Golden ceiling donated to Phaungdaw Oo Pagoda in Inle Lake

A ceremony to donate a golden lotus ceiling for the shrine housing Buddha images at Phaungdaw Oo Pagoda, Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State, was held at the pagoda yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko opened the ceiling curtain to unveil the installed golden lotus ceiling at the shrine.

Also, attendees to the ceremony took Five Precepts from State Sangha Mahanayaka member Nyaungshwe Maithauk, First Pariyati Monastery principal patron Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddanta Thumingalar Bivamsa, listened to the reciting of parittas, after which the Union Minister and donors donated offertories. Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko supplicated religious matters, as all listened to a sermon by Maithauk First Sayadaw and then shared merits.—Sai L Bae (Nyaungshwe) ■ *Translated by Zaw Min)*

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and donors donate offertories to patron Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddanta Thumingalar Bivamsa. **PHOTO: SAI L BAE (NYAUNGSHWE)**

Rehearsal conducted for Children's Literature Festival (Sagaing)

A rehearsal for the Children's Literature Festival, Children's Literature Exhibition and Book Sales, jointly organized by the Information and Public Relations Department, Basic Education Department and District Management Committee, was held at No. 3 Basic Education High School, Sagaing, yesterday morning. Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun and officials viewed the rehearsal and exhibits prepared for the festival.

The Children Literature Festival (Sagaing) will be held from 9 am to 5 pm on 13 and 14 January in No. 3 Basic Education High School, Sagaing, and will include entertainment programs, exhibits, competitions, literature discussions, games, shops selling books, debates, story-telling, painting and coloring competitions, traditional games and Futsal competitions for the public.

The Men's Futsal competitions began yesterday morning with students participating from 16 basic education schools.

Maung Tun Tun Aung, from Basic Education High School Shwe Min Wun, who is participating in the futsal competition, said, "For students like us, education and health is important. It is good that sports competitions are included in the Children's Literature Festival, since we can strive to achieve our aims only when we are healthy.

Furthermore, through these competitions we will acquire the habit of teamwork." The sports competitions will be held from 12 to 14 January.—Aung Min Han ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun inspects the rehearsal for the Children's Literature Festival (Sagaing) yesterday. **PHOTO : AUNG MIN HAN**

Independent Commission of Enquiry Chairperson Ambassador Rosario Manato (centre) seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Independent Commission of Enquiry Chairperson and member departs from Yangon

THE Government of the Republic of Union of Myanmar has formed an Independent Commission of Enquiry, as part of its national initiative to address reconciliation, peace, stability and development in Rakhine State. The Independent Commission of Enquiry Chairperson, former Deputy Foreign Minister of the Philippines, former Chair and Current Representative of the Philippines to CEDAW, Ambassador Rosario Manato, left Yangon by air yesterday morning.

The Independent Commission of Enquiry Chairperson was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Ministry of Foreign Affairs Strategic Studies and Training Department Deputy Director General U Zaw Phyo Win, Consular and Legal Affairs Department Deputy Director General U Zaw Tun Oo and officials.

Similarly, commission member, the former Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, former Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, Ambassador Kenzo Oshima, also left Yangon by air later in the evening.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

Over K 70 mln of aid reaches displaced people in Rakhine State

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has provided over K 70 million in aid packages to displaced people in Ponnagyun, Buthidaung, Kyauktaw and Yethedaung townships in Rakhine State. The ministry handed over K20 million as aid for the displaced people at the Rakhine State Government Office in Sittway, Rakhine State, on 11 January, bringing the total amount of aid packages to over K 70 million. Speaking at the ceremony, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye expressed his sympathy to the displaced people, pledging to provide for their requirements.

In the event, the Union Minister delivered rice worth K 40 million for one month, mats and blankets worth K 9.9 million for 970 households, or 4470 people. Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and the displaced people accepted the supplies and expressed their thanks.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

VP U Myint Swe: Government succeeds in reopening Kyin San Kyawt Gate

Union Minister Dr. Than Myint.

Union Minister U Soe Win.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

Union Minister U Thaug Tun.

FROM PAGE-1

In this matter, officials from the five work committees arranged for public-private dialogues among private businesses and relevant ministries to resolve the matter and thus a certain period of time would be required said the Vice President.

