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State Counsellor meets Implementation Committee for the Recommendations on Rakhine State

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with the members of Implementation Committee for the recommendations on Rakhine State at the meeting hall of the President Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by the Union Ministers Lieutenant General Kyaw Swe, Lieutenant General Ye Aung, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr. Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko, Dr. Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, U Thein Swe, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Dr. Myint Htwe, U Win Khine, Dr. Win Myat Aye, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu, Deputy Ministers, Chief of Myanmar Police Force, Heads of Departments and members of Implementation Committee.

At the meeting, the State Counsellor said that with regard to the refugees who have fled to Bangladesh, it has been stated that the refugees would be repatriated back to Myanmar in accordance with the agreement reached between Myanmar and Bangladesh in 1993. She also highlighted the importance of the verification process, the designation of places to receive those who have fled Myanmar, the establishment of the Working Group for the verification process, and the rehabilitation and resettlement programmes not only for the Muslims but also for Rakhines, Mro, Daing-net and Mramagyi as well as the Hindu minority who had to flee their places due to ARSA terrorists' attacks. Moreover, she also stressed the need to effectively implement the rehabilitation, resettlement and long-term development programmes.

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Chinese journalists interview Muslims in a conflict area in Maungtaw on 22 September 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

Chinese media report from northern Rakhine

NEWS media representatives from the People's Republic of China arrived in Maungtaw yesterday to report on the extremist terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine State by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) terrorists.

The journalists arrived in Sittway on Thursday and were taken to Buthidaung via Maungtaw Township, by speedboat early yesterday morning, officials said.

Members of the Chinese media yesterday conducted newsgathering in the predominantly Islamist wards of Thihokyun and Myothakyi, near the entrance to the town on Maungtaw-Kyeekanpyin Road. Authorities said the villages were destroyed by ARSA extremist terrorists who set homes on fire.

Afterward, the media group interviewed U Ye Htut, district commissioner, at the office of the Maungtaw district general administration department, inquiring about rescue efforts.

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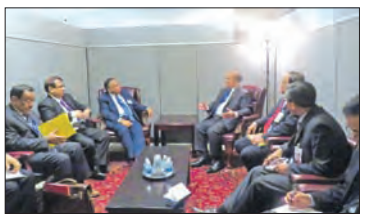

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National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun and Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmud Ali hold talks in New York on 21 September 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

National Security Advisor meets FMs of China, Bangladesh, U.S Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs

National Security Advisor to the Union Government U Thaung Tun met Foreign Minister of China Mr. Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmud Ali, U.S Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Ms. Susan Thornton on separate occasions in New York on 21 September 2017 on the sideline of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

In the meeting with the Foreign Minister of China he discussed matters relating to the enhancement of cooperation between the two countries at the regional and international levels based on the existing close ties of friendship.

The National Security Advisor and the Bangladesh Foreign Minister discussed the need to resolve any outstanding issue affecting the two countries by engagement and dialogue.

Both meetings were attended by U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

On the same day, the National Security Advisor received the U.S Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs at the Myanmar Mission in New York. He apprised the U.S Assistant Secretary of the situation prevailing in Rakhine State and affirmed that it has improved and that there have been no armed clashes since 6 September. He informed her that the government has been providing humanitarian assistance expeditiously to all communities affected by the recent attack as well as efforts to bring peace, stability, and development to the state. The meeting was attended by the Myanmar Ambassador to the United States U Aung Lynn.

The National Security Advisor met separately with the Secretary General of IFRC Mr. Elhaji As Sy on 20 September and President of ICRC Mr. Peter Maurer on 21 September. On both occasions, he discussed on going cooperation between the government of Myanmar and the Red Cross Movement on providing humanitarian assistance in northern Rakhine.—Myanmar News Agency

2017 by-election complaint rejected by Union Election Commission

The Union Election Commission yesterday upheld the election of State Hluttaw Representative U Shar Mway La Shan (Union Solidarity and Development Party) to represent Shan State Kentung Township Constituency 2.

