

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects Hospitality Service, Tourism School in Yangon

VICE President U Henry Van Thio who was in Kachin State, Myitkyna, left for Yangon yesterday afternoon and was seen off at Myitkyna Airport by State Chief Minister Dr Khet Aung, State Hluttaw Speaker U Tun Tin, State Chief Justice U Tu Jar, State Advocate-general, auditor-general, ministers, Hluttaw representatives, ethnic cultural groups, Ethnic Kachin Entrepreneurs Association members, local people and officials.

In Yangon, National Tourism Development Central Committee Chairman Vice President U Henry Van Thio met with the Center for Tourism Development officials at Hospitality Service School meeting hall.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister U Ohn Maung, Deputy Minister U Tin Myint, U Aung Htoo and U Tin Lat, Permanent Secretary U Aung Naing Oo and officials.

At the meeting, the Vice President was explained about the Hospitality Service School by officials and the Union Minister and Deputy Ministers provided additional explanations.



Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits the Hospitality Service and Tourism School in Yangon yesterday.
PHOTO: MNA

With regards to the explanations, the Vice President made a remark about the need to manage the tour regions and maintain the natural environment. People were to be

informed about increasing maintenance and cleanliness of the tour region and officials to study tourism management of other countries where tourism works were developed. Various means

were to be used for promoting the tour regions in the country, said the Vice President.

From there the Vice President went to the Tourism School on Mahabandoola Street and

met with officials.
At the meeting Ministry of Hotels and Tourism Deputy Director General U Myint Htwe explained about the school and the Union Minister and Deputy Ministers provided additional explanations.

The Vice President stressed the need to prepare for systematic management when tourist arrivals increase and then inspected the school.

When the Hotels and Tourism Ministry was established in 1992, Tourism School was opened mainly to conduct tour guide (basic) courses. At the present, with the support and assistance of international partner organization Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency (Lux Dev), Hospitality Service School and Tourism School were transformed into the Center for Tourism Development (CTD). The schools have been conducting courses including tour guide, bedroom maintenance, housekeeping, hospitality, food and beverage, etc. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister for Defence to attend ADMM Retreat, 6th ADMM-Plus in Thailand

Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win and party left Yangon by air yesterday afternoon to attend ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Retreat (ADMM Retreat), 6th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (6th ADMM-Plus) meeting and related meetings in Thailand.—MNA ■

Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 57/2019

MEETING 57/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe, joint secretary U

Htay Win Aung @ U Pyone Cho and members who were representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar meets with Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD)

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar, Ms. Christine SchranerBurgener, and her team met with Chief Coordinator of Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD), Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet, and Chief Operating Officer of UEHRD, U Nyi Nyein Aye, at the UEHRD Office on Shwe Li Road, Yangon, yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the work of UEHRD in Rakhine and exchanged views on the provision of humanitarian assistance and resettlement efforts and cooperation with the international community.— MNA

Yangon Book Street sees rising sales



PHOTO: MNA

YANGON Book Street with about 70 book stalls has seen rising sales at the weekend

when talks related with literary are held at the Information Ministry's Shwe U Daung Hall

near the bookstreet.
“The Saturday-Sunday Book Street” with some 68 book stalls selling books on Theinbyu Road in Botahtaung Township is crowded with visitors every weekend.
With the assistance of the Ministry of Information, Yangon Region Government and Yangon City Development Committee, the Weekend Book Street and sales program has been held since 2017.—MNA

(Translated by KZL)

Rakhine issue cannot be solved by pressuring Myanmar

THE recently drafted resolution on Myanmar at the meeting of the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee) grossly mischaracterized the complex issue of Rakhine.

While the Independent Commission of Enquiry-ICOE formed by the Myanmar Government is carrying out its investigation into human rights allegations in Rakhine State, international pressure on Myanmar has become more of a nuisance and disturbance.

ICOE is a free and independent body made up of trustworthy international personnel. The government has repeatedly said that with its sincere political will, ICOE is making enquiries into alleged human rights violations in Rakhine State, and if there were any violations, appropriate action would be taken. The government could have been accused of a lack of accountability if no action had been taken when the report was issued.

This move reflects that the government is not turning a blind eye to the

accusations. The Final Report from ICOE has yet to be published.

The Myanmar government is sincerely conducting the investigations and enquiries, has the capability to do so, and has taken full responsibility for it.

In fact, the situation in Rakhine State is neither an issue of religious persecution nor of driving a community out of the country. It is a complicated political and economic issue involving cross-border migration, poverty, a lack of the rule of law and security.

The Rakhine State issue can be resolved through bilateral cooperation. But there was no cooperation from Bangladesh in repatriating those who left. Instead, there were behind the back demands to take action against Myanmar or sanction Myanmar. This indicated that Bangladesh has considered the Rakhine issue to simply be business to be conducted.

