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Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (left) welcomes India Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi as he arrives in Nay Pyi Taw for a state visit. **PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO**

Terrorism won't thrive, Myanmar, India pledge

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi thanked Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday for his support against the acts of terrorism that Myanmar faced and assured him that terrorism would not gain a foothold.

"Together, both countries will ensure that terror is not allowed to take root", State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said.

"We would like to thank In-

dia for the strong stand that it has been taken with regard to the terrorist threat that came to our country," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi responded that "India completely understands the challenges."

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said the knowledge and support from India will be invaluable to Myanmar.

"There are many areas in

which we can cooperate. I would like to talk about the role India has played in capacity building, because that is what our country is more in need of - to build up the capacity of our people that we may be able to construct truly safe and lasting federal democratic unions."

"India has always been eager to join us in our efforts, to strengthen our democratic institutions of our country and for this also, we appreciate the

relationship between the two countries. The friendship between our countries has always been good. We need to further strengthen what we already have, what we built up at the time of our Independence 70 years ago," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said.

The State Counsellor said the rich, intertwining history of the two countries will ensure lasting cooperation.

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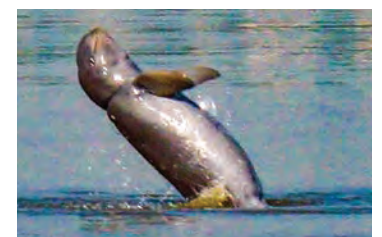
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Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Presidential Palace

Statement on Peace, Stability and Rule of Law

Nay Pyi Taw, 6 September — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was debriefed at the Presidential Palace today by the Union Ministers who visited Maungdaw and Buthidaung regions in Rakhine State following the terrorist attacks which took place there in August 2017.

The Union Ministers debriefed the President on the latest situation in the Rakhine State.

The government's plans to restore peace and stability

to the region was discussed by the participants at the briefing.

On 5th September 2017, the Office of the State Counsellor issued a statement to prevent unwarranted tension and unrest due to news of possible ARSA terrorist group's attacks in the country.

The Office of the State Counsellor has urged the people to remain vigilant against possible incitements.

Necessary measures are being put in place by security forces to safeguard against

possible terrorist attacks. At the same time, taking into account that people with extreme ideology can use the climate of fear to incite unrest, instructions were issued to the security forces to deter such attempts and to take legal action against perpetrators.

Peace, stability and rule of law are of the utmost importance to the State. Therefore, the people are urged to render their cooperation to the Government by respecting the rule of law. ■

Safety, welfare, healthcare of displaced civilians discussed

The Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung received Mr. Scot Marciel, the United States Ambassador to Myanmar, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to the sustainable human resource training of ethnic youths in border regions; the development of border regions; the situation of ARSA extremist terrorist attacks in Maungdaw Township, Rakhine State and the peace and stability of the Maungdaw region.

Also discussed were the timeline of information re-

leased to know the conditions on the ground of terrorist attacks in Maungdaw by international countries; the safety, welfare, and healthcare of civilians; supporting urgently needed food and goods for displaced civilians by helicopters and motorboats; the reconstruction of infrastructure buildings destroyed by ARSA extremist terrorists; the bilateral cooperation of the two countries and the ability to involve international organisations to support the displaced civilians and long-term peace and development of Rakhine State. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung holds talks with Mr. Scot Marciel, the United States Ambassador to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Food and clothing supplied to displaced civilians

The Tatmataw, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and State government distributed and supplied food and clothing to displaced civilians who were forced to flee from recent ARSA extremist terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine State.

From 25 August to 4 September, 2,910 sacks of rice, 4,055

visses of cooking oil, 143 liters of cooking oil, 140 buckets of cooking oil and 675 bottles of cooking oil, 1,376 visses of salt, 90 sacks of salt and 90 bottles of salt, 10,976 visses of beans, an unknown number of sacks of beans, bean cans, chicken sausages, 1,463 visses of pork sausages, 684 visses of potato, 1,835 visses of onion, 27 sacks of onions, seven buckets

of fish paste, 150 sacks of chili, 115,838 packets of noodles, 295 boxes of noodles, 1,800 cakes of soap and 510 articles of clothing were provided.

More aid from local and international donors will be distributed to the displaced civilians without discrimination, according to a press release. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Press conference on situation in Rakhine

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and National Security Advisor to the Union Government U Thaung Tun briefed the local and foreign media on the current situation in Rakhine State at the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the press briefing, the National Security Advisor provided an update on the general situation in Rakhine State. He stressed that fabricated news on the situation in Rakhine are written and published with the intent to mislead the public. These social media campaigns are aimed to promote the interests of the terrorists by creating further divisions between the already divided communities in northern Rakhine. These also cause international misperception on Myanmar. He urged the media to join hands with the Myanmar government in its efforts to bring in



National Security Adviser U Thaung Tun (Left) and Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye (Right) are seen at the press conference on situation in Rakhine. **PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO**

peace, stability and development to Rakhine State by reporting the situation there in an objective manner.

He emphasized the difference of the current round of terrorist attacks from the previous violence in October 2016, which was the result of communal tensions. But, the current attacks clearly indicate the intention of

the terrorist groups to seize and separate the territory. To achieve this aim, they carried out the attacks with a strategy. They kill security and government staff, people who collaborate with the government, ethnic people and also threaten the remaining inhabitants to leave these areas. He stressed that government cannot condone terrorism in any form

or manner and will do its utmost not to allow terrorism to spread other parts of the State.

