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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) meet ethnic Mro people in Aungthabyay Village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State yesterday. **(NEWS ARTICLE ON PAGE 3) PHOTO: MNA**

UN, diplomats' visit to Rakhine postponed

Diplomats request to make the trip on 2 Oct after bad weather

A PLANNED visit by UN agencies and diplomats to northern Rakhine was postponed due to weather following a request from the dean of the Myanmar diplomatic corps yesterday.

The trip will instead be made on Monday, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The decision was made while the diplomats and UN agency members were assembled at Yangon International Airport, where their flight to Sittway was delayed due to bad weather in Rakhine State.

The scheduled flight for the UN officials and the diplomats had already been delayed for two hours before the decision was reached to postpone the trip until 2 October. "We asked all UN officials and diplomats about their desire at the airport after two hours delay behind the departure. We decided to postpone the trip to Monday by majority votes," U Min Thein, Deputy Director-General of the International Organisations and Economic Department. —Myanmar News Agency ■

45 Hindu corpses cremated

THE BODIES OF 45 SLAIN Hindu villagers were cremated in keeping with Hindu custom yesterday afternoon at the base of the mountain west of Ye Baw Kya village, near where they were found in mass graves.

Twenty-eight corpses of Hindus allegedly killed by ARSA extremist terrorists were discovered in two pit located 1,500 meters to the north-west of Ye Baw Kya village. Seventeen more bodies were found in another mass grave 200 meters away.

Present at the cremation ceremony were local auhorities, 77 relatives, 40 Mro ethnic people and 30 Rakhine ethnics.

"The cremation was made at the request of the relatives of the victims, and it is not related to the cancellation of the UN officials' and diplomats' trip to northern Rakhine. The trip was arranged before the discovery of the bodies of Hindus," said Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Meanwhile, the government is working through diplomatic channels to bring back eight Hindus women and children who were abducted by terrorists to Bangladesh.

"We will carry out the National Verification Process with added momentum soon for those who wish to return Rakhine," said the Union Minister. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with Danish ambassador, WFP and World Bank Country Director separately

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye received Denmark Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen on Wednesday in Maykhalar Hall of the ministry.

Matters relating to implementing works in Rakhine State, conducting widespread educational work on the national verification process, the process of resettling displaced persons to their places of origin, providing security for Rakhine State, international assistance in implementing suggestions of the advisory commission, UN/INGO cooperation to provide assistance and assistance provided by ASEAN countries were discussed.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye meets with Danish Ambassador Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen at the Ministry's Office. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

The Union Minister said returning persons will be processed systematically using the National Verification Process and in accord with the 1993 Myanmar-Bangladesh bilateral agreement. Education, health, electric power and transportation will be given priority, socio-economic development programmes are being undertaken, lists of terrorists are being sent to relevant countries and organisations, and assistance in spreading true news were also discussed.

Next, the Union Minister received World Food Programme (WFP) Country Director and Representative Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Dom Scalpelli. The Country Director discussed WFP works in central Rakhine State and expressed hopes of expansion into northern Rakhine State, working together with the government in implementing social protection works, and finding ways to work together with the Red Cross Movement to conduct humanitarian assistance works and assistance provided by ASEAN countries. The Union Minister said the government is emphasising Rakhine State affairs and is providing effective humanitarian assistance in places where it is required.

The Union Minister then received World Bank's country director for Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR Ms. Ellen Goldstein. Ms. Goldstein said children and mothers having adequate nutrition are important and would like to work together with the ministry in implementing nutritional matters. The Union Minister said the government is putting its efforts for the establishment of a society that has basic human rights, in accord with democratic norms and with full human dignity and would like to know details about World Bank's nutritional projects. The government would like to give priority to works in under-developed Naga, Chin and Rakhine regions. Nutritional works are an important part of the government's social protection strategy and would like to increase works in health, education, nutrition, personal hygiene and family-related projects. The Union Minister explained about the terrorist attacks in Rakhine State, international assistance on Rakhine affairs, beginning the receiving works of displaced people and cooperation with Bangladesh.
—Myanmar News Agency ■

11th World Rabies Day ceremony

THE 11th World Rabies Day ceremony organised by the Ministry for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department was held yesterday morning at the meeting hall of ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the ceremony, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw delivered an opening speech about rabies being known by all as one of the main diseases of animal origin transmitted to human, but despite it being easily preventable and controllable, for many reasons there is one human fatality from this disease every fifteen minutes in the world and annually there are about 55,000 to 70,000 fatalities from rabies, according to a statement from the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Veterinary doctor giving vaccination injection to dog at 11th World Rabies Day ceremony. **PHOTO: MNA**

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) are attempting to prevent rabies under the concept of "One World, One Health" and with the assistance of technical experts from international organisations such as the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department have drawn up a strategic framework to control rabies, said the Deputy Minister.