Bangladesh should not take such actions, since Myanmar has been living peacefully with them, side by side. Even though there were bilateral ministerial level meetings, there were many behind the back statements incorrectly made to the media. Myanmar now holds trilateral meetings to include China as a witness.

Whenever repatriation was planned, demonstrations occurred at the Cox Bazar IDP camps, where widespread killings and illicit drug activities are occurring. Those who wanted to return, dared not propose to do so, which was why 415 returned to Myanmar without publicly announcing their intentions.

If Bangladesh does not cooperate in the repatriation work, the humanitarian crisis will grow. If that occurs, it would be the sole responsibility of Bangladesh.

Our side was ready and prepared for the repatriation process. Bangladesh especially needs to abide by, and cooperate, according to the bilateral agreement. Without this cooperation, the problem will become more complicated.

Bangladesh's lack of cooperation, as well as criticizing Myanmar's sincere and strenuous efforts, seems to be prolonging the issue.



Diversity is an opportunity for unity

By Dr.Myat Moe

TODAY, many persons in charge are poorly prepared to manage diversity issues. We grew up in different religions, languages, education, socioeconomic status, work background, tradition and culture which are great challenges when we are working with such diverse people.

For all those who play a part in a very difficult negotiating process, growing the wisdom to bring together with differing views for the common interest of the people is very important. We need to have the courage to accept dissimilar ideas and practices because of very dynamic socio-cultural changes and conflicting societies. It is a reality.

Diversity affects management and unity of an organization. Classification of diversity is off limits, which can be similar or dissimilar from one another. Most of the people know Diversity is just gender and ethnicity. Actually, diversity is more than just two; it can also include age, income, marital status, personality, parental status, religious beliefs, educational background, work service, geographical location, learning styles and any other

different identities. In a global market, many companies and government organizations have robust cultures and management for workplace diversity which are becoming a business necessity to build effective working relationship and diversity values among diverse individuals by combining similarities. We are not able to achieve particular desires and objectives in certain situations in various cultures. In today many workplaces, you will see multicultural admixture of work force from different cultures, ethnicities, lifestyles and backgrounds, and likewise our diversity in peace and unity in our country. It was expressed in many research studies that replications of some foremost management principles and theories failed due to valued cultural setting of minorities especially in the areas of leadership and decision making, welfare distribution and pattern of training.

Diversity consists of both differences and similarities and is a fact of life when we talk about an issue, neither one should be ignored because of varieties of things, people, feelings, ideas. It is a fundamental concern. In diversity management, All-in-

clusiveness is very important for unity especially for those who are falling out from the group such as women, children, minorities, and disabled persons. Recognition of their representation, quota and affirmative action is the reason of an opportunity for diversity.

sary consequences of the group. In a diverse organization, creating multicultural network groups strongly support the power of diversity in this organization and can provide a broader and deeper experience and ideas for making problem-solving, creati-

In fact, unity is constructive efforts which require wisdom, courage and perseverance. The wisdom is the quality of knowledge of reuniting differing views, and the courage is the strong will of accepting ideas and new practices.

By contrasts, there may be some people having different opinions from the majority. As concerned, the majority cannot accept such dissimilar things which are also mistakes anonymously. From the majority site, they need to create a safe space to hear the unspecified voices of the minorities. This type of management makes good results and prevents the unneces-

ary and innovation. As a result, that value encourages the minority members to reduce their social isolation, to be more efficient in their works leading into positive impact and good opportunities for carrier development and on their organization. With such similarities and differences, we must consider that we all are inclusive and every individual contribution

is more or less important to the decision making process of the group.

With all those who play a part in peace process, we must create a common ground for all to work together for national unity by generating bigger things together. In fact, unity is constructive efforts which require wisdom, courage and perseverance. The wisdom is the quality of knowledge of reuniting differing views, and the courage is the strong will of accepting ideas and new practices. On top of those characters, our constant perseverance surely overcomes misunderstandings and misbelief among us.

In a negotiation process, both diverse sides face obviously intense discussions, exchange of views and debates to reach common agreements on issues. On the whole we must recognize and follow the principles of powerful negotiation. They are courtesy, honesty, openness, empathy, patience, flexibility, mutual understanding and transparency. We should not focus on the weakness of another side. We must seek to identify the constructive outlooks and conceptions which can contribute to strengthen among us.

We must listen to the speech of all sides carefully. Through this productive dialogue we can be able more to identify the common ground and can build trust and expectations. We believe that mutual respect among diverse individuals and big acknowledgment of the importance of others' differences foster to find easily similarities. Recognizing individual diverse talents and experiences can make a greater variety of solutions to problems and build synergy with better attitudes and more efficient processes. Diversity in an organization or a group reflects diversity in a large society.