With regard to the report of the Advisory Commission, he reiterated the government's commitment to carry out the recommendations to the fullest extent, within the shortest possible timeframe, in keeping with the situation on the ground. He underlined the roadmap for the implementation which includes the establishment of a new Ministerial-led committee to oversee progress as well as an Advisory Board to be formed with eminent persons at home and abroad to give advice.

Subsequently, the Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye briefed the government's efforts to bring humanitarian assistance and relief aid to all communities affected by the recent attacks. He also explained his visits to affected villages by a helicopter provided by Air Myanmar Aviation Ser-

vices Co.Ltd. He said that the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, in cooperation with Rakhine State government, delivered humanitarian and relief aid to the displaced people, addressed their health and security needs, provided them with moral support and facilitated the reunion of divided families.

The Union Minister stated that effective measures are being put in place to distribute humanitarian assistance to all inhabitants displaced by the recent terrorist attacks, in coordination among the Union Government, the State Government, and the Red Cross Movement.

The Union Minister and the National Security Advisor answered the questions raised by the foreign and local journalists. The press briefing was concluded at 15 00 hrs. It was attended by more than (70) representatives of (57) foreign and local news agencies. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker visits Shanghai

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint and party, who are on a goodwill visit to the People's Republic of China, attended the Shanghai Maglev Demonstration at the Long Yang Lu railway station in Shanghai yesterday.

Chinese authorities explained the workings of the Shanghai Maglev, a magnetic levitation train that is the fastest commercial high-speed electric train in the world. The Myanmar delegation then boarded and toured the Maglev train.

The Hluttaw delegation then visited a meeting of the 1st National Congress of the Communist Party of China, which began yesterday at 10:30 am local standard time.

Afterwards, the Pyithu



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint observes Shanghai Maglev train in Shanghai yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Hluttaw Speaker and party boarded a train and departed from Shanghai Hong Qiao Rail-

way Station at 2:00 pm, arriving in Beijing at 6:50 pm.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Terrorism won't thrive, Myanmar, India pledge

FROM PAGE-1

"The respective fathers of our independence movement were close to each other, and I think this closeness has been maintained throughout the seven decades, and we truly believe that this will continue to be maintained in the years to come", the State Counsellor said.

Prime Minister Modi praised the State Counsellor's leadership in Myanmar's long quest for peace.

"Your courageous leadership to the Myanmar peace process needs to be lauded," he said.

Prime Minister Modi added that India shares Myanmar's concerns on extremist violence in Rakhine State.

In a joint statement following the signing of agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between India and Myanmar, Prime Minister Modi asserted that India stands by Myanmar amid challenges including terrorist attacks in Rakhine State the country is facing.

"Whether it is a peace process or any other special issue, we hope that all stakeholders together can find a way out in which the unity and the territorial integrity of Myanmar is respected. At the same time, we can have peace, justice, dignity and democratic values for all," he added.

The Prime Minister ended his remarks by stressing the importance of strong co-operation.

"India and Myanmar are neighbours, and hence, in the

areas of security, our interests are the same and it is necessary that we work together to safeguard our long land border and maritime boundary for the security and the stability of the region."

Mr. Modi also said that India has decided to grant no-cost visas to Myanmar people who wish to visit the country and to release 40 Myanmar citizens detained in India.

...Together, both countries will ensure that terror is not allowed to take root"

State Counsellor
Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

Mr Modi also highlighted the development initiatives India was undertaking in Myanmar, especially in capacity building of the executive, legislature, election commission, press council and other institutions in Myanmar.

Following the press conference, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi hosted a luncheon in honour of the visiting Prime Minister at her residence.

The luncheon was also attended by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, National Security Adviser U Thaung Tun and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin. —GNLM ■

ASEM Senior Officials' meeting and related meetings held



The 2nd ASEM Senior Official's meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The preparatory sub-group meetings of ASEM Senior Officials' meeting and the 2nd meeting of ASEM Pathfinder Group on Connectivity were held at MICC-1, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday. The meetings were chaired by Myanmar ASEM SOM Leader, U Kyaw Zeya,

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

In the evening, Myanmar ASEM SOM Leader hosted a welcome reception for the ASEM Senior Officials and delegation at MICC-1.

Delegations from the ASEM Member States comprising 51 Asian and European countries, ASEAN Secretariat, European Union and Asia-Europe Foundation are attending the ASEM SOM meetings and related meetings held in Nay Pyi Taw. —Myanmar News Agency ■

2nd visit to Maungtaw made by journalists

A group comprised of local and foreign independent journalists left Sittway yesterday morning by express boat and arrived at Maungtaw via Buthidaung, in northern Rakhine State, in the afternoon to gather information regarding the activities of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorists.

Col. Phone Tint, Minister for Security and Border Affairs of Rakhine State, and a Deputy Commissioner met with the reporters and explained the gen-

eral situation of the area and answered questions at a meeting in the Maungtaw Administration Office.

The media group then went to No. 4 Basic Education Middle School (affiliated), where they interviewed Hindu people who were forced to flee their homes and take refuge after the 25 August terrorist attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists.

The 348 Hindu people being sheltered at the high school are part of 65 households in Maung-

taw's 4th Ward. They told journalists they were attacked by extremists, who then set fire to their homes.

