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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the 72nd United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York, U.S., on 20 September 2017. **REUTERS**

VP U Henry Van Thio: Government 'deeply concerned' about Rakhine

Vice President U Henry Van Thio told the U.N. General Assembly yesterday that the situation in western Rakhine state is improving, but remains a serious concern for the government.

"Let me be clear, the government of Myanmar is deeply concerned about the present situation in Rakhine," U Henry Van Thio said. "There is no denying that this is a problem of significant magnitude."

He also said the government is concerned by reports that the number of Muslims crossing into Bangladesh continues unabated.

"We would need to find out the reason for this exodus," U Henry Van Thio told world leaders at their annual gathering in New York City. He claimed that "the great majority of the Muslim population" has remained in their villages and said there have been no armed clashes reported since 5 September. **SEE PAGE-3**

Chinese media arrives in Sittway

A media group from China arrived in Sittway last night to gather information on the 25 August extremist terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) that occurred in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State.

The Chinese media group included six journalists from the People's Daily, China Radio International and Phoenix TV (Hong Kong). They were accompanied by officials from Ministry of Information. They will gather information in the Maungtaw area from 22 to 23 September.

Local and foreign media, including independent journalists, have been allowed to visit northern Rakhine State five previous times, the first time on 19 to 22 December, 2016 and the fifth time on 6 to 8 September, 2017. The visit of the Chinese media group is the third visit allowed since the 25 August ARSA terrorist attack.

The visit of Chinese media began some days after Myanmar protestors at home and abroad held peaceful demonstrations against the proliferation of false news on the situation in Rakhine State, where dozens of border police outposts were attacked on 25 August. **SEE PAGE-9**

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and party attend 38th AIPA General Assembly

AT the invitation of the Speaker of the House of Representative of the Philippines and ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) President H.E. Pantaleon D. Alvarez, a hluttaw representative group led by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat arrived at Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Manila, Philippines on 14 September evening to attend the 38th AIPA General Assembly. They were welcomed by Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines Hon. Raneo E. Abu, Myanmar ambassador to the Philippines U Win Naing and officials.

The 38th AIPA General Assembly was held in the Philippines from September 14 to 20 under the theme "AIPA and ASEAN Partnering for Inclusive Change."

The assembly was attended by heads of AIPA member parliaments and representatives from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Representatives from observer members Australia, Belarus, Canada, China, European Parliament, Japan, South Korea, India and Russia Federation also attended.

On the first day of the assembly on 15 September, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat and party attended the AIPA Executive Committee Meeting and Women Parliamentarians of AIPA, or WAIPA.

On the second day, the Myanmar hluttaw representative group met with AIPA President and Speaker of the House of Representative of the Philippines, attended the opening ceremony of the general assembly and also attended the first general assembly, where the head of the Myanmar hluttaw representative group Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker delivered a speech.

On 17 September, the third day, the Myanmar delegation attended three committee meetings and a discussion with observer countries.

On the fourth day, 18 September, the Myanmar delegation participated in the study tour of Tagaytay City and attended the joint communiqué committee meeting in the evening.

On the fifth day of the assembly on 19 September, a second general assembly was held and Myanmar hluttaw representative attended to confirm the reports by committee that were read. In the evening, the Myanmar delegation attended an event where Philippines President H.E. Rodrigo R. Duterte received the head of AIPA member parliaments and attended the closing ceremony of the 38th AIPA General Assembly.

Representative groups attending the assembly were hosted with dinners by Senate President of the Philippines H.E. Aquilino Pimental III and Speaker of the House of Representative of the Philippines H.E. Pantaleon D. Alvarez on 16 and 19 September respectively.

Twenty-one resolutions on ASEAN region economic, social and women affair sectors were confirmed in the 38th AIPA General Assembly. The 39th AIPA General Assembly will be held in the Republic of Singapore in September 2018.

The Myanmar hluttaw representative group led by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat returned from Manila to Yangon yesterday evening. — Myanmar News

Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture & Fisheries expo to begin

THE three-day Expo for Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture & Fisheries organised by Minh vi Exhibition and Advertisement Services (VEAS) is slated to be held from 24 to 29 September, according to a report of Myawady Daily yesterday.

This is the 4th international show for the agriculture and livestock expo, with 60 companies from about 15 countries including the USA, Germany, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and South Korea taking part this year. Additionally, a panel of local and foreign experts and employers from the livestock and fisheries industries will be part of the expo. Last year's expo in Myanmar was held on 16 October 2016 with the participation of 60 companies, organisations and institutes from 17 countries, according to the VEAS. —GNLM ■

Fourth annual Union level multi-stakeholder review

THE Fourth Annual Union Level Multi-Stakeholder Review was held at MICC-2 Banquet Hall yesterday morning.

