirit of the people.

humorous dancer performed by a male character made up with a moustache in bizarre dress, wearing a suit of checked longyi and black Myanmar jacket as

spruce fashion. Their courtship manners to the rhythmic beats of Myanmar music can be so funny that the audience watching them can't help smiling or laughing nonstop all the way. Sometimes, huge toys caricatured in the figure of a hermit or a lay attendant to a monastery can be found among some groups collecting charity offerings. They can be used for the purpose of drawing the attention of the public, especially of the children who may insist upon watching the toys moving to the lively music. Sometimes, the collectors running recklessly along the street for the notes given away by the donors on

a piece of offerings donated by individual person can make a series of trees of plenty. The Kathina robe offering ceremony cannot be done by individual but only the collective efforts of the public. Everyone has no set duties in the process of the ceremony but can take part in it and make contributions of his or her own as he or she desires, taking social responsibilities. This type of donation shows a symbol of unity of the social communities of the Myanmar people.

In fact, the Kathina festival is based on religious rites but largely blended with social customs and merry-making



the vehicles may pose serious accidents. This type of accident is regarded as one of the most accident-prone cases.

It is also enjoyable for us to watch groups of participants in line going round in town with their padethapins or plenty trees (tree-shaped stands where various offerings are hung) full of different notes of Myanmar currency money and the requisites for the monks and other offertories needed for the monastery, accompanied by orchestral bands of Myanmar music and dance until they get to the monastery where all the offerings are to be left. Of course, a small amount of pocket money

spirit of the people. Actually, it can be easily known to all that Myanmar is a heaven of fun-seekers because they can have something enjoyable in various ways in every part of the country in any circumstance all the year round, the twelve months of the Myanmar lunar calendar. It is, therefore, taken for granted that the genuine spirit embodied in such sorts of beautiful tradition and culture will exist in the blood of the Myanmar people, marking as public memory or an aspect of making our history in perpetuity.....

National Day Objectives for 2018

1. A strong and dynamic Union Spirit
2. Participate and cooperate for Union Peace.
3. All round development of all ethnic races.
4. Establishment of a Democratic Federal Union.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 18th November, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean Still persists. It is forecast to move Westwards during next (24) hours. Weather is cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the Tropical Depression (Toraji) has crossed over the Southern Vitenam Coast.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 19th November, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region, Kachin, Eastern Shan, Kayin and Mon States and isolated in Upper Sagaing and Yangon Regions, Southern Shan and Kayah States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be generally fair in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (2-5) feet Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th November, 2018: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th November, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th November, 2018: Generally fair weather.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). - Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar