

State Counsellor attends Myanmar-Japan Concert 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and officials pose for a documentary photo with the Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra and Japanese musicians. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Following this, Union ministers, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Deputy Minister for Information and the Japanese

Ambassador presented bouquets of flowers to the Japanese traditional music troupe, the Symphony Orchestra of Japan, Gitameik choir troupe, Insein choir troupe, the National Sym-

phony Orchestra of Myanmar and State Traditional Orchestra.

Later, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi posed for documentary photos together with the Speaker of the

Amyotha Hluttaw, Union ministers, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, deputy ministers, the Japanese Ambassador, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council and musicians.

This concert was a collaborative effort between MRTV, the Japanese Embassy in Myanmar, and The Japan Foundation.—MNA

(Translated by AMS)

UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy visits IDP camps in Rakhine State

A DELEGATION led by United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar, Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener, visited the IDP camps in Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State yesterday.

The delegation was accompanied by Rakhine State Electric Power, Industry and Transportation Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan and officials.

The UN Special Envoy and delegation first visited Kyain Ni Pyin and Anauk Ye villages where Islamic people are living, and interviewed them about the

current ground conditions on food, clothing, shelter, occupation, education, and health. They also met separately with the women and interviewed them about women's rights and health care. Afterwards, the UN Special Envoy and delegation explained about the processes of National Verification Card-NVC issued by the government to the people.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited Min Gan IDP camp in Sittway Town, where the people reported on their needs after the delegation requested them to openly discuss their current

conditions in food, clothing and shelter and other difficulties.

The Special Envoy and delegation then visited Hindu Maha Shiva Temple in Kyaung Tet Lan Ward, Sittway Town where Hindu people reported on their will to return to their places of origin and the needs for more job opportunities.

The delegation recorded the reports, and replied to the people that they will take the best approach in cooperation with the government.—Mg Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



UNSG's Special Envoy Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener meets with local people at the IDP camp in Pauktaw, Rakhine State yesterday. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

Union Attorney-General receives MyJustice delegation



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo meets with MyJustice delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received a MyJustice delegation led by team leader Ms. Caitlin Reiger at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the Union Attorney-General said the cooperation between the Office of the Attorney-General and MyJustice in making efforts for helping the people gain justice and knowledge on legal affairs has brought fruitful results.

"The Justice for the people" strategy plan would be implemented by the Rule of Law Department and the Coordinating Body for Justice Sector Affairs from 2019 to 2023, said the Union

Attorney-General.

Ms. Caitlin Reiger said MyJustice would extend its five-year program, pledging its assistance in spreading knowledge on legal affairs, legal aid, getting access to justice, and in laying down policies related with justice.

The two sides also exchanged views on cooperation between them.

Also present at the meeting were Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin, Director-General Dr. Thidar Oo and Deputy Director-General Dr. Su Su Hlaing.—MNA

(Translated by AMS)

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin attends 22nd ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in Brussels

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin meets with EU Trade Commissioner, discusses matters related to GSP Scheme

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin arrived back this afternoon after attending the 22nd ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting which was held in Brussels, Belgium on 21 January 2019.

The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore as a Country Coordinator of the ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations and Mrs. Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission. The Meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and the European Union.

During the Meeting, the Ministers reviewed the ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations and exchanged views on matters related to cooperation on regional and international issues, recent developments in ASEAN and the EU, and elevation of the ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations to a Strategic Partnership.

At the Lunch Retreat Session, the Union Minister updated the Meeting on the recent developments in Rakhine State in an informal setting. In his briefing, the Union Minister informed the Meeting of the cooperation between Myanmar and ASEAN in facilitating the repatriation process, preparations made by Myanmar for return of the verified displaced persons in accordance with the bilateral agreements between Myanmar and Bangladesh, progress of the implementation of the MoU between Myanmar, the



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin poses for documentary photo together with delegates of the ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNHCR and UNDP and ongoing work of the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) to address the issue of accountability.

Regarding the cooperation with ASEAN, the Union Minister informed that the TOR of the AHA Needs Assessment Team was adopted during the visit of the ASEAN Secretary-General to Myanmar and the AHA Needs Assessment Team will conduct the preliminary needs assessment as well as the comprehensive needs assessment once the repatriation commences to identify possible areas of cooperation to facilitate the repatriation process. He also added that the AHA Centre will also provide Capacity Building Programme related to disaster management.

Furthermore, the Union Minister updated the Meeting that the Myanmar side has recently provided additional list of 603 verified displaced persons to the Bangladesh side and urged for the earliest resumption of the work for repatriation process.

The Union Minister also informed of the progress of the work of the ICOE which has been conducting evidence-based investigation independently and has publicly invited submissions to provide evidence of alleged human rights violations. The ICOE has also proposed to visit Cox's Bazar for evidence collection. He also informed of the continued provision of humanitarian assistance by the Government as well as by the ICRC and WFP despite temporary restriction on the works of the UN and INGOs in some areas of Rakhine State due to security concern.

At the Plenary Session, the Union Minister led discussion on the Agenda of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and strengthening of cooperation with the European Union in the implementation of the IAI Work Plan III. The IAI was launched in 2000 aiming at narrowing the development gap within ASEAN to facilitate the ASEAN Community building and the integration process.

On the sidelines of the 22nd ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting, the Union Minister had separate bilateral meetings with Mr. Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium, Mr. Tomáš Petříček, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Mr. Heiko Maas, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Peter Szijjarto, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary and Mr. Stef Blok, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands where they cordially exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, strengthening of the existing bilateral relations and cooperation as well as recent developments surrounding Rakhine State.