The media group then proceeded to Shwezar, Kappakaung village tract, and Gonna Village, where they interviewed and photographed some of the 14,000 people of the Islamic faith, who were found to be living in peace and stability, with no extremist terrorists in the village, according to the information department. Daily activities were running



Journalists interviewing local people in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

as usual, according to village personnel. The journalists then took photos of the burnt houses near Zawtikaryone Monastery,

Kanyintan Ward of Maungtaw. They also met and interviewed the presiding monk of the monastery. —Myanmar News Agency ■

India-Myanmar Joint Statement Issued on the Occasion of the State Visit of Prime Minister of India to Myanmar (5-7 September, 2017)

Following is the full text of the joint statement issued on the State Visit of Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Myanmar.

1. At the invitation of H.E. U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, is paying his first bilateral State visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from 5th to 7th September 2017. The visit is part of the continuing high level interaction between the leaders of the two countries and follows successive State visits to India last year by H.E. President U Htin Kyaw and H.E. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

2. Prime Minister Modi was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 5th September 2017. He paid a courtesy call on the President of Myanmar, who hosted a State Banquet in his honour. On 6th September 2017, the Indian delegation led by Prime Minister Modi held bilateral talks with the Myanmar delegation led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The talks were held in a warm, cordial and constructive atmosphere as befits the close and friendly relations between the two countries. Thereafter, the State Counsellor and the Indian Prime Minister witnessed the signing and exchange of various documents between Myanmar and India in the areas of health, culture, capacity building, maritime security and collaboration between key institutions and held a Joint Press Conference.

3. Apart from his official engagements in Nay Pyi Taw, Prime Minister Modi will visit places of historical and cultural importance at Bagan and Yangon. In Bagan, he will visit the holy and historic Ananda Temple, where restoration work is being carried out by Indian and Myanmar archaeologists under the expert guidance of the Archaeological Survey of India. In Yangon, he will pay his respects to the memory of General Aung San at the Martyrs' Mausoleum and also visit the Bogyoke Aung San Museum as well as other prominent sites. He will interact with the Indian origin and expatriate Indian community of Myanmar during his stay in Yangon.

4. During the talks, the



President U Htin Kyaw and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspect the honour guard at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

two leaders reviewed developments since the very successful State visits of the President and the State Counsellor of Myanmar to India in August and October 2016 respectively. They reviewed ongoing official exchanges, economic, trade and cultural ties, as well as people-to-people exchanges that reflect the harmony between Myanmar's independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy and India's pragmatic Act East and Neighbourhood First policies. They pledged to pursue new opportunities to further deepen and broaden bilateral relations for the mutual benefit of the people of both countries. They reaffirmed their common aspirations for peace, collective prosperity and development of the region and beyond.

5. The Prime Minister of India appreciated the measures taken by the Government of Myanmar towards peace and national reconciliation and commended the on-going peace process of the Government of Myanmar. He noted that peace and stability in Myanmar are of the highest priority to India and reiterated India's continued support to the Government of Myanmar in consolidating democratic institutions in Myanmar and for the emergence of a democratic Federal Republic.

6. The two leaders discussed the security situation prevailing along their borders and expressed concern at var-

ious incidents of terrorism and extremist-inspired violence that have taken place in their respective territories. Recognizing that terrorism remains one of the most significant threats to peace and stability in the region, both sides condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and agreed that the fight against terrorism should target not only terrorists, terror organisations and networks, but also identify, and take strong measure accountable hold against any States and entities that encourage, support or finance terrorism, provide sanctuary to terrorists and terror groups, and falsely extol their virtues. Myanmar condemned the recent barbaric terror attacks during the Amarnath Yatra in India as also various acts of terror perpetrated by terrorists from across the borders. India condemned the recent terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine State, wherein several members of the Myanmar security forces lost their lives. Both sides agreed that terrorism violates human rights and there should, therefore, be no glorification of terrorists as martyrs. They called on the international community to end selective and partial approaches to combating terrorism and, in this regard, jointly called for the expeditious finalization and adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism by the United Nations General Assembly.

7. Recognising that maintenance of security and stability along the common border is essential for the socio-economic development of the peoples of the border areas, Myanmar reaffirmed its respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India and steadfastly upheld the policy of not allowing any insurgent group to utilise Myanmar's soil to undertake hostile acts against the Indian Government. Myanmar also appreciated Government of India for upholding the same principle.

8. Both sides reiterated their mutual respect for the already demarcated boundary between the two countries and emphasised the need to resolve outstanding boundary demarcation issues as fast as possible through existing bilateral mechanisms and consultations.

9. Both sides reviewed the security situation in their immediate neighborhood and agreed upon the special need for enhancing closer bilateral cooperation in maritime security. They also agreed to foster mutually beneficial and deeper defence cooperation between the two countries and, in this context, noted with satisfaction the recent successful visit of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces of Myanmar to India. Besides institutionalized cooperation through regular coordinated patrolling initiatives, they agreed to focus on bilateral

maritime cooperation in non-traditional security domains, such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, which are critical for safeguarding the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean as global commons.

10. Both sides pledged that Myanmar and India will maintain the already-achieved mutual understanding and growing bilateral relations between the two countries and that they will stand by each other as good and trustworthy neighbours in the years ahead in the interest of both peoples and the region.