The Myanmar Veterinary Association and the Department of Public Health then explained how to controlling rabies and the role of Myanmar veterinarians.

Dr. Min Thein Maw, Deputy Director of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department then spoke of the work done on controlling and preventing rabies. The heads of Lewe and NyaungU townships Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr. Aung Soe Moe and Dr. Tun Tun Oo explained the status of setting up pilot areas to control rabies in Lewe and NyaungU townships. Myanmar is among 150 countries where rabies occurs and is considered a "rabies commutable risk country", where there were about half a million victims of dog bites and a thousand fatalities from rabies according to data from WHO. The theme of the 11th World Rabies Day is "Rabies: Zero by 30" it is learnt.
—Myanmar News Agency ■

UEC rejects by-election complaint in Pyithu Hluttaw race

The Union Election Commission accepted a 2017 by-election electoral complaint case number 2017/6 filed by Pyithu Hluttaw Representative candidate Dr. Win Myint Aung (Union Solidarity and Development Party) who contested the results of the Sagaing Region Monywa Township Constituency race that saw Representative U Nyunt Aung (National League for Democracy) elected to the Pyithu Hluttaw.

The UEC Tribunal 2, made up of UEC member U Hla Tint as Chairman with U Mya Win and U Win Swe as members, heard the case and gave a decision (order) confirming the election of U Nyunt Aung as Pyithu Hluttaw Representative of Sagaing Region Monywa Township constituency and rejected the complaint of Dr. Win Myint Aung and ordered Dr. Win Myint Aung to pay a court fee of Ks100,000.
—Myanmar News Agency ■

Vice President U Myint Swe attends meeting to organize Kahtina ceremony

THE organizing committee for the Union of Myanmar KahtinaThingan (robe) offering ceremony, or Kahtina ceremony, met yesterday morning in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw with steering committee patron and Vice President U Myint Swe in attendance.

The Vice President said the day's meeting was held to ensure the successful holding of the 7th Kahtina ceremony led by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the meeting for Kathina ceremony in the hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

The President's office had issued Notice No. 78/2017 on 22 September to form the organizing steering committee and sub-committees for the 7th Kahtina ceremony. In order to complete the tasks systematically, 11 sub-committees have been formed.

As the Kahtina ceremony is an annual, government-level ceremony, arrangements must be made to conduct the ceremony systematically. Based on the experience of the related committee members and departmental officials and works to be done by committees, sub-committees need to be coordinated and systematically managed. The ceremony will be held at Sasana Beikmantaw in the compound of Uppatasanti Pagoda and all arrangements for the Sayadaws attending the ceremony will have to be made jointly by the relevant committees. Discussions and suggestions are also invited for the successful holding of the ceremony, added the Vice President.

Kahtina ceremony organizing steering committee Chairman Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko explained yesterday about the forming of sub-committees, arrangements made for the sanghas, coordination with other ministries and arrangements made for the successful holding of the ceremony.

Next, ceremony organizing steering committee member and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung gave a briefing aboutthe work of the various sub-committees.

Those attending the meeting discussed and provided suggestions and the meeting was concluded after the Vice President delivered a closing speech.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Soe, Dr Tun Naing, U Maung Maung Win, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Maung Maung, Permanent Secretaries, departmental heads, sub-committee chairmen and officials. — Myanmar News Agency ■

MNHRC members meet two societies

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) team led by MNHRC member U Yu Lwin Aung met with ethnic Mro national Ma Oo Khin of Runkhazedi village, Aungthabyay village tract, yesterday morning in Maungtaw District General Administrative Department meeting hall to learn details of her experience and provided assistance. During the recent terrorist attacks, Ma Oo Khin was attacked without any reason with machete by ARAS extremist terrorist and was hospitalized for the wounds she received and was recently discharged from the hospital.