Dr Aung Thu, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation said, "Our country's public-orientated economic policy is targeted at all-inclusive sustainable development. Public-orientated economic policy is the kind of the project which reflects the national economic policy.

The public themselves chose and implemented infrastructures on social affairs basically needed in project villages, supervising through sub-projects to operate the project. It is the kind of project which guarantees equal rights and opportunities regardless of sexual orientation in implementing the projects.

With strengthening the traditions of deciding through collective negotiations, socio-economic lives of rural populace have increasingly developed for the acquisition of rural roads and bridges, drinking and farming water, electricity and infrastructures on education and health."

Dr Aung Thu and Ms. Ellen Goldstein visit the fourth annual union level multi-stakeholder review at MICC-2 Banquet Hall. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister added, "So as to prevent waste, bribery and corruption in implementing the projects, projects are internationally standardised ones which are systematically operated through technical examination by the Rural Department and the World Bank, checking accounts from Union Attorney General Office and assessing by rural population. Infrastructures are being built with weather-proof designs to use in the long run and to be compatible with natural environment. Now, a total of 14,538 high-quality sub-projects have been implemented in 8,565 villages. Accordingly, rural people amounting to 5.2 million are enjoying the fruits of the project. Job opportunities have been created for 264 local experts and 2,050 graduates from the region. Four spheres of the projects in three townships had been completed, with otthers in remaining 60 townships under implementation."

Afterward, Ms. Ellen Goldstein, Country Director of the World Bank, addressed a speech, with first prize winners of village tract presented with prizes by Union Minister, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw, Ms. Ellen Goldstein, U Yan Lin, chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Rural Social Lives Development Committee, U Kyaw Myint, chairman of Peasants and Workers Affairs Committee, U Ba Myo Thein, Amyotha Hluttaw Peasant Affairs Committee Chairman and U Aye Maung Sein, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member.

In addition, fourth annual project implementations were explained by director U Hla Khaing, with responsible officials replying to the questions raised by those present.

Clarification of media continued to be convened at 2 pm with the fourth annual union level multi-stakeholder review to be held till September 22, it was learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister for Information meets staff from departments under MoI

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint met with staff from departments and enterprise under the ministry yesterday at the meeting hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the ceremony were Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, permanent secretary U Myo Myint Maung, and departmental heads and staff from the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD), the Printing and Publishing Department and the News and Periodicals Enterprise.

At the ceremony, Union Minister made an opening address.

The presentations presented by those present at the ceremony included matters on extension of the set up of IPRD offices in districts and townships, detailed data collection on films, the supplying of books issued by Sarpay Beikman, the budget shortage for development in sports sector, the acquisition of daily allowances plus lodging fees for staff from other areas to come to Nay Pyi Taw on duty, appointment of daily wagers as permanent staff after 5 years service, prioritisation of veteran staff in promotion and making state-owned newspapers available in less-developed areas including Buthidaung and Maungtaw in Rakhine State.

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivers an opening speech at the meeting with staff from departments and enterprise under the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

In his closing address, the Union Minister said, "Authorities need to keep helpful traditions of replying to the acceptable suggestions submitted for the department and presentation of difficulties faced in the job from the staff.

As for the staff, it is urgently needed for making concerted efforts for the survival of the departments and enterprise, making changes in accord with the cutting-edge technology of the changing times and trying hard to be well-satisfied with your skills and qualities and to be well recognised by the public."— Myanmar News Agency ■

One Stop Service for Myanmar workers in Thailand

THE Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population issued a statement yesterday in regards to the issuing of Certificate of Identity (CI) cards to Myanmar workers in Thailand.

According to the statement, Myanmar workers working in Thailand holding temporary residence cards or work permits (TR-38), also known as "pink cards", have been issued with a Certificate of Identity (CI) in CI stations since 3 March. Thailand opened One Stop Services to process applications, issue visas and work permits at the stations since 1 September.

CI Stations were opened in Chiang Mai, Nakhon Sawan and Songkhla towns on 15 September, where Thailand also opened One Stop Services in those stations.

The Ministry's statement said that in addition to the six CI stations in Samut Sakhon (Mahachai) 1 and 2, Samut Prakan, Mae Sai, Mae Sot and Ranong, three more stations were opened in Chaing Mai, Nakhon Sawan and Songlkhla.