The election of U Shar Mway La Shan in the 2017 by-election was contested in an electoral complaint case filed by State Hluttaw Representative Candidate Dr. Wanna Soe (National League for Democracy) in accordance with State Hluttaw Election Law Section 93.

The UEC Tribunal 1 made up of UEC member U Soe Rae as chairman, with U Khin Maung Than and U Than Win as members, heard the case and handed down the decision confirming the election of U Shar Mway La Shan as State Hluttaw Representative of Shan State Kentung Township Constituency 2 and rejected the complaint of Dr. Wanna Soe and counter-complaint of U Shar Mway La Shan.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Nay Pyi Taw's 100-Bed Traditional Medicine Hospital gives free medical Care to 150 to 250 out-patients daily

Daw May May Kyi, deputy superintendent of Nay Pyi Taw 100-bed indigenous hospital said that the hospital is giving medical treatment to 150 to 250 outdoor patients daily, free of charges, to the best of our calibre. If necessary, the patients are admitted as in-patients. For now the hospital has 96 indoor-patients.

It has been learnt that monthly regular medical treatments are being provided with indigenous medicines in the villages of the region.

The hospital was opened on 4th November 2015, giving medical treatments till the end of August, 2017—43297 out-patients, 2174 indoor-patients and 4053 ambulatory patients.

In the hospital, out-door patient department, neurology ward, orthopaedic ward, paediatric ward, medical ward, obstetric ward are giving medical treatments. —Shin Min ■

Union Attorney General receives IBJ Country Director

Union Attorney-General U Htun Htun Oo holds talk with Mr. Jim Taylor, Country Director of IBJ in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Attorney-General U Htun Htun Oo received Mr. Jim Taylor, Country Director of International Bridges to Justice (IBJ) and party at the office of the Union Attorney-General in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, matters relating to improving judicial sector, providing legal support to the poor accused in criminal cases, sharing legal knowledge to public, departmental officers related to judiciary attending courses in IBJ justice centers and promoting cooperation between justice centers and coordination sub groups on states and regions rule of law departments and judiciary works were discussed.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint, permanent secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin and director general Dr. Thida Oo.—Myanmar News Agency

PRC journalists make reports in Maungtaw

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The members of the media also travelled to the market in the predominantly Islamist Kanyintan ward in Maungtaw and spoke to residents about their attitudes towards the ARSA extremist terrorists, the situations on the ease of selling and purchasing goods at a time when peace and stability are being restored, and the availability of medical care to members of the Muslim community by the Tatmadaw mobile health team in the ward.

The Chinese media representatives also met with Hindus who are being sheltered at rescue camps opened in Maungtaw, asking them about the killings by ARSA extremist terrorists and the support given to them by the Government.

The Chinese journalists openly asked Hindu residents if they were living peacefully and why they chose not to be displaced from Gwezar village. The members of the Chinese media also met those taking shelter at the Myoma monastery and took photos of fencing along the Myanmar-Bangladesh border and the No. 1 gate/checkpoint in the western ward of Maungtaw Myoma.—Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor meets Implementation Committee for the Recommendations on Rakhine State

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The State Counsellor was also briefed by the Union Ministers and members of the Implementation Committee.

The State Counsellor also stressed that the decision reached at the meeting must be implemented immediately.