Ma Oo Khin's two years old child was killed in the attack while she was severely wounded and was treated in Buthidaung Hospital. After this meeting, MNHRC members accompanied by Maungtaw District General Administrative Department head U Ye Htut went to a beach near Alethankyaw village, southern Maungtaw region and met with Bengalis from Duothema and Pyinetaung village tracts who were leaving to Bangladesh on their own accord.

MNHRC members present cash assistance to a villager in Maungtaw Region, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD**

MNHRC members explained to them of the government providing aids to both societies, security and stability measures for the region conducted by the government, asked them to return to their homes, work and live peacefully and explained further on how the difficulties will be resolved together. The Bengalis from Duothema and Pyinetaung village tracts numbering 800 on the beach near Alethankyaw village wanted to leave for Bangladesh.—Min Thit ■

Department of Social Welfare provides aids to displaced people

DEPARTMENT of Social Welfare, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided aids to displaced people in temporary rescue camps in Sittway Township yesterday.

Department of Social Welfare went and provided Ks360, 000 to 18 pregnant women, Ks680, 000 to 68 children aged under 2, Ks940, 000 to 47 elder people aged 60 over, Ks 600,000 to 30 disabled people, Ks50, 000 to a patient under treatment, Ks200, 000 to two feeble people in the temporary rescue camps of Zay Ya Wati monastery, Aung Myay Gone monastery, Yadana Beikman monastery, Thana Yaung Gyi monastery and Danya Wati playground in Sittway Township.

Psychological encouragements were also given to the children in the rescue camps and amusement places for them were also created. —Win Min Soe (IPRD) ■

Healing the Country, Moving Forward in Peace, Justice and Reconciliation

Following the excerpts from the Statement By Cardinal Charles Maung Bo.

THE recent sad tragic events in our country affecting thousands of Muslims, Rakhines, Hindus and others have brought the concerned attention of the world.

We feel with great compassion at the flight of thousands of Muslims, Hindus, Rakhine, Mro and many others who were scattered, especially the children. This is a tragedy that should not have happened.

As Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has expressed her concern over all forms of violence in her recent speech, we strongly advocate that aggressive responses without any embedded long-term peaceful policies would be counterproductive.

Much has been said by the western media on the role of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Many feel that the sentiments and principles she expressed so strongly in her latest address should have come earlier. But to lay all blame on her, stigmatising her response is a very counterproductive measure.

Her assurance in her speech about rights in Rakhine state, the return of refugees and development of the state is to be welcomed. Those who have lived in this country for a long time need justice and the Kofi Annan Commission took a step in the right direction in suggesting constructive measures. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has formed a working committee to implement the recommendations of the Kofi Annan Commission. These are positive initiatives that need the appreciation and collaboration of all stakeholders and the international community.

All of us need to move from a wounded past towards a healing future.

Let the lessons of the past enlighten our future. Peace based on justice is possible. Peace is the only way. ■

We will perform our duties in accord with the law, putting the rule of law forward: Dr Win Myat Aye

Following is the interview with Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye

Ye Khaung Nyut

Q. Let me know how measures will be made for the villages which were burnt down in Maungtaw region.

A. This is concerned with rehabilitation. And, there used to be the law that the government has the authority to rehabilitate in places which were burnt down. But we had consulted with the Union Attorney General Office, directly concerned with laws, assuming that we need to implement in accord with the law. So, we have had their legal advice. For the time being, Natural Disaster Management Law, 2013 complies with the situations on the ground. And we have had rules and regulations, 2015. There, it implies with the definition of the wording—disaster. Accordingly, we will proceed according to that law.

Q. What else do you want to add concerning Rakhine State Affair.?

A. The affairs happening in Rakhine State started from many years ago. Since the time taking office, the incumbent government repeatedly says that it will prioritize bringing about the internal peace and affairs of the national people.

Union Minster for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye.

Places to be prioritized depending upon the least developed regions, among the regions where ethnic people are living, were chosen. They are Chin State and Rakhine State. Being full of conflicts in the region, Rakhine State was prioritized. Next time we will continue to perform in Chin State. Just at the time the new government started to take the office, the State Counsellor herself formed a committee for peace, stability and development of Rakhine State.