Workers from Myanmar sort shrimp at a wholesale market in Mahachai, in Samut Sakhon province, Thailand, in July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Workers applying for a CI will have to apply at a counter operated by Counter Services Co., Ltd in the nearest CI stations with a TR-38 or temporary Myanmar passport or document issued by the Thailand labour department indicating the specific CI station in which they want their CI issued, said the statement.

Counter Services Co., Ltd will assess the applicants TR-38 or temporary Myanmar passport or document issued by the Thailand labour department. A fee of 300 bahts need to be paid.

Counter Services Co., Ltd will issue a receipt that includes the CI station issuing the CI, the appointed date to conduct the process, a token number and a contact phone number in both Thai and English. The information will also be sent to the worker's mobile phone by SMS.

Workers are required to conduct the process on the appointed date without fail and responsible officials will issue the CI and foreign worker identification card. Once these are issued, relevant Thai departments will conduct a One Stop Service of medical examination, issue visa and work permit at the CI Station it is learnt.

A total fee of 2,650 baht to 3,100 baht that includes a visa fee of 600 baht (only up to 31 March 2018), a document fee of 100 baht, a work permit fee of 550 baht for half a year or 1,000 baht for a full year, a medical examination and health insurance fee of 1,600 baht needs to be paid to relevant departments in Thailand. Those who are currently holding a CI need to prepare proof of citizenship and apply for an ordinary passport before the CI expires, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Vice President: Government 'deeply concerned' about Rakhine

FROM PAGE-1

Since the deadly attacks on dozens of police posts and civilians by ARSA extremist terrorists on 25 August, hundreds of thousands of Muslims fled to Bangladesh and thousands of ethnic minorities went to camps, army installations and monasteries for shelter in Sittway, Maungtaw and Buthidaung.

"At present, humanitarian assistance is our first priority," the vice president said.

U Henry Van Thio also acknowledged that longstanding prejudices have contributed to tensions.

"Deep levels of distrust, developed over the decades, have to be slowly chiseled away", he told the UN General Assembly yesterday.

In the military response to terrorist attacks last month by ARSA extremist terrorists, about 400 people have been killed, according to the Union government.

Security forces have been instructed to strictly adhere to the Code of Conduct in carrying out security operations, to exercise all due restraint, and to take full measures to avoid collateral damage and the harming of innocent civilians.

He said human rights violations would be dealt with "in accordance with strict norms of justice." U Henry Van Thio began his speech before the UN General Assembly yesterday by offering words of sympathy to Mexico, the United States, and Puerto Rico, all of which have been struck recently by natural disasters.

"The intensity and frequency of such natural disasters are evidence of climate change. Climate change is now becoming a reality posing a serious threat to our planet. The impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale. Myanmar is one of those countries that is highly vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change. As a country frequently affected by storms, floods and droughts, Myanmar welcomes the Paris Agreement on Climate Change", U Henry Van Thio said. —GNLM ■

Statement by H.E. U Henry Van Thio, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the General Debate of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

(New York, 20 September 2017)

Mr President,

I would like to extend our congratulations to you on your election as President of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly. We are confident that under your able leadership, this year's session will be fruitful.

Mr. President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I go into the substance of my statement, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest sympathy to the government and people of Mexico for the loss of life and property caused by the deadly earthquake which hit Mexico City.

I also wish to convey our profound sympathy to the government and people of the United States who experienced horrendous consequences of hurricane in a short span of two weeks. Our sympathies also go to the people of Puerto Rico who are still reeling from the effects of hurricane Maria.

The intensity and frequency of such hurricanes and cyclones are evidence of climate change. Climate change is now becoming a reality posing a serious threat to our planet. The impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale. Myanmar is one of those countries highly vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change. As a country frequently affected by storms, floods and droughts, Myanmar welcomes the Paris Agreement on Climate Change of April 2016. I am pleased to inform this august Assembly that yesterday Myanmar deposited with Secretary-General the instruments of ratification on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.

> The government has been endeavoring to restore peace and stability and to promote harmony among all communities.

Mr. President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We welcome this year's theme "Focusing on people — striving for peace and a decent life for all on a sustainable planet". Peace and stability is something that we are striving to achieve in Myanmar after nearly seven decades of civil strife and conflict.

Last year from this podium, our State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi set out the government's vision to end decades of internal armed conflict in Myanmar and to find lasting and meaningful solutions to the complex situation in Rakhine State.