The Union Minister also met with Ms. Cecilia Malmstrom, EU Commissioner for Trade and exchanged views on promotion of trade and investment between Myanmar and the EU as well as

on the review process on EU's GSP/EBA Scheme for Myanmar. At the meeting, the Union Minister pointed out the affects of the EU's withdrawal of the Scheme including negative socio-economic impacts on vulnerable people especially employees of garment industry and their dependents. He also briefed on the progress made by Myanmar in promoting human rights, and protecting labour and child rights and arrangements made for the visit of the EU trade delegation to Myanmar for third round of negotiation in February. He also apprised the Commissioner on Myanmar's efforts to address the issue of Rakhine State including its repeated calls to Bangladesh for the earliest commencement of the repatriation process in accordance with the bilateral agreements. He also explained about the existing arrangements to provide humanitarian assistance to the IDPs despite recent incidents in Rakhine State. — MNA

Union Minister U Min Thu receives Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar

U MIN THU, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, received a delegation led by Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar, Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to the reform processes of the ministry's administration.

Also present at the meet-

ing were Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government, U Zaw Than Thin, Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Thant Sin, and Acting Director-General of the General Administration Department U Myint Than. — MNA

(Translated by
Kyaw Zin Tun)



Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, U Min Thu, meets with Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye receives UNFPA Representative for Myanmar

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye received UNFPA Representative for Myanmar Mr. Ramanathan Balakrishnan and party at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 January.

During the meeting, matters relating to social protection works conducted by the ministry under Life-Cycle approach, UNFPA's cooperation and participation in disaster management, imple-

mentation works conducted at union and state/region levels after drawing up and confirmation of youth policy, status of drawing up violence against women law, activities conducted during 16-day campaign to combat violence against women, status of amending children's rights law and effective mental, moral and social support for victims of sexual violence were discussed.—MNA ■
(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye holds talks with UNFPA Representative for Myanmar Mr. Ramanathan Balakrishnan in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 January. **PHOTO: MNA**

Experts finalize strategy for combating money laundering, financing of terrorism

THE Committee on Drafting the National Strategy for Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism held meeting No. 1/2019 at the Myanmar Police Force Headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Attending the meeting were committee chairman and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, Maj-Gen Aung Thu, committee members including the deputy minister for planning and finance, the deputy attorney-general, a deputy governor from the Central Bank of Myanmar, a member of the Anti-Corruption Commission, and invited guests.

In his address, Maj-Gen Aung Thu said the aim and objectives of the strategy should be practical and attainable so that we can reduce the risks outlined in the national risk assessment. He said suggestions and advice from relevant

departments and organizations across the country will be added into the national strategy and will require actual implementation to follow. He urged the attendees to actively participate in the discussions for the draft strategy as it will be approved in the meeting.

Next, committee secretary Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Win Thein, also head of the Anti-Financial Crime Division, explained the completed implementation of the previous meeting's decisions, the completed status of drafting the national strategy, and future processes to be approved by the committee. Attendees then provided suggestions for the draft strategy.

The national strategy (draft) will be submitted to the Union government for further procedures.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

UEHRD holds first coordination meeting for 2019



Chief Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet delivers the speech at the UEHRD's first coordination meeting for 2019 in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

THE Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) held its first coordination meeting with Task Forces for 2019 at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) building on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Road in Yangon yesterday morning.

UEHRD's Chief Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet delivered the opening speech. He expressed his wish for Rakhine State's economy to develop further, stating that the stagnant economy in Rakhine contributed to numerous hardships. He urged busi-

nesses to support development of Rakhine's economy. He hoped that growing the economy would lead to solutions to the remaining social issues in Rakhine. He said there was also a need to focus on helping the local people currently living in Rakhine as the return of the displaced persons were being awaited. Next, U Toe Oung, Advisor to the UEHRD Chairperson discussed about auditing and financial procedures and finalization of the UEHRD annual report after which U Kyaw Myaing, Information and Communications Director spoke about coordination arrangements for presenting the activities of the various task

forces to be incorporated into the UEHRD annual report.

Discussion at the meeting also touched upon promoting economic development and tackling social issues in Rakhine State, the consequences of the 4 January attacks, accepting returnees and providing assistance to people currently living in the areas that had experienced conflicts in earlier years, the field operations task forces, their future activities, and financial matters.

Attending the meeting were officials from the ten UEHRD task forces, and members of the UEHRD committee.—Zaw Gyi ■
(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)



Local and foreign media personnel arrive in Sittway by Myanmar National Airlines yesterday for media coverage on the situation in Maungtaaw, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Local, foreign media personnel arrive in Sittway, Rakhine State

LOCAL and foreign media personnel arrived in Sittway by Myanmar National Airlines, yesterday afternoon, to gather news in Maungtaaw region of Rakhine State.

The media groups have been allowed access to Rakhine State one-time in 2016, eight times in 2017, six times in February, 2018, 15 times in the

arrangement of the Advisory Board for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State, making a total of 30 times media tours. The Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State has been making arrangements for conducting two guided media trips per month within 2018.

A total of 17 media person-

nel from Tokyo Shinbun, The Mainichi Newspaper, Sankei Shinbun, Nippon TV, TBS, AFP, Wall Street Journal, MI Radio, MITV, MRTV and MNA are participating in the trip, and they will collect news in Maungtaaw region of Rakhine State until 25 January.—Myo Myint (MNA) ■

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