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U Henry Van Thio, at left, in blue shirt, greets farmers at a ceremony to return confiscated land in Myaing, Pakokku District. **PHOTO: MNA**

Confiscated land in Magway Region returned to farmers

MORE than 2,660 acres of confiscated land were returned to farmers in Myaing Township, Pakokku District, Magway Region, yesterday in the presence of Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

Speaking on the occasion, U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as the chairman of the central committee for scrutinising the confiscated farmland and other property, said the committee has been in discussions with

authorities from regions and states in order to solve the land grabbing issues nationwide as soon as possible.

The Vice President also expressed the commitment of the government to return con-

fiscated land to farmers, saying that the government adopted clear and simple policies in an attempt to solve the issues in a fast and efficient manner.

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Some return to Rakhine homes, China backs Myanmar

AS security forces made arrests of terrorists and more than 1,400 displaced people who have been sheltered in camps in Maungdaw returned home, China said yesterday that it backed Myanmar's efforts to safeguard "development and stability" in northern Rakhine State.

Since the deadly attacks on civilians and to police outposts by members of the extremist terrorists Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on 25 August, some 370,000 members of the Muslim community fled to the Bangladesh border to the west and tens of thousands of other civilians went to camps, army installations and monasteries for shelter in Sittway, Maungdaw and Buthidaung.

Since the 25 August attacks, the Union government says its security forces have been fighting ARSA extremist terrorists, and are doing all they can to avoid harming civilians, officials said.

The government says about 400 people have been killed in the fighting, and the security offensive has drawn criticism.

"We call on Burmese security authorities to respect the rule of law, stop the violence, and end the displacement of civilians from all communities," the White House said in a statement.

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Confiscated land in Magway Region returned to farmers

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"The government is very sympathetic with the farmers who lost their farmland and faced obstacles for earning a livelihood. So we have sped up the work for solving the land-grabbing issues in accordance with the law," said U Henry Van Thio.

To solve the issues across the country rightly and speedily, the Union government has formed the Union-level central committee while forming region, state, district, township, ward and village-level committees for scrutinising the confiscated land with local authorities, MPs, CSOs and farmers.

"I want to urge the farmers who have got their land back today to make honest efforts to improve your socio-economic life



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects restoration of a temple in Bagan damaged by an earthquake. **PHOTO: MNA**



and to transform the traditional farming ways into a modern one," said the Vice President.

He also called on the farmers to grow marketable crops without losing sight of market demand, stressing the important

role of farmers in boosting the country's exports.

At the ceremony, the Ministry of Education announced that it will use only 485 acres out of 3,150 acres confiscated by its Educational Research Department,

returning more than 870 acres to farmers. The ministry also returned the remaining 1,790 acres to the Union Government.

The ceremony was also attended by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi and

deputy ministers of the ministries concerned.

Following the ceremony, the Vice President visited Bagan inspecting restoration of earthquake-hit temples there.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Cash support for displaced people in Minbya, MraukU, Myebon, Kyauktaw and Ponnagyun

Director General of the Relief and Resettlement Department Dr. Ko Ko Naing provided cash support to displaced people who were in Minbya, MraukU, Myebon, Kyauktaw and Ponnagyun townships, Rakhine State on 11 and 12 September.

On 11 September, Director General Dr. Ko Ko Naing and officials met displaced Rakhine people in Myebon and Minbya townships and provided Ks990,000 in education cash support to 71 students, Ks916,000

for 458 people. Ks1.5 million in education support was provided to 123 students and Ks748,000 for 374 people was also provided to Laymyosa Village Monastery, Lawkamanaung Pagoda and Shitthaung Monastery, MraukU Township. Ks 1,00,000 was provided to purchase fuel for a generator in Laymyosa Village Monastery. A total of Ks4.3 million was provided.

