

“Today, our country is still in poverty with necessities in every sector; which is why we need to carry on our struggle and work hard in all sectors. In the international arena, we are facing pressure, criticisms and misunderstandings. The challenges and difficulties our country and our people are facing today are many. Although every issue cannot be solved easily, we will have to make utmost efforts to solve these issues according to each priority sector.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March, 2018)

“As I continue to state, corruption is the major obstacle for the rule of law and needs to be addressed. Addressing corruption is essential to delivering good governance. It relies on the “tone from the top” and each of you here today must consider yourselves responsible for setting the appropriate tone in a clear and forceful manner and remove opportunities for corruption. Government organizations not only need to cooperate with the Anti-Corruption Commission but also implement E-government functions with great effort. Cleaning up corruption is not a program but a culture. It is a culture that needs collective effort by the government and the public for sustainable development of the country.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Conference on Justice Sector Coordinating for Rule of Law in Nay Pyi Taw on 7th March, 2018)

President, First Lady travel to Viet Nam ahead of UN Vesak Day

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They were welcomed at Noi Bai International Airport by the Vietnamese Minister for Science and Technology, Mr. Chu Ngoc Anh, the Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar, Mrs. Luan Thuy Duong, the Vice Standing Chairman of the Viet Nam Buddhist Sangha's Executive Council, Most Venerable Thich Thanh Nhieu, Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam U Kyaw Soe Win, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Aung Zeya, and other officials.

Next, the President, First

Lady and delegation arrived at Sheraton Hotel where they will be temporarily staying.

They arrived at the Myanmar Ambassador's Residence in the evening and met with staff and families of the embassy and military attachment.

The President asked about the education, healthcare and processes of the embassy staff, their families and Myanmar citizens in Viet Nam and gave necessary instructions.

The President then handed over gifts for the families of the embassy staff and military attachment.



President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho meet with staff of the Myanmar Embassy in Viet Nam and the military attachment. **PHOTO: MNA**

Later in the night, the President, First Lady and delegation

attended the dinner reception hosted by the Myanmar Am-

bassador and his wife. —MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Meeting held to discuss plans for the displaced in Rakhine

THE Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine State and the Rakhine State Government discussed issues

related with security, rule of law, stability, and construction of shelters for people displaced by the conflicts in the state,

ahead of the rainy season, at a meeting in Sittway yesterday.

The meeting was attended by U Aye Tha Aung, the

Chairman of the committee and Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Deputy Chairman of the committee U Nyi Pu, committee members Deputy Minister U Tin Myint, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, Rakhine State Minister Col Phone Tint, Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, U Nyi Hla Nge, Police Maj-Gen Aung Naing Thu, Rakhine State Advocate-General U Kyaw Hla Tun, Rakhine State MP U Maung Maung Ohn, Deputy Ministers U Aung Hla Tun and U Soe Aung, who were specially invited to participate in the meeting, and members of the Rakhine State Cabinet.

The Chief Minister of Rakhine State and the Deputy Chairman of the committee,

U Nyi Pu, made the opening remarks at the meeting.

The participants discussed matters related to the release of information about measures undertaken by committee member Deputy Minister U Tin Myint, who is also the secretary of the committee, plans for providing aid to people displaced by the armed conflicts in the state, and measures taken to allow local and foreign organizations to provide aid to the displaced people.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by Committee Chairman U Aye Tha Aung.

Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and Deputy Minister U Tin Myint attended a press briefing after the meeting. — MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung delivers remarks at the meeting between the Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine State and Rakhine State Government. **PHOTO: MNA**

MOPF Union Minister receives ADB's Country Director



Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win meets with Country Director for Asian Development Bank Mr. Newin Sinsiri in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win received a delegation led by the Country Director for Asian Development Bank Mr. Newin Sinsiri at

his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) supported projects undertaken

by public and private sectors, matters related to giving aid to Myanmar were cordially discussed.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

Three ministries to hold press conference in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and the Ministry of Industry will be holding a jointly press con-

ference on their undertaking in third one-year period of the government at the Office No 7, the Ministry of Information, in Nay Pyi Taw, at 1pm on 13 May.—MNA ■

Tatmadaw column captures AA member dead after landmine attack

A TATMAW column was attacked with landmines during patrol and killed one member of AA in Rakhine State yesterday. They also seized one motorcycle, one grenade, two mobile phones, and accessories used for planting landmines, according to a military press release. Two remote-controlled improvised explosive devices were reportedly detonated while the Tatmadaw column was patrolling the Yangon-Sittway Union Highway. The attack took place at a site about 3,000 meters from Kyauktaw.