At today's meeting, the following points were decided:

• To include the need to preserve culture, customs and traditions of the ethnic minorities including Mro and Daingnet ethnic groups in the resettlement programmes for the displaced communities, which will be implemented with advice from UN-HABITAT;

• To repatriate those who had fled Myanmar to Bangladesh based on mutual agreement between the two countries in 1993 and set up a Working Group to conduct systematic verification process for urgent repatriation;

• To seek advice of UN-HABITAT so as to include sustainable development aspects in the resettlement programmes for the affected community. This will include building road networks, constructing electrical grids, sewage systems, schools, hospitals and police outposts;

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaks to the members of Implementation Committee for the recommendations on Rakhine State at the meeting hall of the President Office in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 September 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

• To speed up the search of 93 Hindu victims from Tamanthar Village who were attacked by ARSA terrorists;

• There had been request made to the Bangladesh Border Guards for the repatriation of 6 Hindu women and 3 children who were said to be living in the IDP camp at the border area. Additionally, request should be made to the Bangladesh authorities through the Diplomatic Channel;

• To dispatch the lists of terrorist attackers to the Bangladesh Government, INTERPOL and the UN.

The Myanmar side will again issue an invitation for the visit of the Bangladesh Minister for Home Affairs to Myanmar to discuss bilateral cooperation for the security of the border areas between the two countries. This visit was previously postponed by the Bangladeshi side. A similar invitation had also been issued by the Chief of the Myanmar Police Force to his counterpart. The meeting also decided to arrange a tour for the Diplomatic Corps next week. The meeting concluded in the early afternoon.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Vice President U Myint Swe inspects Phyu Chaung Multi-Purpose Dam Project

VICE President U Myint Swe accompanied by Bago Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Aung Zaw Naing and U Htein Lwin, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy arrived at the Phyu Chaung Multi-Purpose Dam Project yesterday morning and inspected the Phyu Chaung Dam and the Phyu Chaung hydroelectric power station.

First, the Vice President observed the Phyu Chaung Dam from the dam view point. Next, he was briefed about the status of the Phyu Chaung Multi-Purpose Dam Project and the irrigation system which was under construction by the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department Director General U Kyaw Myint Hlaing in the briefing hall of the Phyu Chaung Multi-Purpose Dam Project.

Vice President U Myint Swe inspects the Phyu Chaung Muli-Purpose Dam Project in Phyu, Bago Region on 22 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

Phyu Chaung Muli-Purpose Dam in Phyu Township, Bago Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

Electric Power Supply Enterprise Managing Director U Khin Maung Win then explained about the Phyu Chaung hydroelectric power station.

With regard to the briefings that were presented, the Vice President stressed the need to be continuously prepared and to be alert for natural disasters while implementing the project, to strive for completion of the project in accordance with the project plan as only 16.1 per cent of the planned 90,000 acres had been provided with irrigation water so far, the need to provide irrigation water to the farmers so that they could utilize it effectively, fully utilize the electric power generated during the rainy season without wastage and to provide education, health and welfare support for the staff and family members of the project. Afterwards, the Vice President viewed the power generation and power distribution works being carried out in the Phyu Chaung hydroelectric power station.

The Phyu Chaung hydroelectric power station has two 20 MW generators installed and can generate a full 40 MW during the rainy season, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

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Torrential rain causes landslides in Chin State

RECENT torrential rain in Chin State caused landslides in Chin State, damaging roads and several houses, according to local authorities.

People were also evacuated from areas which are threatened landslides in Haka and Hpalam while a total of 13 houses were removed from the areas.

The landslides happened on the Kale-Thaingngin Road and on Haka-Gangaw Road also blocked the roads temporarily.

Traffic on the roads returned to normal after local authorities and volunteers cleared the road.—Chin State IPRD ■

Authorities and volunteers clear the road damaged by the landslides in Chin State. **PHOTO: IPRD**

Hand-made mine explodes in Rakhine

A hand-made mine suspected by authorities to have been planted by extremist terrorists exploded on the grounds of the mosque in Michaungzay village, Buthidaung Township, authorities said. It could not be determined whether there were any injuries, but none had been reported as of last night.

Authorities said the mine was detonated in an apparent attempt to scare Islamists who were attending services in the mosque. Security forces who went to the scene found out a blast hole measuring 4 feet long and 2 feet deep due to the mine explosion 30 feet away from the mosque. While inspecting the area, security forces found another hand-made mine and related items 10 feet away from the site of the bomb-blast.