The trade sector plays an important role in the development of a country's economy. Private and public sectors were cooperating towards increasing annual trade volume and conducted trade in excess of US$ 18.3 billion during the April to September 2018 six months period. According to figures up to end December of fiscal year 2018-2019, the trade volume reached US$ 8.117 billion and this was US$ 0.449 billion more than the same period last year. Private sector participation in trade was US$ 7.094 billion or 87 percent and this was an increase. However import was more than export and thus export also needed to be increased to achieve trade balance.

Illegal imports through the border were threatening the existence of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and PSDC has formed illegal trade control and prevention groups in nine regions and states and during September to December 2018, 266 arrests of an estimated Ks 5.9 billion worth of illegal imports were made. Starting a Business section is an important and vital in increasing the ranking of Ease of Doing Business and starting from 1 August 2018, an online company registration system was started. As payment of registration fee was also through Online Payment, it was an important accomplishment of the e-government system that the Government was implementing. Looking at the latest situation of establishing and re-registering companies, a total of 32,917 companies were re-registered and 8,514 new companies were established during the period 1 August to end December. One outstanding matter was that from 2017 August to December only 3,758 new companies were formed while during the August-December period of 2018, 8,514 new companies were registered under the new system of Myanmar Companies Online (MyCo) electronic registry system. This was more than double in new registrations and thus showed the ease and smoothness of starting a business.

Investment Forums were held in Kayah State, Mandalay Region and Ayeyawady Region during 2018 to highlight investment opportunities and attract investments. Local and foreign investors were able to meet directly with officials from states and regions and opportunities to raise investment were obtained. Investment Forums have been arranged to be held in Rakhine and Chin State in February and March 2019 respectively.

Associations and entities participating in today's meeting were urged to discuss openly the difficulties they were facing with the relevant Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers and officials who were in attendance, said the Vice President.

Next, PSDC Vice Chairman and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint explained about works conducted for private sector development.

Afterwards Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win explained about the status of drawing up and implementing Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) and works conducted for development of banking and insurance works.

This was followed by Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun who explained about the ministry's work on increasing local and foreign investments.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein then explained about works conducted and future works in Yangon Region for private sector development.

Later Improving the Ease of Doing Business Ranking Group leader Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo explained about future work processes to increase Ease of Doing Business Ranking.

UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win also explained about conducting public-private discussions, increasing export sector and status of sector wise works.

Officials from Chin State Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Livestock Federation, Myanmar Oil Millers Association and UMFCCI then discussed about sector wise difficulties faced and made suggestions.

The Vice President, Union Ministers and officials responded to suggestions made and questions raised by the private sector business entrepreneurs.

It is learnt that the following officials also attended the meeting: Vice-Chairman of PSDC and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, Yangon Region minister for development affairs U Maung Maung Soe, UMFCCI President, Vice Presidents and members, Permanent Secretaries, Directors General, officials from Chin State Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Livestock Federation and Myanmar Oil Millers Association.

The meeting came to a close after some closing remarks by the Vice President. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo.

UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win.

Rakhine State Chief Minister provides aid to displaced people in Ponnagyun Township

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and wife present K 4.2 million to displaced people in Ahtet Myat Lay Village, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, together with officials, met yesterday with displaced people temporarily residing at Ahtet Myat Lay Village in Ponnagyun Township, Rakhine State, and provided them with aid.

During the meeting, Chief Minister U Nyi Pu said the government is striving to fulfill the requirements of local residents who were displaced from their places of origin due to the security situation.

Also, doctors, nurses and medical equipment needed for healthcare will be provided, he said. Afterwards, the Chief Minister and party coordinated the delivery of basic requirements, such as food, health care and drinking water, for the displaced people.

On behalf of the Rakhine State government, Rakhine State Chief Minister and wife, and Rakhine State ministers distributed cash assistance of K 4.2 million along with 200 bottles of drinking water and 82 family kits to 427 displaced people from 88 households in Ahtet Myat Lay Village.

On behalf of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr. Ko Ko Naing of the Natural Disaster Management Department, also distributed cash assistance totaling K 3.753 million for a one month supply of rice, K 440,000 for 88 mats, K 416,110 for 176 blankets and K 50,000 to a pregnant woman. — Tin Tun (IPRD) ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)