On 12 September, the Director General and officials provided Ks475,000 education support

to 35 students and Ks252,000 to 126 people staying in Pauktawpyin Village Monastery and Tane Nyo Village Monastery in MraukU Township. Ks1.02 million in education assistance was provided to 70 students and Ks274,000 to 137 people was also provided at Aung Tin Ward, Taungyat Ward, Chaunghit Village, Byotechaung Village, Kyauktwingone Village and Sinbawkaing Villages in MraukU Township.

Another Ks4.7 million in education support was provided to 366 students, and Ks90,000 in education support was provided to three university students, Ks2.8 million was provided to 1,410 people in Sasana Beikman, Pyigyishin Pagoda and Thazin Village in Kyauktaw Township, Ks2.3 million in education support was provided to 167 students and three university students, Ks876,000 was provided to 438 people in Lawkamarazane Ordination Hall in Ponnagyun Township were also provided.

A total of Ks12 million was provided.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Displaced people receives cash assistance presented by Dr Ko Ko Naing, Director-General of the Relief and Resettlement Department. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thura U Shwe Mann receives US Ambassador to Myanmar



Thura U Shwe Mann welcomes US Ambassador Mr Scot Marciel. **PHOTO: MNA**

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann received U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Marciel yesterday afternoon at Hluttaw Affairs Building

I-1, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, matters relating to bilateral cooperation, development and stability in Rakhine State were discussed and views exchanged. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Subsidies and cash donations for displaced people in Maungtaw

The department of Maungtaw District Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is providing family kits, each containing 10 items, to displaced local people who are now in Myoma monastery, 4 miles far from Maungtaw Township.

On 11 September morning, Mro, Daingnet and Rakh-

ine nationals taking shelter at the provisional rescue camp, 4 miles temporary rescue camp were provided with 211 sets of family kits and Ks 1.8 million. At Myoma monastery they distributed 42 sets of family kits and Ks982,000 to 491 people. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Let us participate in the nation-wide campaign against instigation of gory incidents

Khin Maung Oo

WITH a view to make the international community focus on events in the Buthidaung and Maungdaw regions in Rakhine State and promote increasing support for ARSA extremist terrorists, destructive elements were reported to have conspired to launch terrorist bomb blast attacks in big cities including Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay. Concerning the risk of terrorist attacks, on 5th September the Office of the State Counsellor issued a news release to warn against potential dangers of terrorists, in which it was described that

instructions had been sent to Region and State Cabinets to keep constant security awareness across the whole nation.

Following this news release, security measures were increased in the big cities as well as at the border gates, express ways, bus and railway stations, airports and market places by posting more security guards for constant monitoring.

It must be said that these arrangements have been effective to some extent.

On the other hand, terrorists will have to choose civilian areas with poor security measures as their

targets, so as for their aims to be successful, hence the need to constantly monitor their activities with full awareness.

Simultaneously, we are required to avoid possibilities of racial and religious agitations among our societies with full alertness and wise sense of judgement.

In other words, we must take care not to fall for the trick of these extremist terrorists.

According to "the Anti-Terrorism Law," promulgated in 2014, terrorists are defined as the ones who directly or indirectly commit a terrorist attack, or the ones who make an

attempt in the offence, or the ones who collude, instruct, or abet in the crime. Accordingly, we must inform the authorities concerned nearby if we find any suspicious activities, without delay. If someone is convicted of committing a terrorist attack, they must be sentenced to 10 years imprisonment or life imprisonment or death as the capital punishment.

Last but not least, we deeply urge our citizens to actively take part in the nationwide campaign against instigation of gory incidents, riots and conflicts in the nation, in case destructive elements attempt to harm our national sovereignty. ■

Wish you a happy Democracy Day

Dr. Khine Khine Win

SEPTEMBER 15 is International Day of Democracy. In order to raise awareness about the importance of democracy, various activities have been held on September 15 annually in many countries around the world by different organizations. In 2007, the United Nations resolved to observe 15 September as the international day of democracy and invited all members states, other regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to commemorate the day in an appropriate manner that contribute to raising public awareness about democracy.