The explosion was the latest in a series of suspicious incidents to occur in northern Rakhine State over the past few days. On Thursday, an outbreak of fires in Kyein Chaung village,, Maungtaw township, destroyed over 20 houses, it was learnt.

Police from the Kyein Chaung Police Station are investigating the cause of the fire.

On the same night, an unoccupied thatched house in an open space was also burnt down, authorities said. The suspicious fire is being investigated by Maungtaw Myoma Police. The damage to the house was estimated at Ks30,000.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Industrial City Project start in Yeni, Bago Region

The Yeni Industrial City Project began in Yeni Township, Bago Region, according to a report in the City News Daily yesterday.

"The infrastructure alone will cost over US$100 million. Foreign Direct Investments are expected to flow into the Industrial City Project," said Dr. Khin Maung Aye, the chairman of LAT WAR GROUP Company.

The Industrial City Project is being implemented jointly by the Hua Chew Company in Singapore and the Myanmar-based Lat War Group of Companies.

"Currently, we are only a joint venture of two companies. But there will be three companies when FMI joins us. The industrial City Project is implemented here because this place has easy access to Yeni and Nay Pyi Taw, he added.

The project will include schools and the staff quarters. This project will also create job opportunities for around 100,000 locals. Currently, 100 acres of land have been granted.

"We will give priority to the manufacturing sector in this Industrial City Project. The project will also include garment factories and paper mills as well as other small factories," said U Ko Ko Lwin, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Industry.

The Lat War Group of Companies won the tender in 2013 to implement the Yeni Industrial City Project. The company will complete the project within 15 years.—GNLM ■

Digital Marketing Summit 2017 to be held for the first time

The very first "Digital Marketing Summit 2017" will be held in Myanmar at Summit Park View Hotel on 1st October, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

"The Digital Marketing Summit 2017 will be held by Digital Minds, a marketing consultant agency. Nowadays, communication and the usage of internet in Myanmar are dramatically increasing and so, entrepreneurs and people from the business world prefer digital marketing to traditional marketing to run their businesses", said Ko Hein Thet Khin Zaw, the managing director of Digital Minds.

At this summit, directors from the leading digital companies in Myanmar and social media influencers will broadly discuss and share knowledge on digital marketing.

The Digital Marketing Summit 2017 is an event for entrepreneurs, brand managers, marketing managers and the youths who are interested in digital marketing should attend to widen their knowledge on the digital marketing. Most of the businessmen have turned to the digital marketing.—GNLM ■

Tatmadaw, ethnic armed groups will meet to 'build trust, reduce tension'

By Ye Khaung Nyunt

JMC-U Secretary-1 Dr. Shwe Khar and JMC-U Secretary-2 Colonel Wunna Aung give press conference following Union Level Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

UNION Level Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) Secretary-1 Dr. Shwe Khar said it was decided yesterday to hold regular meetings between the ethnic armed groups who had signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) and Tatmadaw in order to build trust and reduce military tension.

The decision came on the third day of JMC-U's 12th meeting held yesterday morning at the National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) on Shweli Road in Yangon.

During the three days of the JMC-U meeting, matters discussed included more civilian participation in the Local Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-L) formed in Shan and Kayin State, continued formation of Local Civilian Monitors, holding workshops in order to conduct regular meetings to build trust and relationship between force commanders, upgrading the capacities of civilians participating in State Level Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-S) and JMC-L, reviewing and reassessing Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) and terms of reference (TOR) and reports by assessment and confirmation groups on the killing of Mongpan Township militia leader U Myint Aung.

After yesterday's meeting, JMC-U Secretary-1 Dr. Shwe Khar and JMC-U Secretary-2 Colonel Wunna Aung met with local and international media to explain the three-day meeting.