In conclusion, unity in diversity fundamentally can be used as a popular slogan in my country as an expression of harmony and unity among dissimilar groups. If the diversity of the people can be applied to the peace process as an opportunity, it will bring about good performance, greater achievement, wealth and happiness, and also social harmony, stability and security without riots, civil wars and fears.

“Let us confidently exercise the opportunity with the strengths of diversity to live in unity.”



Myanmar adults and youths hooked on smoking, betel-chewing and drinking

By Arakan Sein

THIS author wrote an article about smoking, betel-chewing and drinking on 22 August and again on 14 October about smoking and betel-chewing. After careful observations for a year, I relate the following:

History of smoking

Smoking has been practiced in one form or another since ancient times; it dates back to as early as 5000 BC. With the arrival of Europeans in 16th Century, consumption, cultivation and trading quickly spread.

Modernization of farming equipment and manufacturing increased the availability of cigarettes following the reconstruction era in the United States. In 1929, Fritz Lickint of Dresden, Germany published formal statistical evidence of lung cancer-tobacco link, which subsequently caused a strong anti-smoking movement in Nazi Germany.

Smoking in Myanmar

Smoking is prohibited in most indoor public places, indoor workplaces and on public transportation. It is allowed, how-

ever, in private rooms and offices in office buildings, factories, places of lodging, public transportation terminals, trains and vessels and restaurants. Myanmar became a party to the WHO Framework Convention of Tobacco Control on 27 February, 2005. Most forms of tobacco advertising and promotion are prohibited, especially through mass media and other forms of wide distribution, including outdoor advertising. Rotating health warnings comprised of text and images are required to cover at least 75% of the main surfaces of the unit and outside packing and labeling.

History of betel-chewing

Betel-chewing originated in Southeast Asia where the tropical climate is conducive to growing areca nut trees and betel vines. Since prehistoric times, it has been embedded in the traditions of Southeast Asian countries including Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia.

Although it is considered by the people in all these countries to be of great value to their culture, some Westerners find this practice strange, unhygienic and ugly. Myanmar authorities have attempt-

ed to limit its consumption with several awareness campaigns in recent years, while the use of betel quid is banned in the government buildings, schools and hospitals, though these seemingly ineffective campaigns have had a very underwhelming success rate so far.

Betel-chewing the Philippines

Chewing areca nut and betel leaf was a widespread tradition in the past. Now, though, this tradition is almost dead among urban people in the cities and big towns and has largely been replaced by gum and tobacco.

In Thailand

Betel quid chewing has always been an important part of Thai culture and tradition. In the past, betel-chewing was a popular daily activity among Thais all over the country.

In Sri Lanka

Betel quid, a masticatory widely used in Sri Lanka, consists of tobacco, the nuts and leaves of betel plants and calcium hydroxide. An ethyl acetate extract of tobacco induced morphological trans-

formation of hamster embryo cells. The extract also induced sister chromatid exchanges in virally transformed and phytohaemagglutinin-stimulated human lymphocytes.

Drinking in Myanmar

Beer, rum and whisky are the most popular alcohol drinks in Myanmar and wine can be found in higher-end restaurants and hotels. Most Myanmar people, particularly men love a drink and are more happy to enjoy one in the company of foreign visitors. During the day and early evening, it is always easy to find a restaurant or beer station to sit down and have a refreshing beer or a glass of rum. The concept and traditions of drinking in Myanmar are different from other parts of the world, however. Nightlife does not exist outside large cities and some luxury hotels and resorts.

My observations may be right or wrong: I keep seeing a lot of young and old people hooked on some habits of smoking, betel-chewing and drinking and even ear borings on one ear or two. They think they are pursuing a sort of fashion. In this case, I would propose to

emulate the way South Korea did some years ago. South Korea enforced strict smoking bans in all public places since July 2013 with fines of W 100,000 on any spotted smoker and up to W 5 million on shop owners not following the law. It is illegal to smoke in all bars, restaurants, cafes, internet cafes, government buildings, schools, universities, hospitals, youth facilities, libraries, children playgrounds, private academies, subway or train stations and their platforms and underground pathways, large buildings, theaters, department stores or shopping malls, large hotels and highway rest areas. The strict bans came into force gradually beginning with a ban on places larger than 150 square meters in 2012, extended to 100 square meters in 2014, with a full-pledged complete nationwide ban on 1 January, 2015.

In conclusion, the Government will have to play a vital role in controlling bad habits of smoking, betel-chewing and drinking as the results will show in a period of some 30 years for the generations to come.



Objectives of the 99th National Victory Day

- * Perpetuation and strengthening of the Union spirit
- * Building the peace of the Union through mutual trust
- * Building a federal democratic nation
- * Promoting all-round development of the Union through collective strength of all national races



BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 17th November, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-5) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of likelihood of light rain or thundershowers in Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th November, 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th November, 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 17th November, 2019: Generally fair weather.