The first International Day of Democracy was held in 2008 in Geneva by Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and highlighted the role of parliament as the cornerstone of democracy. As all parliaments are the key institution of democracy, there is an opportunity to emphasize the importance of democracy, the challenges it faces, as well as opportunities it offers by celebrating the day of democracy in parliament. It also provides an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world.

Democracy is a universally recognized ideal and is one of the core values and principles of the United Nations. Actually there is no exact definition of democracy but legal equality, political freedom and rule of law have been identified as importance characteristic of democracy. Democracy has emerged as a cross-cutting issue in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits since the 1990s and in the internationally agreed

development goals they produced. For instance "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" which was adopted by world leaders and affirmed "democracy, governance and rule of law are essential for sustainable development. Democracy, and democratic governance in particular, means that people's human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected, promoted and fulfilled, allowing them to live with dignity.

Everyone in democratic countries have to have basic knowledge of democracy. The four aspects of democracy are 1) elected form of government, 2) the rule of law, 3) respect of human rights and 4) freedom of express. Rights include freedom of speech and expression, freedom of religion and conscience, freedom of assembly, and the right to equal protection before the law. While the state protects the rights of its citizens, in return, the citizens give the country their loyalty. Citizens in a democracy enjoy the right to join organizations of their choosing that are independent of government and to participate freely in the public life of their society. Talking about the merits or advantages of democracy I would say that democracy can provide for changes in government without violence. In a democracy power can be transformed from one part to another by means

of elections. Here it should be noted that, when government is not of and by the people, it is not democracy. Democracy cannot simply be imported from abroad. Its establishment and preservation are dependent on popular struggles inside each country.

Bear in mind that there are some



points which frequently go wrong with democracy in practice. 1) Male domination of public life 2) Corruption among office-holders 3) Tyranny of the majority 4) Executive control over parliament 5) Lack of media pluralism and 6) Public apathy. We should avoid these points if we want to have strong democracy.

If the purpose of democracy is lost, most of citizens have no idea regarding the rights and responsibilities. So it is very important to raise awareness about the importance of democracy to each and every citizens of the country.

History teaches us that individual rights, societal and inter-state peace are best protected by democracies. According to Democracy Index 2016, almost one-half of the world's countries can be considered to be democracies of some sort. The Economic Intelligence Unit's, EIU's Democracy Index measures the state of democ-

racy by rating electoral processes and pluralism, the state of civil liberties, the functioning of government, political participation and political culture in more than 160 countries worldwide. According to EIU report, Norway is the world's strongest democracies, followed by Iceland and Sweden. Indeed according to Global Peace Index 2016, Norway rated world's most peaceful country too. This is a kind of proof that peace cause strong democracy considerably.

This year theme for democracy day is "Democracy and Conflict Prevention". It focuses on the critical need to strengthen democratic institutions to promote peace and stability. With the new focus on conflict prevention, the promotion of democracy is seen as the most important tool for preventing crisis and promoting security in many current state policies.

As you may know one of the goals of democratization is promotion of peace. Without peace and stability, there is no true democracy. Without democracy, there will be no human rights. Without human rights, we cannot hope for sustainable development. All things are interrelated.

To conclude, what I would like to highlight here is that being democratic is not enough, democratic countries must also have a deep love of liberty and abiding respect for the rule of law. I wish you a happy democracy day. ■

Reference :<http://www.un.org/en/events/democracyday/>
<http://www.ipu.org/idd/about.htm>



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and party provide cash and rice to families of security personnel and ethnic people. **PHOTO: MNA**

Assistance to families of security personnel and ethnic people killed by ARSA extremist terrorists

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and party together with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Chan Thar arrived in Maungtaw from Sittway and provided cash and rice to families of security personnel and ethnic nationals killed in attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists.