"Mainly, as JMC-L was formed, ways of forming related local civilian monitors and when to start forming them were discussed. To increase the strength of the JMC-Ls formed in Kayin State and Shan State, it was decided to increase civilian participation to four in each JMC-L. ToR and SoP were drawn two years ago and in order to review it, it was decided to submit to the 13th meeting to discuss forming a review team", said Dr Shwe Khar.

Dr. Shwe Khar added that "It is important to build trust and relationship between the two groups during the peace building period. The JMC committee members from two armed groups meet regularly once a month or bi-monthly, but military commanders who are not JMC committee members could not meet. We decided for the military commanders from both sides to meet regularly."

In meeting with the media, it was mentioned that workshops with foreign experts were being conducted regarding deploying-forces to avoid confrontations. Ethnic armed groups and the Tatmadaw would discuss this later, they said.

JMC-U Secretary-2 Colonel Wunna Aung said "A report by the assessment and confirmation group on the killing of Monpan Township militia leader U Myint Aung confirmed that he was killed by Sai Tint, but in the meeting, the RCSS (Restoration Council of Shan State) said there is no Sai Tint in the RCSS. Therefore, a case had been filed on Sai Tint by Myanmar Police Force and action will be taken accordingly."

The day's meeting was attended by JMC-U member government representatives, representatives of NCA signatory ethnic armed groups and civilian representatives. ■

Vice Senior General Soe Win returns from 10th Pacific Armies Chief Conference

Vice-Senior General Soe Win is welcomed back by senior military personnel at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) and party attended the 10th Pacific Armies Chief Conference in Republic of Korea and returned by air to Yangon yesterday evening. They were seen off at Seoul airport by Myanmar ambassador to Korea Thura U Thet Oo Maung, Myanmar military attaché (army, navy, air) Col. Myint Thein and Republic of Korea Armed Forces No. 3 Division Deputy Division Commander of Maj-Gen Ligu Jun.

Earlier in the day, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party visited Seoul Sky Tower in the morning and G Tower in Incheon industrial zone in the afternoon.

Upon arrival in Yangon in the evening, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party was welcomed by Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Thet Pone, high ranking Tatmadaw officers, Korea military attaché to Myanmar Colonel Hong Gongkee and official. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Cash donated to nationals displaced by terrorist attacks

A ceremony to donate cash to displaced people due to the attacks of the ARSA extremist terrorists was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the ceremony, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Aung Myin Tun accepted Ks 4 million contributed by the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and members, staff from the Nay Pyi Taw General Administration Department, and personnel from district and township general administration departments from Dekkhina and Ottara districts, with the contributions Ks1 million donated by the Agriculture Research Department under the "Sharing" programme of the Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation accepted by Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister. Certificates of honour were given to the donors.—Myanmar News Agency ■

State Constitution Tribunal decides on Submission No 1/2017

The State Constitution Tribunal, inclusive of the chairman and its members, made a decision to reject Submission No 1/2017 tendered by a group of 50, including Brigadier General Maung Maung, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw Representative, through the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw at the court held at the tribunal office on Thursday.—Myanmar News Agency

Some new information about ARSA terrorists revealed

Khin Maung Oo

In the article, "The truth behind Myanmar's Rohingya Insurgency" by Bertil Lintner who has been writing numerous articles on Myanmar, the writer presented in the article's introduction that the relation between the leaders of ARSA and extremist terrorist groups pointed to broader conspiracy in the region, while shouting aloud that ARSA extremist terrorists are fighting for rights of national minorities. The wording, "rights of national minorities," is of great importance. Many international news media are writing as if Bengalis in Rakhine State are stateless people whose citizenship rights have been rejected. In fact, successive governments have laid down policies that anyone who complies with prescribed rules and laws will be allowed to enjoy citizenship rights, simultaneously exercising those policies and implementing it practically.

According to the statement of Bertil Lintner, the so-called ARSA extremist group leader is someone of Bengali extraction born and brought up in the outskirt of Karachi in Pakistan. It has been learnt that most of the thousands of Bengalis who had settled down for two or three generations in the shanty outskirts of Karachi are stateless persons. It is not known exactly why those Bengalis are stateless.