Today, one year on, I stand before you to apprise you of the progress we have made and the remaining challenges. Given that the situation in Rakhine State has understandably been the focus of the world's attention in recent weeks, let me start by addressing this issue.

Mr. President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yesterday, the State Counsellor briefed the Diplomatic Corps on the government's efforts regarding national reconciliation and peace. She highlighted the achievements in the past 18 months and challenges that remain.In touching upon the situation in Rakhine, she said that Myanmar shares the concern of the international community regarding displacement and suffering of all communities affected by the latest round of terrorist attacks. She also stressed that "We condemn all human rights violations and unlawful violence. We are committed to the restoration of peace, stability and rule of law throughout the State. The security forces have been instructed to adhere strictly to the Code of Conduct in carrying out security operations, to exercise all due restraint, and to take full measures to avoid collateral damage and the harming of innocent civilians. Human rights violations and all other acts that impair stability and harmony and undermine the rule of law will be addressed in accordance with strict norms of justice. We feel deeply for suffering of all the people who have been caught up in the conflict."

Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the 72nd United Nations General Assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York, U.S., on 20 September 2017. **REUTERS**

> Those who have had to abandon their hearth and home are many – not just Muslim and Rakhine, but also small minority groups such as Daingnet, Mro, Thet, Mramagyi and Hindus.

Mr. President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The situation in Rakhine has been one of the top priorities of the government since it assumed office. The government has been endeavoring to restore peace and stability and to promote harmony among all communities.

The Central Committee on Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development of Rakhine State, chaired by the State Counsellor herself, was established on 30 May 2016 to address the specific needs of the State.

Additionally in Aug 2016, she set up a commission headed by Dr. Kofi Annan to advice the government on sustainable solutions to the complex situation in Rakhine.

We have been striving to ensure that the Rakhine State is duly developed while ensuring peace, stability and societal cohesion. This is no easy task. Deep mistrust developed over decades has to be slowly chiseled away.

On 25 August 2017, the Kofi Annan Commission released its final report. Our government immediately welcomed it.

We had hoped that today's occasion wouldbe an opportunity for us to communicate to the world the progress that we have made towards implementing the Commission's recommendations.

It is therefore with deep regret that instead, I must primarily address you on the current state of affairs in Rakhine State, following the recent attacks by the terrorist group known as ARSA last month.

Mr President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, within hours of the release of the Advisory Commission's report, a series of coordinated attacks were carried out on 30 police outposts in Northern Rakhine. The ARSA claimed responsibility for the attacks.

These attacks ignited fresh violence in the region, resulting insignificant loss of life, widespread suffering and mass displacement of all communities.

Those who have had to abandon their hearth and home are many – not just Muslim and Rakhine, but also small minority groups such as Daingnet, Mro, Thet, Mramagyi and Hindus. Most of the world has been oblivious of their existence and plight.

The government of Myanmar is deeply concerned about the present situation in Rakhine. Our deepest sympathy goes to the families of all innocent civilians and members of the police and security forces who have lost their lives. There is no denying that this is a problem of significant magnitude.

I am happy to inform you that the situation has improved.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the 72nd United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarter in New York, US, on 20 September 2017. **MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

No armed clashes have been reported since 5 September.

Accordingly, we are concerned by reports that the numbers of Muslims crossing into Bangladesh remain unabated.

We would need to find out the reason for this exodus. What is little known is that the great majority of the Muslim population decided to remain in their villages. We share the need to ensure that vital humanitarian assistance is provided to all those in need.

Moreover, we acknowledge that the duty to respond to the challenges in Rakhine State is first and foremost the duty of our national government. The situation in Rakhine is complex. The challenges we face are significant. We have accordingly adopted an integrated national strategy to address this problem.

I am pleased to announce the launch of a committee chaired by the Union Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Commission. To ensure transparency and accountability, the Committee is mandated to publicly issue a progress report every four months. In addition to the Committee, we intend to establish an Advisory Board comprised of eminent persons from both Myanmar and abroad.

At present, humanitarian assistance is our first priority. We are committed to ensuring that aid is received by all those in need, without discrimination. We have already dedicated significant national funds and resources to humanitarian relief operations.

I am also pleased to inform you that a new government-led mechanism, established in cooperation with the Red Cross Movement, has also started its humanitarian assistance activities.

On behalf of the government of Myanmar, I would like to express my gratitude to all those countries who have offered to contribute towards this assistance programme. In particular, we are grateful for the generous offers of support that we have recently received from many of our friends across the world.