11. The two sides noted with satisfaction the continued exchange of high-level visits that has fostered better mutual understanding of outstanding bilateral issues. They appreciated the regular holding of sector specific institutional mechanisms in the areas of security and defence, trade and commerce, power and energy, border management and connectivity etc. for effective follow-up of decisions taken at the highest political levels. They also noted with pleasure the excellent exchanges between Indian and Myanmar Parliamentarians and encouraged them to further enhance such interaction.

12. The Myanmar side expressed its heartfelt appreciation to Government of India for all the assistance rendered to Myanmar in support of its endeavour for socio-economic development.

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India-Myanmar Joint Statement Issued on the Occasion of the State Visit of Prime Minister of India to Myanmar

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Both sides reviewed on-going co-operation projects being executed with technical and financial assistance from the Government of India, noting that these were directly associated with the benefit of the Myanmar people, and agreed that these should be expedited. Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's abiding commitment to supporting Myanmar in its efforts to build infrastructure and develop human resources capacity. Alluding to the positive experience of the Industrial Training Centres set up with Indian assistance in Pakokku and Myingyan, the Myanmar side thanked India for the support being extended to develop two more Centres at Monywa and Thaton respectively as well as the assistance for a five year comprehensive maintenance plan for ITC, Myingyan. They also expressed appreciation for the support offered by India to upgrade the Myanmar-India Entrepreneurship Development Centre and the Centre for English Language Training at Yangon. The two sides also agreed to continue discussion towards the establishment of a Planetarium at a suitable location in Myanmar, recognizing that this would be a valuable institution that would nurture a scientific temper amongst the Myanmar youth.

13. The two sides shared the view that the situation in Rakhine State had a developmental as well as a security dimension. In this context, they agreed to bring about overall socio-economic development in the State by undertaking both infrastructure and socio-economic projects, particularly in the spheres of education, health, agriculture and allied activities, agro-processing, community development, construction of small bridges, upgradation of roads, small power projects, livelihood activity, setting up of training centres, promotion of household crafts, conservation of environment and cultural heritage. Myanmar welcomed India's offer of assistance under the Rakhine State Development Programme and the two sides agreed to finalize the implementation modalities within the next few months.

14. The two sides noted with satisfaction the cooperation in the field of agricultural research and education, especially through the rapid progress in operationalizing



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi shake hands after their joint press conference in the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

the Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education set up at the Yezin Agricultural University and the Rice Bio Park set up at the Department of Agricultural Research. It also appreciated India's assistance for facilitating post graduation and doctoral education in agricultural sciences for candidates from Myanmar.

15. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the ongoing capacity building programmes for Myanmar judicial officers, military personnel and police. Myanmar thanked India for the extended period of support to the Myanmar Institute of Information Technology and the India-Myanmar Centre for Enhancement of IT Skills. They agreed that India would extend regular training to Myanmar diplomats at the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi. Myanmar welcomed India's offer to enrol two Myanmar diplomats every year for training at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan while 150 Myanmar civil servants would undergo training in English language at Indian training institutes every year for a period of five years.

16. Recognizing the need to further upgrade the training infrastructure and capacity building of Myanmar Police, the two leaders welcomed the signing of the Memorandum on Upgradation of the Women's Police Training Center at Yamethin in Myanmar with technical and financial assistance of Government of India. Myanmar welcomed India's offer to help set up a training centre for police officers in Yangon and it was decided that modalities would be jointly worked out.

17. Myanmar thanked India for supporting various projects in Myanmar that enhance bilateral as well as regional connectivity like the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project and other road and bridge construction projects as fully funded grant-in-aid projects. Myanmar appreciated the substantial progress made on the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project with the completion of works on the Sittwe Port and the Paletwa Inland Water Transport Terminal and the handing over of six cargo barges to the Myanmar Port Authority and Inland Water Transport. The two sides agreed to enter into an MoU on appointing a port operator that may include both sides to be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the port in keeping with the practice that has been adopted at other international ports in Myanmar. This would enable the Port and IWT infrastructure to be used commercially and promote development of the surrounding areas even as the final component of the project, the road from Paletwa to Zorinpui, is under construction. Both sides noted with satisfaction that work on the road was already underway and agreed to facilitate movement of project personnel, construction material and equipment across the border through Zorinpui and Paletwa. They also noted that construction work would shortly begin on reconstruction of bridges on the Tamu-Kyigone-Kalewa Road and on the Kalewa-Yargyi sector of the Trilateral Highway. The two sides have agreed upon the alignment of the Rih-Tedim road

and the DPR for its construction. Further steps on construction of the Putao-Myitkyina and Alethankyaw-Ahungmaw roads under available LOC would be taken after DPRs are made available by Myanmar. In response to Myanmar's request, India agreed to undertake preparation of DPRs for the Rihkhawdar-Zowkhathar bridge and the Bwaynu bridge.

18. The two sides also reviewed projects in the field of health and noted with satisfaction that work on the upgradation of Yangon Childrens' Hospital and Sittwe General Hospital and on construction of Monywa General Hospital had been completed. They agreed to start consultations to establish and operate a state-of-the-art hospital in Nay Pyi Taw in association with one of the leading Indian hospital groups, based on modalities to be mutually decided.

