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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin (Second from Left) poses for photo in ASEAN way with foreign ministers of ASEAN countries at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Chiang Mai, Thailand. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin arrived back this evening after attending ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat, which was held on 17-18 January 2018 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The Union Minister attended the Working Dinner hosted by Foreign Minister of Thailand Mr. Don Pramudwinai on 17th January and ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat held on 18th January.

At the Retreat, the Ministers exchanged views on Thailand's initiatives under the theme of "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability", priorities of Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship including its proposals on launching of ASEAN Centres, Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, matters related to ASEAN Community Building and the preparations for the upcoming 34th ASEAN Summit.

> ASEAN reaffirmed its support for Myanmar's efforts to bring peace, stability and equitable development in Rakhine State

The Ministers also exchanged views on ASEAN's external relations and regional and international issues of common interest and concern.

At the Working Dinner, the Union Minister briefed the ASEAN Foreign Ministers in an informal setting on the recent developments in Rakhine State and had a fruitful discussion with the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on ways and means to enhance cooperation between Myanmar and ASEAN in facilitating the repatriation process.

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See limited impact of EU tariffs on Indica rice export: traders

THE European Commission's reinstatement of import tariffs on Indica rice will have limited impact on Myanmar rice exports as only a small volume of the rice variety is shipped to the EU, said U Aung Than Oo, the Chairman of the Myanmar Rice Traders Association.

"We exported about 400,000 tonnes of rice to EU last year. Of the total rice exported, about 40,000 tonnes was of the Indica variety. Therefore, EU's restoring of tariffs on Indica rice will not have a huge impact on Myanmar rice exports," said U Aung Than Oo.

"However, it is expected that buyers may make use of the situation and offer a lower price for Myanmar rice. If we work together, we can overcome this possible challenge," he said.

Dr. Soe Tun, Member of the Central Executive Committee of the Myanmar Rice Federation, has urged companies which export Indica rice to explore new markets.

Myanmar currently benefits from the EU's Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP).

The European Union's tariffs against Cambodia and Myanmar came after an EU investigation in March 2018, requested by the Italian government the previous month.

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Union Minister inspects river bank erosion prevention, waterway improvement works in Magway Region

UNION MINISTER for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung went to Magway Region Yesagyo Township Balaba emergency river bank erosion prevention office in the second week of January where Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems Deputy Director General U Win Naing and Region Head explained about river bank erosion prevention works in Magway Region Yesagyo Township Balaba Village and Dhamma Yanthi Pagoda, dredging, construction of diversion weir and river bank erosion prevention works conducted with Region and World Bank funds.

Next the Union Minister inspected the river bank erosion prevention and river bank maintenance works conducted in fiscal year 2016-2017 and fiscal year 2017-2018 in Pakokku Township Kyunnyogyi Village.

On 13 January the Union Minister left Salay Town by boat and officials explained about waterway improvement and river bank erosion preventive works conducted yearly that were improvement of Salay-Pha Kan Nge waterway and river bank erosion preventive work; improvement of Htinmalun Village waterway in Salay Town and river bank erosion preventive work; Pwintbyu Township Than Kaing Village river bank erosion preventive work and Minbu (Saku) Township Nabe Ban Village river bank erosion preventive work and Magway Region minister U Tin Nwe Oo provided additional explanations. Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung responded to the explanations and said that as the waterways in the Region had many incidences of bank erosions and direct preventive works against river bank erosion is very costly, annual waterway maintenance and construction of weirs must be conducted based on waterways development master plan to ensure that the waterways are of the required width and then inspected the year wise construction works and dredging works to improve waterways and prevent river bank erosion. — Maung Min Naing ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

Ministry of Education honors literary award winning staff

THE Ministry of Education held a ceremony honoring former and active MoE staff who have received Lifelong National Literary Award, National Literary Awards, and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards at the Diamond Jubilee Hall yesterday. Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi delivered a speech and conferred honorary awards at the ceremony.

The Union Minister first explained that the Union government annually confers national awards to literature that pushes national literary development and brings ethnic culture and tradition to light. He said MoE staff are able to garner the literary awards every year. He expressed his delight that MoE staff attained one Lifelong National Literary Award, two National Literary Awards, and seven Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards for 2017. He said the ministry will put these achievements on record.

Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi delivers the speech at the event to honour the National Literary Award winning staff in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Union Minister requested the scholars and professionals of the education sector to continue using their skills and the power of the pen to write motivational aesthetic literature and enriching educational pieces that will instill good discipline, cooperation, integration, rationality, and knowledge into the younger generation, who will in turn drive forward the development of Myanmar and ethnic literature.

Following this, the Union Minister conferred honorary awards on the national award recipients. Sayagyi U Tun Yi (Tun Yi, Archaeologist), a Lifelong National Literary Award winner, thanked the Union Minister on behalf of all the recipients. Everyone then took a documentary photograph together. Later in the afternoon, the Union Minister attended the 2018 Basic Education Myanmar Literature Skill Contest (Central Level) at the Diamond Jubilee Hall. He delivered a speech and conferred awards to the winners.

At the high school level, 11th Grader Ma Su Myat Hnin from D Wai Lian private school in Magway Region won first place, 11th Grader Ma Hmway Thet Win from B.E.H.S 2 Monywa in Sagaing Region won second place, and 11th Grader Ma Ni Ni Hlaing from B.E.H.S – Tabut in Myeik, Taninthayi Region won third place. At the middle school level, 7th Grader Ma Khin Khin Kyaw from B.E.H.S branch B.E.M.S 12 in Mingalardon Tsp, Yangon Region won first place, 9th Grader Eaint Hmue Khin from B.E.H.S 16 in Chanayetharzan Tsp, Mandalay Region won second place, and 9th Grader Ma Chit Thae Ei from B.E.H.S Myoma in Namhsan Tsp, Shan State (South) won third place.

Following this, Sayagyi Dr. Khin Aye, member of the Myanmar Language Commission, evaluated the answers of the student contestants. One of the students who won an award spoke words of thanks and then took a documentary photograph together. —MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye receives Chargé d' Affaires a.i of Royal Thai Embassy to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye received Chargé d' Affaires of the Royal Thai Embassy Mr. Narong Boonsatheanwong, in the Maykhalar Hall at the Union Minister's office yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters on the Thai Government's assistance to promote socio-economic development in Myanmar, opening two learning centers in Rakhine State, studying postgraduate study and On-the-job training programmes for the government employees at the Universities in Thailand, implementation of the recommendations on Rakhine State, process of UEHRD's Private-Public-Partnership, repatriation process, implementation of cash for work programme, working partners with Myanmar to know more about Rakhine affairs amid Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2019, cooperation in disaster management, repatriation process that was jointly conducted by the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and the Ministry of SWRR.—MNA *(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)*

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye holds talks with Chargé d' Affaires of the Royal Thai Embassy Mr. Narong Boonsatheanwong in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**