At the same time, we are working hard to enhance relations with Bangladesh.The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and the National Security Advisor visited Bangladesh in January and July of this year. We were hoping for a visit from the Home Minister of Bangladesh but it had to be postponed as the Minister could not come in August. We will welcome him at any time that he is able to come and hope to take forward our cooperation on border security matters.

There has been a call for the repatriation of displaced people who have recently fled from northern Rakhine to Bangladesh. The State Counsellor in her speech yesterday stated that Myanmar was prepared to start the verification process at anytime. Our two neighbors have had the experience of such a process in 1993 through the establishment of a joint working group for implementation of repatriation process. We can develop a process based on the experience of 1993.

We would need to find out the reason for this exodus. What is little known is that the great majority of the Muslim population decided to remain in their villages.

Mr. President
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Myanmar stands together with the rest of the world in condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Our position is clear.We cannot condone terrorism.

At the same time, the government is working to ensure that acts of terrorism will not distract us from pursuing the long term strategy that is necessary to address the complex challenges in Rakhine State today.

The recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission provide us with a clear roadmap. Our implementation Committee began its work last week and in due course we will be inviting observers to witness some of our programmes.

Mr President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The recent events in Rakhine State are a painful reminder that we face difficult challenges ahead on the long journeytowards peace, prosperity and democracy.

However, please allow me to reiterate this: our commitment to peace remains as strong and as unwavering today as it was one year ago when our State Counsellor, DawAung San SuuKyi, first addressed you from this podium.

As part of this commitment, we have made the national reconciliation and peace process our top priority. Our vision here is clear: to achieve a democratic, federal Union, based on the principles of freedom, justice, equal rights and self-determination.

With regard to the peace process in the country, I am pleased to inform you that in May this year, we successfully held the second session of our Union Peace Conference. For the first time, we were able to discuss and define key principles that will form the basis of a federal, democratic Union. The Union Accord, consisting of thirty-sevenpr inciplescovering the political, economic, social and environmental sectors was signed by representatives of the government, the parliament, the military, ethnic armed organizations and political parties.

Although we have made real progress, we know thatthe road ahead is long and convoluted. Our democratic transition is fragile. At this important juncture in our nation's history, we only ask that the international community continues to support our efforts to achieve peace, prosperity and democracy.

Mr. President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude this statement, let me reaffirm Myanmar'sfaith and confidence in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

I would also like to emphasize Myanmar's firm commitment to a world in which peace and harmony prevails.

I thank you, Mr. President. ■

Appointment of Ambassador agreed

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mrs. Eva HAGER as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Austria to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mrs. Eva HAGER was born on 7 March 1957. She received PhD (Dr Phil.) in Arabic and Islamic Studies and Political Science from the University of Vienna, Austria in 1985. She joined the Austrian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1986 and served in various capacities at the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs, at Austrian Embassies in Syria, Algeria, Tunisia, Mexico and Austrian Consulate General in Strasbourg. From April 2005 to August 2009, she served as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Austria to Cyprus. In December 2013, she was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Austria to the United Mexican States. She speaks English, French, Spanish and Arabic.—Myanmar News Agency

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

	Name	Appointment
(1)	U Kyaw Moe Tun	Director-General International Organizations and Economic Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(2)	U Kham Aung	Managing Director Myanmar Post Office Ministry of Transport and Communications
(3)	U Hla Maung Thein	Director-General Environmental Conservation Department Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
(4)	Daw Khin Mar Yi	Managing Director No.2 Heavy Industries Ministry of Industry
(5)	U Kyaw Soe	Director-General Civil Service Selection and Training Department Union Civil Service Board

Officials of Ministry of Planning and Finance clarifies loans for agro-livestock, SME and construction at the Ministry of Planning and Finance in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 September 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

Loans for agro-livestock, SMEs and construction

Loans for the agro-livestock, SME and construction sectors was announced yesterday at the Ministry of Planning and Finance in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance said the distribution of loans has been ongoing and will continue.

"The State has targeted to disburse agricultural loans of Ks1,700 billion in FY 2016-2017, by Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB), in the agro-livestock sector. Out of this, Ks1,630 billion had already been disbursed. In the present financial year, MADB had given out Ks1313 billion out of the targeted amount — Ks1980 billion up to 15 September. Moreover, plans for disbursing mid-term loans to farmers are under arrangement. Myanmar Economic Bank had already disbursed K 30 billion to SMEs at the interest rate of 8.5 percentage through the Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB) in the FY 2015-2016 and FY 2016-2017, under the JICA Loan Programme. Mid-term loans ranging from 3 to 5 years amounting to Ks57 billion were disbursed in a two-step loan through six private banks, after taking long-term loans with low interest rates from JICA. At the second step, the matter of disbursing Ks180 billion was under discussion with JICA."