19. Both sides deliberated on the progress made in utilization of US\$ 500 million concessional Line of Credit extended by India to Myanmar in 2012. Noting that the projects to be implemented under the Line of Credit would help augment the physical infrastructure in vital areas and enhance capacities in agriculture and transport, they resolved to implement mutually agreed projects expeditiously.

20. Both sides expressed that, in order to derive full value from these infrastructure projects, the institutional arrangements related to connectivity needed to be put in place on priority. In this regard, they noted the importance of concluding a bilateral agreement that would

enable motor vehicle traffic, both passenger and cargo, to cross the border.

21. Both sides underlined the need for bringing about greater integration of power and energy supply networks between India and Myanmar. Myanmar welcomed India's participation in its energy sector both in exploration and production and invited Indian companies to participate in tenders for petrochemicals and petroleum products, marketing infrastructure and setting up of LPG terminals. India informed that leading Indian oil and gas companies are in the process of opening their offices in Myanmar. The two sides applauded the agreement reached by Numaligarh Refinery of India and Parami Energy Group of Myanmar on supply of diesel to Myanmar across the land border, noting that this will give the people of north Myanmar cheaper and more reliable access to petroleum products, and also encouraged both sides to collaborate in storage and retail marketing of petroleum products in Myanmar. The first consignment of the high speed diesel reached Myanmar on 4th September 2017.

22. India also expressed its readiness to extend technical as well as project-specific assistance to conventional as well as renewable energy-based power development projects identified by Government of Myanmar. In addition to the earlier offer to conduct a feasibility study for development of solar parks in Myanmar, India offered to conduct a solar radiation resource assessment in Myanmar. The two sides discussed ways to cooperate in the field of energy efficiency between the two countries. Myanmar thanked India for the technology demonstration projects being undertaken through Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. of India to introduce LED-based energy efficient lighting in key townships and buildings identified by Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago region and Rakhine State. India shared its experiences in power trade and expressed its interest in examining possible cooperation in this area with Myanmar. It was agreed that these and other relevant issues would be taken up at an early meeting of the Joint Steering Committee on Power and other forums.

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Much Cherished Myanmar Golden Teak, A Nation's Pride

By Maw Lin

AT the end of the last month, the information of the occurrence of two teak trees which are the biggest in the world was obtained. One of them was measured to be 27 ft. 5 in. and the other one is having 27 ft. in circumference.

The mountain range on which those two teak trees were found was included in Uru Forest Reserve. It was known that the concession for teak extraction was given to 3 private companies in the time under the past totalitarian regime. However, the mountain where those teak trees had grown was so high that they were out of reach of loggers and luckily left uncut. On that mountain range teak trees and other In and Kanyin trees, most of which had heights above 20 ft. were also discovered. This news of the discovery of those two big teak trees could be hyped up as the much delightful news of discovering the treasure trove. Even under the colonial period the most precious teak and other hard woods were not allowed to be extracted in an uncontrolled way. However, all the trees from young to old, from small to big were shaved off and hills and mountains once covered with lush green forests were left

barren. A handful of people had enjoyed a pretty good benefits from this unruly logging business whereas the country had suffered a great loss.

In a country there are a lot of things to be cherished and much valued such as cultural heritage, racial conventions and social mores, religious edifices and monuments and natural environment. All the cultured societies usually take much value on those national heritage. People in those cultured societies have been trained since their childhood to love the national heritage. About 6 months ago, in America the world biggest type (genus) of tree, the Red Wood tree had fallen down and became the front page news of the world media. It was reported that the fallen tree has 300 ft. in height and the girdle was also very big. The pith in the base of the fallen tree was carved out and it created a hollow space large enough to let a car pass through it. In the paper the picture of a Volkswagen minivan was seen driving along the lane in the central hollow part of the Red Wood tree. The Americans had preserved that tree for some hundreds of years as their national heritage.

Nowadays, Sagaing Region has been a place for the most of illegal logging and

exporting. As of the end of January of 2016-17 financial year 8600 tons of Teak, Tamalan and Padauk and other marketable woods were caught and confiscated in Sagaing Region. As the marketable type of woods becomes scarce in Kachin State, Sagaing Region which has 160 reserved forests and protected forests outside the reserved ones has become a place of public concern. Legal extraction of logs will restart next financial year. Therefore, it is very lucky to have discovered those big teak trees before the start of coming wood extraction season.

There are 7 teak trees recorded as having the biggest girdle size in the world. They are

1. Tree No.1 in Homalin
Girdle size — 27 ft. 5 in.
2. Tree No.2 in Homalin
Girdle size — 27 ft.
3. Tree in Banmauk
Girdle size — 26 ft. 8 in.
4. Tree in Pyin Oo Lwin
Girdle size — 25 ft. 2 in.
5. Tree No.1 in India
Girdle size — 25 ft. 1 in.
6. Tree in Kawlin
Girdle size — 23 ft. 11 in.
7. Tree No.2 in India

Girdle size — 23 ft. 7 in.

Out of those 7 largest teak trees, 5 are located in Myanmar. People of Myanmar can take pride in having those 5 largest teak trees in our country.

Teak extraction has been ceased one year all over the country and timber extraction in Bago Yoma has been ceased 10 years. However, plenty of news have been read in the newspapers these days about the cars including home-use cars were frequently being caught carrying the illicit logs or timbers especially Teak, Tamalan wood and Rose wood. It becomes a national concern and It is urgently needed to investigate and expose the primary sources of illegal logging. The 62% of the cases of illicit logging and carrying the logs or timber were caught due to the tipping of the people.