Afterward, the advisory committee on Rakhine State led by Mr Kofi Annan was formed, with a view to be able to implement in the long term. And again, due to the events which took place on 9 October 2016, Maungtaw Region Investigation Committee led by Vice-President U Myint Swe.

If we implement the recommendations of those commissions, there will be beneficial for the region in the long run. We will effectively perform for the benefit of the people.

Now we are performing concerning Rakhine State, with genuine heartfelt minds.

We are trying our best for the regional development in every way. So we would like to say that people need to cooperate.

We will perform our duties in accord with the law, putting the rule of law forward. So, it is of great importance to take part in peace and stability. ■

Swift action taken against lawbreakers after extremist terrorist attacks

MAINTAINING stability and rule of law became the top priorities in northern Rakhine State after the extremist terrorist attacks of 25 August that were allegedly perpetrated by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), officials said.

Immediately after the attacks, law enforcement measures were conducted and legal actions were taken against those who broke laws that included looting and arson, officials said.

On receiving news of some people looting and burning villages that were deserted after villagers were displaced, the head of Maungtaw district and Yathedaung Township General Administrative Department instituted a curfew according to section 144 and prohibited people from entering restricted areas.

An investigation was conducted to find those who had burnt down two houses in Pabe North Village, Maungtaw Township and a case was opened at Alethankyaw area police station.

On the afternoon of 13 September, security personnel were conducting law enforcement measures in Thatkepyin Village when they found Saw Thein Maung and one other man acting suspiciously. Upon investigation, they were found to be in possession of fish/prawn and nets from fish/prawn ponds near the village. They were investigated and a case was opened against them in Pyinphyu area police station.

On 15 September afternoon, security personnel received news of a fire in Nyaungchaung Village tract, Maungtaw Township. Upon inspection, 60 houses in Nyaungchaung Village and 100 houses in Pantawpyin Village with an estimated value of about Ks3.2 million were found burnt and a case was opened in Magyichaung area police station. The investigation is underway to apprehend the perpetrators.

On the afternoon of 16 September, security personnel inspected Pabe North Village, Maungtaw Township upon receiving a report of a fire burning and found 15 houses with an estimated value of about Ks1.5 million being burnt down.

A case was opened in Alethankyaw area police station and an investigation is underway to apprehend the offenders.

Arson attacks also occurred in Ywathit K ward, Kalaba Village and Dipara Village in Maungtaw town and cases were opened in Maungtaw police station. Investigations are ongoing.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar Inter-Faith group reacts to State Counsellor's speech

IN reaction to the national speech by the State Counsellor on 19 September, the Myanmar Interfaith Friendship and Unity Group released a statement on Wednesday.

The following is the full text of the statement.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor, clarified the government's efforts to hinder terrorist attacks which happened in Rakhine State and to bring about peace, stability and harmony in Rakhine State, in explaining to the diplomats on September 19. In doing so, the State Counsellor said that the government felt great sorrow for those who suffered in the attacks of extremist terrorists, denouncing violations of human rights and terrorism that are against the law. Simultaneously, the State Counsellor asserted that those who violated the law would have legal action taken against them. She also disclosed that she would not like the country to be split into pieces due to different races, religions and political beliefs, urging the whole populace to collectively cooperate in building up a nation where every individual can enjoy equality in unity and move throughout their lives according their faiths standing firmly on their own stance, based on these differences.

We, the Myanmar Interfaith Friendship and Unity Group, felt great sorrow for innocent people who were killed by terrorists in Rakhine State, together with the bereaved families, concurrently feeling sadness for all the displaced people. Similarly, MIFUG strongly denounces the ARSA extremist terrorist group which committed the terrorist attacks. No religion would ever allow such terrorist attacks, which cause the depredation of the public. We deeply assume that their actions are not concerned with religion.

MIFUG wholeheartedly welcomes and supports the national address made by the State Counsellor and the Government's effort to bring about the national reconciliation and peace process, pledging to actively participate from the corner to which we are assigned. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Authorities promise to provide food, security to Muslim villagers in Buthidaung

LOCAL authorities negotiated a group of Muslim villagers who were on their way to Bangladesh on 27th September, pledging to provide food and security to them if they wish to stay in their villages.