Deputy Minister added that loans are being targeted for use in the building of housing.

"The MEB is disbursing loans for estates and construction for the acquisition of public ownership of dwelling abodes. The MEB has lent Ks142 billion to construction entrepreneurs. The State has given Ks100 billion as financial support to the construction sector through the Ministry of Construction as the sub-circulation fund. And the MEB disbursed Ks30 billion at an interest rate of 8.25 through the Construction and Housing Development Bank. Another Ks30 billion will be disbursed. Arrangements are being made for the acquisition of long-term loans with low interest rates from JICA for the development of the construction sector. The MEB is making arrangements to disburse Ks200 billion for the agro-livestock sector, Ks250 billion for SMEs, Ks50 billion for the construction sector, and Ks200 billion for the MEB loan sector according to respective years, Ks700 billion altogether."

Afterward, U Kyaw Ngwe, permanent secretary of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Irrigation, U Ko Ko Lwin, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Construction, U Win Zaw, CEO of Construction and Housing Development Bank, Daw Tin Tin Yi, general manager of MEB and U Min Thu, managing director of Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank clarified the policies to abide by in acquiring the loans according to the respective sectors and replied to the questions raised by the news media.—Myanmar News Agency ■

The media group from China arrive at Sittway Airport in Rakhine State on 21 September 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

Chinese media arrives in Sittway, Rakhine State

FROM PAGE-1

The protestors also said they opposed campaigners , lobbyists and the media for turning what they see as a migration issue into a refugee and religious crisis.

The protestors in London on 15 September sent a letter to Foreign Secretary Mr. Johnson, pointing out that the Foreign Secretary's opinion does not represent a fair view of the Rakhine issue and diminishes the Arakanese people who have suffered equally in the same environment.

The government has recently said that it has been working on the issue as a top priority and have formed a dedicated committee to implement Dr Kofi Annan's recommendations.——Myanmar News Agency ■

Japan vice-minister pledges support for Union government on Rakhine issue, donates US$1 million

THE Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye separately received Japan Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Iwao Horii and representatives from Christian Aid Myanmar yesterday afternoon in Maykhalar Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting with the Japanese Parliamentary vice-minister, H.E. Mr. Iwao Horii said there is no change in Japan's policy of assisting Myanmar from all sides, with the understanding that Myanmar is resolving Rakhine issue with much difficulties. Japan strongly condemns the attacks on security posts, concerned of the news of about 400,000 displaced persons and would like to openly discuss these matters, Mr. Iwao Horii said.

The Union Minister said the incumbent democratic government has only been in power for 18 months, and establishment of democracy, rule of law and a socio-economic base were given priority. Work on national reconciliation is also being conducted consistently. The Union Minister discussed priority being given to states where development is lagging behind, the status of work on Rakhine State development by forming a Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace and Development in Rakhine State and four work committees, the status of forming an Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, attacks on police posts in October 2016 after this committee was formed, accusations made on conducting area clearance operations in response to the attacks, and other issue in western Myanmar.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with Japan Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affaris Mr. Iwao Horii in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 September, 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

According to the population records, 44 per cent of the total population in the conflict area fled to Bangladesh while 56 per cent remain in the villages, said the Union Minister.

" More than 400,000 of refugees who were said to have fled does not make up four-four per cent of the total population of 700,000," said Dr Win Myat Aye. The repatriation would be carried out in accordance with the 1993 Bangladesh-Myanmar agreement, he added.

The Japan Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs said the international view in New York at the United Nations meeting on the events in Rakhine State was learnt to be very strong. With Japan being a friendly country to Myanmar, Japan will stand with its friend in resolving the difficulties faced by Myanmar.

Japan plans to provide emergency assistance of US$1 million and also intend to help in the repatriation and resettlement of people who fled to the other country. Japan will also help Myanmar government's implementation of suggestions on Rakhine State and would like to know assistance required to conduct the priority works.

Plans already in existence to set up industrial zones need to be implemented. Socio-economic development in Rakhine State can be achieved by establishing garment factories with good roads, communications and electrical power supply. In the current difficult situation, a correct international stance is important.

Rakhine State is a region where disasters can occur and it needs to withstand the disasters and needs financial and technical assistance for redevelopment.