Even though the incumbent government is taking necessary measures to curb the depletion of the natural resources, they should draw a long term plan to educate the people starting from school-age children to entertain the spirit of loving the nature including the trees, forest, national heritage and natural environment.

(Translated by Khin Maung Win)

Myanmar-India Interactions in the context of dynamic international environment

Professor Chaw Chaw Sein

STRATEGIC interactions between rising India and changing Myanmar are the two interesting players to shape the twenty-first century Asia since Asia has been assumed as an important region for global development economically and politically. Under one and half years of new civilian administration, Myanmar President and State Counsellor paid visit to India and China alternately in 2016 and 2017. These visits illustrate how Myanmar is paying careful attention to the major powers in the region. Rising India under Prime Minister Modi's since 2014 and changing Myanmar are the two interesting actors to be examined in the twenty-first century Asia. Myanmar sits on the brink of Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean, the busiest ocean and the most congested commercial shipping among the world's sea-lanes becomes crucial for China, India and to the extent for Japan and the US on freedom of navigation in the Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean regions. In this regard, Myanmar strategic location can also be observed in the India's three strategic circles: inner circle, second circle, and outer circle. Insurgency in the Northeast India, which is border to Myanmar, is mentioned as one of the inner strategic circle of India. Indian Ocean and maritime security is regarded by India as second strategic circle and the East Asia in the east as part of outer

strategic circles.

Myanmar is important to the stability and development of Northeast India as mentioned in the inner circle. Myanmar and India are continuously pursuing peaceful coexistence foreign policy with different variations in their bilateral relations. In the post independence era of Myanmar, Myanmar-India relations cemented strong relations and solved the bilateral issues based on the personal relationship between two Prime Ministers, U Nu and Nehru. The relationships became strained due to the 1988 Myanmar's democratic uprising along with the military coup and India provided the space for students to accept them as refugees along the border areas. After three years of isolating its relations with Myanmar, India recognized that this isolationism led to the closer Myanmar-China ties and realize to change India policy on Myanmar. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao started to initiate "Look East Policy" with the aim on focusing several points: India energy interest, the China factor, and the development of the North East India (NEI) (the NEI included in inner circle) and market access to Southeast Asia through Myanmar. Border stability and development is important for both and in order to do so, operations on joint counter insurgency operations were carried out between two governments.

Second strategic circle for India is Indian Ocean and maritime security. In

this context, naval diplomacy is a good example for India and Myanmar to strengthen friendships and also to cooperate in tackling maritime security issues. Both Myanmar and India had already cemented the naval to naval cooperation since Myanmar joined the India programme of "Milan" exercise in 2008. The present government's strong support for the maritime cooperation in the Bay of Bengal (BOB) between two countries can also be seen in the joint statement issued in the occasion of the state visit of the President U Htin Kyaw to India in August 2016. The year 2016 mark the fourth time of India-Myanmar Coordinated Patrol (IMCOR) since it has taken place in 2013. In 2016, India hosted the International Fleet Review at Vishakhapatnam port. It is the first time for Myanmar Navy to participate in the longest naval tour to engage with other countries' Navy.

This year in July, the commander-in-chief of Myanmar defense force visited eight-day tour to India. Vishakhapatnam is one of the cities he visited and the visit led to military-to-military cooperation.

Myanmar security outlook can be highlighted as three key challenges that will still remain in the future. One of the key challenges is unresolved border issue that is related to external involvement. The unresolved border issues in the Western part of Myanmar become current security implications for Myanmar.

Myanmar's neighbor to the West is overpopulated Bangladesh that is facing natural disaster like flood every year. To find or extend a living space in its neighbours is the only outlet for overpopulated country like Bangladesh. These illegal immigrants create the social issues and it led to the misunderstanding and conflicts among local community. This is one of the important issues and brings empathy as well as accusation for Myanmar and also deteriorating of the prestigious national image on the global context.

It will render the implications for the security of the BOB as the whole. Illegal immigrants from neighboring countries are the security concerns for both India and Myanmar and the visit of Prime Minister Modi is hoped to cooperate and find solution for tackling this issue. To tackle the terrorism and to build security architecture in the BOB, India hosts the meeting of the national security advisers and security chiefs of BIMSTEC countries in New Delhi in March 2017. BIMSTEC is celebrating twenty years of its establishment this year and India seems to continue to play a leading role to address the security issues. Illegal immigrants from neighboring countries are the security concerns for both India and Myanmar and the visit of Prime Minister Modi is hoped to cooperate and find solution to tackle the security issues.

SEE PAGE 9

Well-wishers donate Ks80 Million, 600 bags of rice

An outpouring of support from companies, organisations and individuals for civilians displaced by the actions of extremist terrorists in northern Rakhine has resulted in donations of over Ks80 million and tons of commodities.

U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State, accepted the donations contributed by well-wishers yesterday — over Ks80 million, 600 bags of rice and other commodities to local nationals uprooted by the attacks of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), described as a terrorist group.