The villagers from three Muslim villages in Buthidaung Township told the authorities that they fled their villagers as the region is unstable and the villagers from their neighbour villagers also fled to Bangladesh to live together with their same nationalities.

They are also facing challenges for their livelihood at their villagers and feeling that they are insecure from dangers, said the villagers.

The authorities also promised to take actions against any threats to them and offered to provide transportation to them to return their villagers. — Myanmar News Agency ■

We invite unbiased views and objective help for peace

Khin Maung Oo

GENERALLY, we would like to say that the UN and its agencies are the ones which negotiate and settle disputes after assessing conflicts, difficulties and global problems objectively. It is therefore a great disappointment to have seen some agencies saying things with one-sided views, by wearing green glasses.

We must conclude that organisations such as human rights organisations and institutions for refugees writing and shouting in a one-sided manner on behalf of refugee affairs and human rights do not represent the view of the people of the world. So, I wish to make a very serious statement that they should view and criticise objectively before they criticise an individual, a country or an organisation because of the fact that they are intergovernmental organisations.

What the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said to foreign-based news media after meeting with refugees at the refugee camps along the Bangladesh border recently are very biased statements.

He said to the effect that the exodus of people into Bangladesh has reached the highest stage of emergency and that these people needed protection from the international community and that violence against them by the Myanmar security forces should stop immediately.

The high-ranking official's sayings are excessively one-sided, biased views made with a view to focus attention on the plight of one community while totally ignoring the sufferings of other victims of the extremist terrorists. In fact he has turned the whole situation upside down by failing to mention why these tragic events really started in the first place. Without analysing the cause and effect objectively, he has portrayed the whole situation as though it was the Myanmar security forces who initiated violence on the Muslim community without any reason.

The fact of the matter is that the Myanmar security forces were responding to the terrorist attacks by the ARSA extremist terrorists who attacked the border police outposts on 25th August this year. We are still unclear why the exodus started.

All over the world, there are lots and lots of real refugees and so-called ones. In Myanmar as well are many refugees in bordering areas of the country. Yet, the assertion that refugees along the Bangladesh border are the most sorrowful and severely harmed ones out of all refugees seem to be a bit far-fetched, unfair and one-sided.

He made biased claims without disclosing correctly by whose attacks those victims were in great trouble. Presently, they are deliberately neglecting displaced people taking shelter in local refugee camps for fear of their lives.

The mass graves of 45 Hindu villagers are a somber testimony of the atrocities committed by the ARSA terrorists. We strongly oppose the above-said statements. To sum it up, as for the person representing an intergovernmental organisation, we wish to remind him that he should be just and fair, without any bias. ■

The Role of Education in Relation to Peace Building in Myanmar

Maung Mye Moe

MYANMAR'S situation is historical on many accounts and we are trying to have peaceful consolidation of culture and structure. Moreover we are all in good time to set out the foundations for our state and society based on peace, human rights, democracy, social justice and freedom. The Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008) aims at ensuring the right of equality, the right of liberty and the right of justice for every citizen who is responsible for public peace and tranquility and prevalence of law and order. It is believed that schools, universities and education institutions are the most important centres of providing knowledge, cultivating good attitude and introducing practices on democracy, peace education and human rights for peace building of Myanmar.

The National Education Law also aims to set out the fundamental democratic values through education. In Chapter 2 of the National Education Law describes the objectives of national education as follows:-

(a) To train physically, mentally, morally, socially and psychologically well-developed good citizens with critical thinking skills;
(b) To nurture and produce citizens who respect and follow the law by practicing their civics and democratic duties and upholding standards of human rights;
(c) To develop union spirit and to nurture citizens who respect, value, preserve and develop the ethnic groups' languages, literatures, culture, arts, traditions, and historical heritage of all the nationalities and who value and conserve the natural environment and pass these things on to the new generations;

On the 19th September, 2017, State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a historic public speech on Myanmar government's efforts at reconciliation and peace and she said, "Peace and stability was something that we had to achieve after nearly 70 years of internal conflict that started on the day of our independence back in 1948. And development has to be achieved within the context of the first two – nurturing democratic values, establishing peace and stability, and achieving the kind of sustainable development that would be seen as equitable by all our people".