Following the attack, the security forces carried out op-

erations around the area and gunned down one AA member.

The AA has been planting landmines on roads in Rakhine State, targeting Tatmadaw columns and security forces, in an attempt to jeopardise rule of law and to cause panic among locals, according to the military press release. Since January, Tatmadaw columns have cleared 46 landmines planted by the AA. The Tatmadaw columns are continuing security operations in the area, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA ■

(Translated by GNLM)

Three migrants drown off Tunisian coast, dozens missing

TUNIS (Tunisia) — A boat carrying around 70 migrants from sub-Saharan Africa has sunk in the Mediterranean, leaving three people dead and dozens missing, Tunisian officials said Friday.

The bodies of three people who drowned in the accident were found Friday, a spokesman for the Tunisian defence ministry said, adding the boat left Zuwara on the northwestern Libyan coast on Thursday.

A fishing boat picked up 16 survivors, who were transferred on board one of three military vessels involved in the search and rescue operation, said the spokesman Mohamed Zekri.

A Maltese helicopter was also mobilised, he said.

According to those rescued between 60 to 70 people from sub-Saharan Africa were thought to be on board, Zekri added.

Interior ministry spokesman Sofiene Zaag said however around 75 people were believed to have been on board the boat bound for Italy when it departed Libya.

Italy's far-right Interior Minister Matteo Salvini has vowed to close the country's ports to migrants, although earlier Friday dozens who had been rescued at

sea disembarked in Sicily.

Rome's populist government has taken an increasingly hard line on migration, and Salvini, head of the anti-immigrant League party, last month signed a new directive banning charity vessels from rescuing migrants off Libya.

The Mediterranean is the "world's deadliest sea crossing" according to the United Nations refugee agency, with one person in 14 dying on the route from Libya to Europe last year.

The Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights NGO denounced in a statement what

it said were the European Union's "restrictive and inhumane policies" which it said led to the latest "human tragedy".

Libya, which has been wracked by chaos since the 2011 uprising that killed veteran dictator Moamer Kadhafi, has long been a major transit route for people desperate to reach Europe.

Over the past week, and despite a surge in violence following the launch of an assault on Tripoli by strongman Khalifa Haftar, Libyan authorities have rescued hundreds of migrants stranded at sea.—AFP ■



A child from a family of African migrants peeks out from a window at Libyan detention center, among thousands who have tried in recent years to flee to Europe via the North African country. **PHOTO: AFP**

Plaint filed against 4 for role in live-streaming Shwebo prison riot

THE police have filed a complaint against three inmates and a prison staffer for their alleged involvement in live-streaming a riot in Shwebo prison on 8 May on Facebook, according to an official with the Shwebo Correctional Department. When staff from the Correctional Department conducted a search on 9 May, the day after the deadly riots, they found a prisoner in possession of a Vivo-brand mobile phone with a sim card, said U Zaw Tun, the Assistant Director of Shwebo Prison. The prisoner was identified as Kaung Khant Ko Ko, also known as Kyal Zin Tun and

Kaung Khant Thu, he said.

During interrogation, Kaung Khant Ko Ko admitted that he had smuggled the mobile phone into the prison with the help of prison staffer Moe Kyaw Zin Aung. The department has filed a case against Kaung Khant Ko Ko along with two other inmates identified as Arkar Oo and Moe Naing, and Moe Kyaw Zin under Section 42 of the Prison Act.

Action will be taken against all four, said Police Captain Thein Swe Tint, the Head of the Shwebo Myoma Police Station.—Moe Thauk (Shwebo) ■ *(Translated by GNLM)*

Ukraine demands release of navy sailors held by Russia

BERLIN (Germany) — Ukraine on Friday demanded the release of 24 sailors and three naval vessels seized by Russia last November, in a plea to an international tribunal set to rule on the incident.

The case focuses on the fate of the captured sailors, who were manning three Ukrainian vessels off Russian annexed Crimea when Russian ships fired on and seized their boats.

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, in the German city of Hamburg, said it would announce its decision on May 25.

Moscow has said it does not recognise the court's jurisdiction.

Addressing the tribunal, Ukraine's deputy foreign minister Olena Zerkal called for the immediate release of the sailors.—AFP ■