First, at the office of Maungtaw District General Administrative Department,

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and party met with departmental officials, local populace, families of security personnel and ethnic nationals killed in attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists and provided cash assistant and gave words of encouragement. Next, they went to Kyikanpyin No. 1 Border Police command headquarters in Maungtaw Township where families of two security personnel killed and one missing security personnel after

the attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists were provided cash assistant and security personnel and Tatmadaw personnel were each provided with Ks 2 million cash support. Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and party then went to ethnic villages Aungzeyya, Aung Mingala, Aung Thaya, Hpawitchaung, Laungdon in northern Maungtaw district and provided rice for families who remain in their respective villages. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Donations for displaced people to be used systematically

Dr Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, received Ms. Janet E. Jackson, UNFPA Representative for Myanmar, at the May Khalar Hall of the Ministry on Monday.

At the meeting, the UNFPA Representative said a project to boost participation of Myanmar youth, especially females, to improve their language, communications and internet technology skills would be implemented. Ms. Jackson said aid for Rakhine residents will be made. "Negotiations have been made with the Rakhine State government for providing humanitarian aid to Rakhine State. We have already had subsidies in our hands to provide commodities. We would like the Ministry to approve the proposal to be submitted by us, the 'Peace Building Fund' for Myanmar youths, women and girls to be able to participate in peace process. In implementing the suggestions of the Rakhine State Advisory Commission, we



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye accepts cash donated by Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi. **PHOTO: MNA**

intended for the emergence of youths with capabilities in information technology, command of the language and communication skills."

The Union Minister replied to the UNFPA Representative concerning the situation on provision of humanitarian aid in Rakhine State by the Ministry, programmes on all-round development festival for youths to be held in Yangon and approval of the proposal of Peace Building Fund of UNFPA.

The ceremony for donating money to fulfill the urgent needs for displaced local ethnic people

due to the recent extremist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), which has been termed a terrorist group, was held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday evening.

At last night's event, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye accepted Ks14.163 million donated by Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education, on behalf of the Education Ministry and Myanmar Teachers' Federation, presenting a certificate of honour to Dr Myo Thein Gyi. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung inspects reconstruction and resettlement in Maungtaw



Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung inspects border fences, fence circuit and access road along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung went to Buthidaung to carry out a ground survey for the resettlement of displaced persons and reconstruction in Maungtaw yesterday.

The Union Minister accompanied by Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Phone Tint were welcomed by Lt-Gen Aung Kyaw Zaw, the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), who has been in Maungtaw and officials. Local authorities clarified situation of roads, bridges, and border roads damaged in the attacks of ARSA extremist terrorists.

The Union Minister together with Lt-Gen Aung Kyaw Zaw then went on to inspect condition for rebuilding roads and bridges on

Buthidaung-Ngakyitaut-Kahtihla-Pyinkaung road. After that, the Union Minister met with Muslim people in Ngakyitaut village and stressed the importance of living peacefully for regional stability.

Afterwards they provided food and assistance to local people in Taungbaza high school, Ngayantchaung village tract, Buthidaung Township, who were returning to their respective places. In the evening when they arrived at Taungpyoe town, northern Maungtaw, the authorities encouraged local people and provided foods.

Afterwards, the authorities inspected the border fences, fence circuit and access road along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border. —Myanmar News Agency

Some return to Rakhine homes, China backs Myanmar

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But China came out in solidarity with its neighbour yesterday. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a briefing in Beijing that "the international community should support Myanmar in its efforts to safeguard development and stability".

Myanmar's foreign ministry said shortly before the U.S. statement was issued that Myanmar was also concerned about the suffering. Its forces were carrying out their legitimate duty to restore order in response to acts of extremism. Even as some villagers in Rakhine return home, violence and intimidation con-

tinued. On Monday, Muslim villagers arrested six ARSA terrorists armed with machetes on Monday who had entered a Muslim village and abducted a resident.

Ali Khan, who was abducted by the terrorists, said that he was tied and left in a house of the former administrator of the Kanyitan Village and was told his throat would be slit if he did not give information on the name of his father and storage places for rice bags. The six ARSA extremists will be brought to justice, said local authorities.

Authorities say nearly 30,000 Buddhist villagers have also been displaced, fleeing to towns to the south. —Reuters, MNA

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). — Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office