Among the well-wishers who made donations to the Rakhine State Cabinet were UMFCCL, which donated Ks52.8 million and 33 longyis, Myanmar Kyaukphu SEZs, which donated Ks20 million, May Yu Shopping Complex Construction, which donated Ks5 million, Fortune International



Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu accepts the donations contributed by well-wishers yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Limited, which donated 300 bags of rice, Concordia International Limited, which donated 100 bags of rice, Dagon International Limited, which donated 100 bags of rice, Inn Pauk Company, which donated 100 bags of rice, Golden Hawks International, which donated Ks2 million, U Aung Zaw

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The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of U Thet Naing Oo, Director-General, Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, on the expiry of one-year probationary period.

ARSA extremists burn down houses in Maungdaw

THE extremist terrorist group of Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army-ARSA burnt down houses at De Par Ya village in Myoma Kanyin Tan village tract, Maungdaw Township yesterday, according to local authorities.

The fire destroyed three houses before it was put under controlled by the security forces. Meanwhile, five suspects in Pachee Yar and Pa Nyaung Pin villages yesterday were

arrested on suspicion of being relations with ARSA extremist terrorists.

In fighting terrorism in northern Rakhine State, more than 380 ARSA extremist terrorists were killed and 38 were arrested, and 60 villages and 6845 houses were burnt down by extremist terrorists, according to the information committee of the government. — Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar-India Interactions in the context of dynamic international environment

FROM PAGE 8

India regards East Asia in the east as part of its outer strategic circles. In this context, Myanmar, which is located on the Southern tip of Indochina peninsula, will become an important partner for India. The year 2014 can be regarded as a remarkable year for both Myanmar and India. As for Myanmar, the country chaired the ASEAN for the first time in seven years after its membership of the association. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a remarkable speech, which highlight the shifts of policy from “Look to Act East” at the summit. This policy aims to move beyond its traditional limited focus on ASEAN and ASEAN-centric forums. This also seeks to assert India’s presence in various parts of Asia from Myanmar to Japan and Australia and the two Oceans. On the other hand, Myanmar under new civilian government is extending her foreign relations as well as opening up for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Japan seems to take the opportunities in investing deep-sea port project under Greater Mekong Sub region (GMS) that will connect Dannang (Vietnam) to Dawei (Myanmar). Japan is being interested to build infrastructure at Chennai in the Eastern coast of India so that Chennai- Dawei Corridor will be beneficial for Japan. In addition, it is found

that the economic heart of India such as Delhi and Mumbai lie on the Western coast of India and there is no economic zone in eastern coast. It comes up with one of the considerable factors that how India can connect with Southeast Asia.

To implement effectively from the “Look to Act”, Prime Minister Modi highlighted the a major paradigm shift in India’s foreign policy to Act East focusing with 3 Cs, connectivity, commerce and culture at the East Asia Summit hosted by Myanmar in 2014. Myanmar-India cooperation in 3Cs can be observed in the regional groupings like ASEAN, BIMSTEC and Mekong Ganga Cooperation. To expand cooperation in the area of connectivity, Myanmar President U Htin Kyaw paid a three-day state visit to India in 2016 at the invitation of the President of the Republic of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and signed four MoUs, two on connectivity and other related to medicine and renewable energy. As part of connectivity, MoU on the implementation of additional works of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) was signed.

Another connectivity, Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor will boost up the economic development of the region. This area is also the tri-junction of the three impor-

tant markets of China, South-east Asia and South Asia. It can also interconnect the two major markets of China and India and even the markets in Asia as a whole. However, the Corridor, cannot be fully implemented due to the instability in the border with China. The armed groups such as Kokang and Wa with the support of China in border are a major hindrance for the connectivity to be successfully implemented. At the Strengthening Connectivity Partnership, Chinese President committed to US\$ 40 billion fund for infrastructure development among the Silk Road Economic Belt nations which involve the revival of the ancient Silk Road between China and Europe via Afghanistan and Central Asia, besides linking BCIM Corridor as well as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The second focusing area of 3Cs is Commerce. In order to promote trade between two countries, India-Myanmar business Conclave was held in Yangon in May 2016 and was attended by high-level business delegation led by Indian Ministry of Commerce Smt Nirmala Sitharaman. On this occasion, three MoUs were signed for co-operation in the insurance, power and banking sectors during the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s visit to India in October 2016 to attend the Out-

reach Summit between BRICS and BIMSTEC. The State Counsellor also attended the business roundtable or the roundtable discussion on business in New Delhi and invited Indian investment in Myanmar by explaining the new foreign direct investment law which would accord the same treatment to foreign companies as was being given to domestic companies. To expand bilateral trade and commerce, Myanmar issued a license to the State Bank of India to open a bank branch in Myanmar.

Culture as the third focusing area of 3Cs is the easiest way to strengthen people-to-people relations. Capacity building, agriculture, education, healthcare and IT are directly linked to the well being of the people. The establishment of Myanmar Institute of Information Technology (MIIT) and Rice Bio-Park at Yezin University, Advanced center for Agricultural Research and Education (ACARE) in Nay Pyi Taw, are the invaluable support of India in order to become center of excellence. However, there remain rooms for Indian Universities to collaborate with Myanmar universities such as Arts and Science, Engineering and Medicine. Indian scholar Nehginpao Kigpen, a Myanmar expert highlighted that it is necessary to improve three specific areas for

two countries to make cooperation. These are education sector, democratic institution-building and people-to-people contact. As a Myanmar scholar, it is suggested to encourage Indian Universities to have more collaboration with Myanmar universities. Both the University of Yangon and Mandalay University has signed MoUs with many world universities especially with Japan, China and Korea. Under these MoUs, international conferences, joint research, faculty exchange and student exchange programmes have been taking place with momentum. Although India is increasing the scholarships for the Myanmar students it is still limited in comparing with China and Japan.