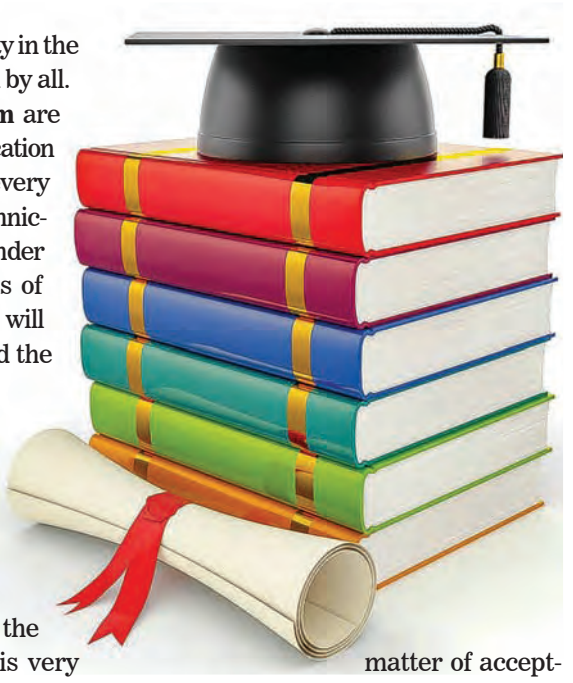
The democratic values stemming from the Constitution, National Education Law and State Counsellor's speech should form the basis of the education system. The fundamental democratic values related to educational implications include democracy, social justice and equity, equality, non-sexism and non-racism, human dignity, open society, accountability, rule of law, respect and reconciliation.

For **democracy**, the education strongly implies the empowerment of population to exercise democratic rights, provision of skills to participate and cultivation of the practice to think critically and act responsibly.

Social justice and equity is very essential to peace and reconciliation. The access to education is the most important resource in addressing poverty – only then will liberty be achieved. Reconciliation requires social justice to address past injustices – education for all is an essential element of social justice.

Equality that represents the inclusiveness of the education takes part as the vital role and it is the access for all to an educational provision that does not discriminate on any grounds. Equality in the treatment of all must be achieved by all.

Non-sexism and non-racism are important to make the right to education becomes a reality for each and every child in Myanmar, regardless of ethnicity, citizen status of the parents, gender and geographic location or levels of income. In this way, the learners will afford the same opportunities and the same degree of security.



For **human dignity,** the education importantly provides mutual understanding and active appreciation of the value of human differences such as racial, cultural, religious, etc.

To develop an **open society**, the involvement of the community is very important and it must be participation rather than observation. As a result, the community will achieve the empowerment to think and act through a culture of dialogues and debates.

Accountability is very important agenda in democracy and all the education stakeholders have to take the power and responsibility for all involved in education and these will include learners, teachers, parents, educators, education managers and the communities.

Rule of law is vital in human society and it must be learned, trained and practiced from the schools, universities and education institutions and they are centres of importance to comprehend and obey the rules within which learners, educators, managers, parents, etc. operate.

Respect is the precondition for communication and teamwork and schools require the training to have mutual respect between all the partners and among the learners.

Reconciliation is very essential practice for all learners and it is a matter of acceptance of all individuals through learning about each other, valuing differences and diversity.

The above fundamental values need to be built in parallel to already functioning schools.

To promote the peace development and democracy practices in schools, there will be two essential works- the development of peace education curriculum and providing training courses to teachers, school principals, staff, interested parents, and other community members in support of the collective effort.

As our country, Myanmar is expecting profound changes from the education sector due to the emergence of the People's Government; all the stakeholders should join hands to make the necessary contributions for the uplift of education sector, including the development of peace education and democracy practices in schools. In doing so, our education can definitely help to build a more inclusive, more tolerant and more peaceful Myanmar in the near future. ■

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin attends 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly and related meetings in New York

MINISTER of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, a member of the Myanmar delegation to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly held in New York City arrived back in Yangon on Wednesday.

While in New York, on 18 September, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs attended a working breakfast meeting on "The Role of Enhanced South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Capacity Building in Support of Peace Building" organised by Indonesia and Norway at the Permanent Mission of Indonesia and shared the experience of Myanmar in its efforts in national reconciliation and peace process.

On 19 September, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs attended the high-level event "Towards Implementation of the International Decade of Action 'Water for Sustainable Development' 2018-2028". Afterwards, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs deposited the instruments of ratification on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and acceptance of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to the Chief of the Treaty Section of the United Nations.

On 20 September, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs met with Mr. Mark Field, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office of Britain and exchanged views on the true situation of northern Rakhine State. On 21 September, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs met with Mrs. Maria Angela Holguin Cuellar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia to discuss matters of bilateral cooperation and signed the Memorandum on Political Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia. Afterwards, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs attended the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin presents the instruments of ratification on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and acceptance of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to the Chief of the Treaty Section of the United Nations. **PHOTO: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

On 22 September, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs met separately with Mr. Anders Samuelsen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Mrs. Annika Soder, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, and Mr. Jean-Christophe Belliard, Deputy Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the European External Action Service of the European Union and exchanged views on the ground situation in northern Rakhine State.

On 23 September, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs met with ASEAN Foreign Ministers in an informal setting. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs apprised the ASEAN Ministers of the true situation in the northern Rakhine State, the progress on implementation of the recommendations made by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State by forming a Ministerial level Committee and the Government's efforts for humanitarian assistance to the displaced communities. At the informal meeting, ASEAN Foreign Ministers also discussed possible ways to support Myanmar in its humanitarian assistance programme.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs also attended the launching event of the ASEAN My World Survey organized by UNDP and ASEAN at the United Nations Headquarters together with the ASEAN Foreign Minsiters and the UNDP Adninistraor Mr. Achim Steiner.

In the afternoon, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the 72nd United Nations General Assembly. At the meeting, under the agenda of counter-terrorism, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs apprised the meeting of the terrorist attacks in the northern Rakhine State, the displacement and suffering of Rakhine people and other minority ethnic people and the Government's plan of action to address the Rakhine issue. In the evening, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Dinner hosted by Mr. Alan Peter Cayetano, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Philippines.

At the end of the dinner, the ASEAN Chair's Statement on the humanitarian situation in Rakhine State was issued acknowledging that the situation in Rakhine State was a complex inter-community issue with deep historical roots. It was also agreed to support Myanmar's humanitarian relief programme and to work together with the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA) with the Myanmar Government-led mechanism.

On 25 September, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs received Ms. Debra Eisenman, Executive Director of Asia Society Policy Institute at the Office of the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations and briefed on the Government's efforts on democratic transition, national reconciliation and peace and true situation in Rakhine State.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs also held a coordination meeting with Myanmar delegates attending the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly and discussed on the agendas before the Main Committees of the General Assembly.
—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Snub-nosed monkeys of Myanmar face extinction

Of the three species of snub-nosed monkey (Rhinopithecus stryken) native to Myanmar -- the white eyebrow eastern monkey, the white eyebrow western monkey and the white hand monkey -- the first is considered a vulnerable species while the last two are an endangered species, according to the Wildlife Conservation Society (Myanmar).

Experts have said if these monkeys are not protected, they will become extinct within 50 years. In an effort to prevent this, the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division of the Forest Department, together with the Wildlife Conservation Society (Myanmar) are conducting conservation and research on monkeys in the Mahamyaing, Hukawng Valley, Tamanthi and Ponkanrazi wildlife reserve areas, it is learnt. U Hla Naing of the Wildlife Conservation Society (Myanmar) said these monkeys are an important part of the ecosystem "Monkeys eat ripe fruit and excrete or spit out seeds that they cannot eat or digest. Because of this, plants grow more easily and thus monkeys were considered planters of natural forests", said U Hla Naing.

"Monkeys were hunted aggressively while also facing the danger of a shrinking habitat. They lived in groups and there are usually three or four in a group. As they are becoming endangered and vulnerable and facing extinction, systematic conservation works need to be done. We will continue to conduct conservation education works."

The Myanmar snub-nosed monkey lives only in the remote high forests of northeast Myanmar and across the border in China's Gaoligong Mountain Natural Preserve. There are as few as 260 to 330 left in the wild, according to conservationists.—Shin Min ■

An endangered species of snub-nosed monkey. **PHOTO: WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY (MYANMAR)**