According to the news from international intelligence sources, the person designated as the patron of the ARSA extremist terrorist group is spreading a video designed to launch a jihad, a holy war fought by Muslims to defend Islam in Myanmar. The said person is closely related to the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, the biggest terrorist group in South Asia. Bertil Lintner presented in his article that over 150 alien terrorists got involved in the ARSA extremist terrorist group. It was described in his article that most of them are Bangladeshis while the rest are from Indonesia, Malaysia and Southern Thailand. And the writer pointed that the video has been disseminated widely in many places, showing military exercises in Aceh in Indonesia, designed to train for launching a holy war in Rakhine State. Bertil Lintner also highlighted well-coordinated military operations on many police outposts on 25th August depict that they had considerable military skills. Information provided by Bertil Lintner in his article showed that ordinary Bengalis in Rakhine State were angry about military activities launched by the ARSA extremist terrorist group which has brought about this dangerous situation. It is a well-known fact that many Muslims as well as Buddhists who had responded to questions posed by government officials or other interviewees had been killed ruthlessly. Some had their throats slit while others have been hacked to death mercilessly. ■

Primary healthcare crucial for SDGs: WHO

KATHMANDU: At least 30 million people in landlocked Nepal still lack access to one or more of seven essential health services, with access to care worse for the poor.

The World Health Organization has emphasized the critical need for countries in the South-East Asia Region to strengthen primary health care – including the skills of frontline health workers – and enhance monitoring of health services coverage and financial protection as they strive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal related to health and wellbeing for all.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

"There is an urgent need to revive and adapt frontline services and health workers to meet today's needs. By doing this countries can accelerate public health gains, including by reducing maternal and child mortality and strengthening health security. They can also tackle looming challenges such as the increased burden of non-communicable diseases. Though efforts across the region have been commendable, countries must strengthen their delivery of patient-centered, integrated care to drive further gains and ensure no one is left behind," Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region, said.

"Enhancing the skills of health staff is an important means for countries to strengthen primary health care and ensure essential services are available. This can be done through ongoing training initiatives that equip health workers and health teams with the skills needed to address a range of health issues, including identification and care of chronic conditions. Equally important are efforts to increase health worker retention, particularly in rural areas," she said. "Careful attention must be paid to the distribution of health workers' skill-sets across the health system to ensure all communities, regardless of location, can access essential services."

Dr Khetrapal Singh also noted the need to establish sustainable financing for frontline services, saying an important way for countries to strengthen primary health services is to ensure they are equitably and efficiently financed. "As service delivery models change, it is essential that both prevention and treatment receive adequate resources and funding. Strategies must be linked to resource flows so that communities can rely on frontline services for a range of health issues," the Regional Director emphasized.

As countries strive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of health and wellbeing for all, the development of country-specific targets and implementation of effective monitoring systems is vital. Almost all countries have now developed their own targets, while all of them have measured and reported progress using two indicators – one tracking health services coverage; the other tracking financial risk protection.

The Regional Director expressed WHO's commitment to produce an annual report on progress towards universal health coverage and the health-related SDGs, which is a key agenda item at the Seventieth session of the Regional Committee currently being held in Maldives. The Regional Committee is the highest decision-making body for public health in the South-East Asia Region, and includes health ministers and senior health ministry officials of the Region's 11 Member countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste.—WHO

A nurse checks blood pressure of a patient at a rural clinic in Nay Pyi Taw. Photo: Aye Min Soe

Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumaran Bhivamsa arrives Yangon International airport to leave for China.
PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN

Buddhist delegation leaves for China

On the afternoon of 22 September, Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumaran Bhivamsa, Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee left Yangon by air for China at an invitation of Venerable Chong Hua, the President of the Chongsheng Temple in Dali City, Yunnan Province, China, to participate in the 7th Buddhist Forum from 22 to 24 September, and to attend to religious affairs in Shanghai.

The Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was accompanied by the Vice Chairman Sayadaw, member Sayadaw, deputy director general and director of the department of Religious Affairs and a responsible person from the Mingala Magazine (Yangon Office).

The State Committee Chairman Sayadaw and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. —Saw Thein Win ■

150 solar lighting systems donated to Rakhine State Cabinet

One-hundred fifty sets of home solar lighting systems worth US$15,000 were donated by the KDE & C Company of the Republic of Korea through the Ministry of Industry at a ceremony held at the Rakhine State government yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Rakhine State government's ministers, departmental heads and responsible officials from the Ministry of Industry.

U Aung Kyaw Zan, Rakhine State minister, gave words of thanks, saying the KDE & C Company had helped fulfil the acquisition of electricity, a major necessity, for local nationals.

Afterward, U Aung Kyaw Zan, State minister and U Kyaw Hla Tun, State Advocate accepted 150 sets of the domestic solar lighting system handed over by U Ko Ko Tin, director general of Industrial Cooperation Department, who was then given a certificate of honour.

Officials accept the certificate of honour for the donation of 150 sets of solar lights. **PHOTO: TIN TUN**

U Myat Zaw, deputy director and technical expert, demonstrated how to install and use the solar-energy panels.

"With a view to helping the need for electricity for the rural populace in Rakhine State, KDE & C Company came to donate 150 sets of a home solar system worth US$15,000. The system can be used not only for lighting homes but also for charging batteries and hand-phones.

The system is free from any risks for the users and it cannot cause environmental pollution.—Tin Tun (IPRD) ■

National Road Safety Council notice on road safety

There had been a high rate of increase in motor vehicles numbers since 2011 when motor vehicle import procedure was changed and together with this increase, there were increase in number of road accidents, hurt and death.

To reduce road accidents, National Road Safety Action (2014-2020) was drawn and implemented but from the 2013 base year of the action plan to 2016 there were an annual increase of road accidents as shown below.

Sr.	Year	Road accidents	Injury	Death
(a)	2013	13,912	23,378	3,721
(b)	2014	14,997	24,932	4,313
(c)	2015	15,859	26,630	4,375
(d)	2016	17,384	27,763	4,887

During the 8 months period of 2017 January to August, there were 12,250 road accidents causing 19,817 injuries and 3,556 deaths, an average of 14.8 deaths per day. Of the road accidents, 48.85 per cent involves motorcycle.

The aim of National Road Safety Action (2014-2020) is to reduce 50 per cent the number of death from road accident by 2020. On the 2013 base year, there were 9.26 deaths per 10,000 vehicles and by 2020 this is to be reduced to 4.63 deaths per 10,000 vehicles.

According to 2016 figures, this was reduced only to 7.98 deaths per 10,000 vehicles and a lot need to be done to reach the target.

As such, National Road Safety Council notifies everyone to follow traffic and road rules. Especially motorcycle users are urged to be more aware of and follow traffic and road rules. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Aung Parahita Network donates cash for displaced person in Rakhine

Ovadacariya (Patron) Sayadawgyi of Visudayone Sasanpyu Monastery of Aunglan Township Aung Parahita Network together with members and donors donated cash and utensils for displaced people from Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung Townships in Kyauktaw temporary relief camps yesterday morning.

400 persons staying in Maha Kangyishin Pagoda temporary relief camp, Kyauktaw town were provided with Ks 3,000 each totaling Ks 1.23 million, 125 bags of rice, 2 cans of cooking oil, school stationary, kitchen utensils and clothes.

In the afternoon, 198 persons staying in township sasana beikman temporary relief camps were provided with Ks 3,000 each totaling Ks 594,000, 65 bags of rice, 2 cans of cooking oil as well as Ks. 50,000 to four mothers who had recently given birth totaling Ks. 200,000. —Win Min Soe (IPRD) ■

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