In the meeting with Christian Aid Myanmar, the Union Minister said three groups were formed to collect information to conduct a basic social survey in order to provide moral and social assistance to ethnic nationals who were displaced by terrorists attacks in Rakhine State and moral assistance were being provided, international donations and donations provided by well-wishers were being used effectively and systematically and discussed openly on cooperating it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Aid from Indonesia arrives

HUMANITARIAN aid from Indonesia arrived Yangon International Airport yesterday and the aid will be sent to northern Rakhine soon, according to the Relief and Resettlement Department.

The two cargo planes carrying the aid worth more than US$280,000 landed the airport yesterday afternoon.

Indonesia Ambassador Dr Ito Sumardi handed over the aid to U Ko Ko Naing, Director-General of the Relief and Resettlement Department at the airport.

More aid from Indonesia are arranged to be shipped to Myanmar, according to the Indonesian embassy in Yangon.

The aid including food, medicines and tents would be delivered to the people in conflict areas in northern Rakhine in timely manner, said U Ko Ko Naing.—Zaw Gyi ■

Aid from Indonesia are unloading from the cargo plane. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

Proposal for designation of Mrauk U as World Cultural Heritage Zone

News Min Htet Aung, Tin Maung Lwin

U Tun Ohn, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, said that a draft proposal asking for designation of Mrauk U as a world cultural heritage zone will be submitted in September 2018, in meeting with members of the implementation committee over suggestions on Rakhine State and responsible officials from Maungtaw district.

To initiate the preparation for designating the Mrauk U region as a world cultural heritage zone, the Rakhine State Government will spend Ks38.5 million.

"There are three kinds of heritage -- cultural heritage, natural heritage and mixture heritage — culture and nature. Mixture heritage is the kind such as Inlay Lake. Mrauk is cultural heritage. So arrangements are being made to have the Mrauk U region enlisted as a world cultural heritage site. On completion of the preparation tasks, the proposal (draft) will be compiled and submitted to UNESCO in September 2018. After that, a board consisting of 21 countries in UNESCO will make a survey in Mrauk U IN 2019 to decide the designation as a cultural heritage zone by voting", U Tun Ohn said,

An ancient temple in MraukU. **PHOTO WIN MIN SOE (DISTRICT IPRD)**

If Mrauk U is designated as a world cultural heritage site, data collection will be carried out for conservation of other areas in Rakhine State, it was learnt. If it can be implemented, building up an airport in Rakhine State and upgrading the tourism industry in the area will be carried out in consultation with respective ministries and, other economic enterprises and industries related to the region will develop. ■

Senior General meets locals in N-Rakhine, receives Japanese delegation in Nay Pyi Taw

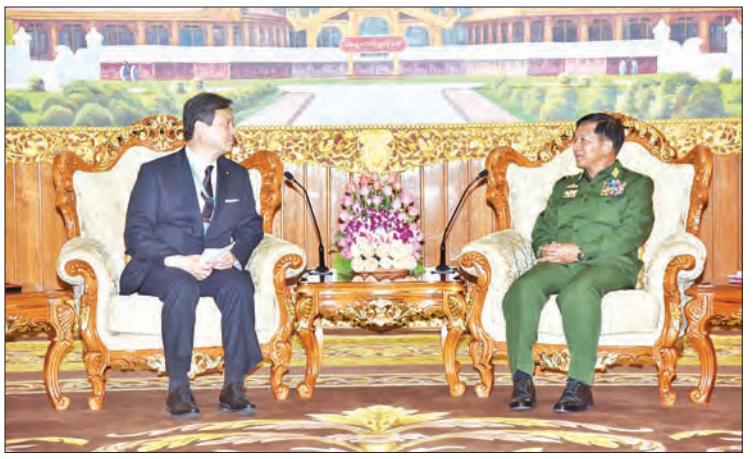
DEFENCE Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party met and encouraged displaced ethnic nationals in Aungmyaybawdi Sasana Yeiktha in Maungtaw Township yesterday.

The Senior General also met with displaced villagers and teachers from Ngayechaung, Inndin, Pyatha and Taungpyo Letwe villages and volunteers in Alodawpye Monastery who shared their experiences about the terrorist acts that began on 25 August, discussed security requirements due to higher population of nearby Bengali villages, the clearing of remaining terrorists in the area, the difficulty of livelihood, road communication, travel and construction of a firm and secure border fence.

After the meeting, the Senior General and wife cordially greeted the local populace and provided food and goods.

The Senior General and party then met separately with displaced Hindus staying in Basic Education High School Maungtaw and displaced Bengali staying in Myoma Kanyintan primary school who had fled from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorist attacks.

Afterwards, the Senior General and party inspected border gate 1 and then went on to meet displaced villagers from nearby villages who were staying in No. 2 sub school in the 4 mile area. The Senior General and wife encouraged the villagers and provided aid.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Japan Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Iwao Horii. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with local people in Sittway, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

In the afternoon, the Senior General and party met with security personnel and public servants serving in Rakhine State at U Ottama Hall, Sittway and later gave a speech at a donation ceremony for ethnic nationals who were displaced by the ARSA terrorist attacks and for construction of a border fence.

Donations included Ks1,267.6 million for two miles of border fence by the Ayeyawaddy Foundation, Ks200 million by protection of race and religion Buddha Dhamma Parahita Foundation (central), Ks300 million by Kun Kho Ya Foundation, Ks100 million by Shwe Than Lwin Sky Net company and Ks2.5 million by Vice President U Myint Swe, wife Daw Khin Thet Htay and family. Yesterday's third donation of cash and goods totalled Ks2,277.8 million in cash, 750 bags of peas, 100 bags of rice, 100 Viss of cooking oil and goods worth Ks2.5 million.

The Senior General and party then went to Sittway Airport and met with State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and members of the state government. Matters relating to regional security, resettling displaced ethnic nationals, resettlement of villages destroyed by fire, improving road transport and fencing the border were discussed.

Later in the day, Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Japan Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Iwao Horii in Bayintnaung Guest House, Nay Pyi Taw.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Displaced villagers begin to return home

By Min Htet Aung & Tin Maung Lwin

Some local nationals taking shelter at rescue camps for displaced people due to the recent terrorist attacks are starting to return to their villages as the region regains peace and stability.

There were 6,421 displaced people taking shelter at rescue camps in Maungtaw on September 13, a number that has dropped to 4,736 on Wednesday. According to statistics of the Maungtaw district general administration department, 1,685 were found to have gone back to their villages.

"As the region started to become peaceful and stable, some local nationals from neighbouring villages taking shelter at conventional rescue camps are returning to their places daily.

We are supporting subsidies to the remaining ones as normal", said U Ye Htut, Deputy Commissioner of Maungtaw District General Administration Department.

Local nationals and Hindus displaced due to the 25 August terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), which has been described by the government as a terrorist group, have been accommodated at 15 camps in Maungtaw — Sasana Bimman, Alotawpyae, Maungtaw SHS I, Myoma Monastery, 3 mile-philanthropic camp, 4 mile, Mingyi Monastery, Train Monastery, Tamanthar, Thupanaka, Aung Zan Monastery, Kha Maung Seik (Na Kha Kha), Aung Thabyay, Taungpyo (SHS) and Long Dong. ■

Implementation Committee on recommendations on Rakhine State holds second meeting

THE second meeting of Implementation Committee on recommendations of Advisory Commission on Rakhine State was held yesterday at Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and attended by secretary, joint secretary and members of the committee.

At the meeting, Dr Win Myat Aye, Chairman of Implementation Committee and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement said the respective ministry had to list the priority tasks within two weeks as discussed in the first meeting.

He also stressed the needs to implement the projects in time as the report covering four months has to be released on 12th January that in the end date of four months 12 September, to immediately carry out the works that leads to the benefit of the people and peace and stability of the country, in spite of the difficulties, to organize the people to take part as much as possible, to clarify your performances transparently, to take great care for the terrorism not to take place again, to exchange the information among the committee members and to coordinate between the ministries.

When permanent secretary of Ministry for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement as well as joint secretary for implementation committee was presenting the true situation of Maungtaw area discovered by committee members, he stressed the requirement for security, to establish the industries to create the job opportunities for the local people, to set up the villages for the ethnic people, to support the necessary agricultural implements and to issue of National Visa Card (NVC).

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs as well as secretary for implementation committee discussed the matter of urgent implementations according to finding of ground surveys, the priority implementation procedures for short term and long term are needed to sort out, to cooperate in security affair and resettlement programs.

Then, members of the committee discussed the implementation works of respective ministry according to ground surveys, priority of implementation works and necessary cooperation.

The Implementation Committee has to carry out the works for the benefit of the people and long term works for the development of the area in line with the need of ground situation in implementing the suggestion of final report of Advisory Commission and the report of Maungtaw investigation committee. —Myanmar News Agency ■