It is hoped that the visit of Prime Minister Modi will contribute the 3Cs and find positive ways in tackling the common security issues faced by both Myanmar and India.

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India PM visits Bagan and meets Indians in Myanmar

Visiting Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi, flew to Mandalay with Union Minister U Win Khaing yesterday afternoon. They landed in NyaungOo airport where they were greeted by Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung and entourage.

Afterwards, Mr. Modi visited the famous Ananda Pagoda in Bagan city, the second largest temple in the entire Bagan region.

The temple is under restoration work by The Archaeological Survey of India after the damage due to the earthquake last year. Prime Minister Modi was shown a photo exhibit depicting the on-

going restoration work at the temple.

Mr. Modi attended the opening ceremony of the survey team and the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture's records then toured the temple.

He also signed the visitors' book at the temple and unveiled a plaque, signifying the contribution of India in the restoration of the Ananda Pagoda.

Mr. Modi and the Mandalay Chief Minister later went to Aureum Palace Resort and viewed the ancient capital city of Bagan.

Mr. Modi then left for Yangon via NyaungOo airport and was greeted

by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Indian Embassy. Mr. Modi then visited the Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium (1) and met with Burmese Indians at a ceremony there.

The ceremony was opened with a dance performance by local Indians and artists from the New Delhi based Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the attendants song the national anthems of Myanmar and India.

Mr. Modi then met with the Indians in Myanmar and gave necessary advice. —Myanmar News Agency ■



India Prime Minister Mr Modi visits Ananda Pagoda in Bagan. PHOTO: MNA

NATO forces in Afghanistan apologise for offensive leaflet

KABUL — A senior US commander in Afghanistan apologised on Wednesday for a “highly offensive” propaganda leaflet which contained a passage from the Quran used in the Taliban militants’ banner superimposed on to the image of a dog. The dog is considered unclean in Islam and associating an image of the animal with one of the religion’s most sacred texts prompted indignation.

The image, distributed by US forces in Parwan province, north of Kabul on Tuesday, showed a white dog with a section of the Taliban’s banner superimposed on its side fleeing from the lion. The banner contains a passage from the Quran in Arabic.

“The design of the leaflets mistakenly contained an image highly offensive to both Muslims and the religion of Islam,” Major General James Linder said in a statement.

“I sincerely apolo-

gise. We have the deepest respect for Islam and our Muslim partners worldwide,” he said, adding that an investigation would be held “to determine the cause of this incident and to hold the responsible party accountable”.

Parwan Governor Mohammad Hasem condemned the leaflet as “unforgivable” and said an investigation would be held.

“Those who have committed this unforgivable mistake in the publicity, propaganda or media section of the coalition forces will be tried and punished,” he said.

The incident highlights one of the challenges facing international forces in Afghanistan, most of which are from non-Muslim cultures, despite the efforts Western forces have generally taken to avoid stoking anti-foreigner sentiment by creating offence on religious grounds.

In 2012, US commanders were forced to

apologise after copies of the Quran and other religious texts were mistakenly burned at Bagram Air Base near Kabul. The incident sparked large demonstrations in Kabul and other provinces in which several people were killed.

On another occasion, a film of US Marines urinating on the bodies of dead Taliban fighters caused widespread offence, prompting an investigation and criminal charges.

So-called information operations conducted by government and coalition forces have long been used to try to persuade local people to turn against the Taliban and other insurgent groups.

Above the picture of the lion and the dog, the leaflet urged people to report insurgents to the authorities. “Take back your freedom from the terrorist dogs and cooperate with coalition forces so they can target your enemy and eliminate them,” it said. —Reuters ■

Tatmadaw refutes claims that helicopters trespassed into Bangladesh

An allegation that a Tatmadaw (Air Force) helicopters trespassed into Bangladesh was refuted by the military’s true news information team.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh had sent a message of objection to the Myanmar Embassy in Bangladesh, alleging that a Myanmar helicopter trespassed three times into Bangladesh on 1 September and made similar excursions on 27 and 28 August, beyond Myanmar aerial territory.

In response, the Tatmadaw (Air Force) examined the flight records of Tatmadaw helicopters on 1 September, discovering that the choppers made flights within 500 meters from the border, according to the GPS Track Log of pilots. Similarly, on 27 August, helicopters landed and took off 0.4 mile from the border, never going beyond the border, according to their flight routes.

On 28 August as well, Myanmar Tatmadaw helicopters were not found to

have flown near or over the border.

Concerning the objection of Bangladesh, Brigadier General Aung Zaw Oo, military attaché of the Myanmar Embassy in Bangladesh, gave clarifications to authorities concerned through diplomatic channels.

It has been learnt that the statement concerning the allegation of Bangladesh was released for the benefit of the public, so there would be no misunderstanding. —MNA ■

Comments Sought on the Partnership Act

The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) is revising the Partnership Act (1932) and is seeking comments from the public on the draft of the Act which has been uploaded on website www.dica.gov.mm.

Interested parties are invited to provide any comments and feedback on the draft law and send to lawreform.dica.mm@gmail.com or core.gov.mm@gmail.com or send to Fax-01-658135 or it can be posted to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration Office.

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration