STATE COUNSELLOR TO VISIT BRUNEI DARUSSALAM P-6 (NATIONAL)

NATIONAL
President receives General Ngo Xuan Lich and party
PAGE-3

NATIONAL
State Counsellor meets with President and VC of University of Hong Kong
PAGE-6

NATIONAL
Authorities meet 10000 Muslims from Buthidaung at border as villagers plan to go to Bangladesh
PAGE-6

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 169, 13th Waxing of Thadingyut 1379 ME www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com Tuesday, 3 October 2017

President calls for increasing budget, investment to achieve 7 per cent growth target of GDP

TO achieve its 7 per cent growth target of GDP in FY 2017-2018, the government must work for increasing national budget and boosting local and foreign investment, said President U Htin Kyaw at the meeting 3/2017 of the Financial Commission in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, the president said in his capacity as the chairman of the commission that World Bank estimated Myanmar's economic growth rate at 7 per cent, IMF at 7.5 per cent and ADB at 8.3 per cent respectively.

Present at the meeting were President U Htin Kyaw, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice-Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Union Minister U Kyaw Win, secretary of the commission members—Union Attorney General, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and Chief Ministers of Regions and States.

At the meeting President U Htin Kyaw said, "Today's meeting is to approve the demand for additional grants of the Union, Regions and States for FY 2017-2018, and to send for the approval to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

SEE PAGE-3

President U Htin Kyaw.

in Picture

Protestors denounce foreign interference, bias media over N-Rakhine issue

Protestors hold placards denouncing some western countries' interference in and international media's bias coverage on Rakhine State issue during the demonstration organized by Myanmar Political Watchers in downtown Yangon, on 2nd October, 2017. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR** (NEWS ON PAGE 2)

Union Minister holds talks with Bangladeshi FM over Northern Rakhine issue

At the invitation of H.E. Mr. Abdul Hassan Mahmood Ali, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, the Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, U Kyaw Tint Swe visited Dhaka, Bangladesh from 1 to 3 October 2017, accompanied by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Kyaw Zeya.

During his visit, the Union Minister called on H.E. Mr. Abdul Hassan Mahmood Ali, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, on 2 October 2017.

The two Ministers exchanged views on how to resolve the issue of residents from the Rakhine State who have recently crossed over to Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE-9

KBZ BANK
STRENGTH OF MYANMAR
BEST BANK IN MYANMAR
Awarded by EUROMONEY 2017

Diplomats visit three different areas in N-Rakhine

Diplomats and representatives of UN agencies visited conflict areas in northern Rakhine State, terrorists attacked dozens of police outposts and civilians on 25th August, led to an exodus of local people from all communities.

Divided into three groups, the diplomats and the UN's representatives visited three different areas in Maungtaw and Yathedaung townships meeting with people from Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist communities.

During the diplomatic trip, they asked the people from all communities about current challenges for livelihood, education and health.

At the Maungtaw District General Administration Department, they also met with relatives of victims of the Rakhine, Mro, Thet and Daing Net ethnic villagers and Hindu villagers who were killed by ARSA terrorists.

The villages they visited yesterday are Anaukpyin Village, Shwelaungtin Village in Yathedaung Township, Narollah Village, Pantawpyin, Shwezar Village, Khondaing Village, Kamaungseik Village, Ngakhuya Village in Maungtaw Township.

Following the trip, the diplomats issued a statement, reiterating their condemnation of the ARSA attacks of 25 August and their deep concern about violence and mass displacement.

The statement also called for unimpeded humanitarian access and allowing journalists to all parts of Rakhine again.

Diplomats and UN agencies representatives meet with villagers in northern Rakhine on 2 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

"We call once more for unimpeded humanitarian access to northern Rakhine and resumption of life-saving services without discrimination throughout the state. We welcome the media access that has already been allowed but call once more for journalists to be allowed full, unimpeded access to all parts of Rakhine," said the statement.

"As friends of Myanmar we remain ready to work with the Myanmar Government to help Rakhine reach its potential.

The Advisory Commission on Rakhine State has set out recommendations for a stable, peaceful and prosperous future for all communities in the state, irrespective of ethnicity, religion or citizenship statue. We support full implementation of the report," said the statement.

The ambassadors who all took part in the trip to northern Rakhine are from Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Indonesia, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, the United States, the European Union, Germany and Spain and Head of the Swedish Section Office, Deputy Head of Mission of the United Kingdom and Deputy Head of Mission of Finland while representatives from UNRC, UNHCR, WFP, World Bank (Myanmar) and UNODC.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Diplomats and UN agencies representatives meet with villagers in northern Rakhine on 2 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

Protestors denounce foreign interference, bias media over N-Rakhine issue

By Zaw Gyi

PEOPLE staged a peaceful protest in downtown Yangon yesterday, denouncing some western countries' interference and international media's turning a blind eyes and deaf ears to true situation in northern Rakhine issue.

The demonstration led by Myanmar Political Watchers was held to denounce the attack on the country's sovereignty and for putting pressure while neglecting the truth.

The protestors held placards and shout "Myanmar is seen to be accused internationally in varieties of ways. False accusation of Myanmar conducting genocide put made up to the Security Council.

Protestors demonstrating in front of Yangon City Hall near Maha Bandula Park. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT (MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)**

Rakhine State issue is an internal matter and is a problem caused by illegal immigrants. But it is seen to be described as an international affair. There are medias that are describing this affair in a biased one sided way," said Daw Khine Khine Hsu, a protestor.

She added that "Those who die in the Rakhine affair include Hindus, Ethnic nationals like Mro and Daingnet are also included. In fact Myanmar is being ethnically cleansed. If international media value human rights, they need to stand on the side of the truth. If they are concerned for humanitarian matter, look at the ethnic Rakhines and Hindus."

U Myo Maung Maung Soe who participated in the demonstration said "Foreign countries should know the news as we heard. Some contain the truth but some have fake news. We are doing this (demonstration) as our country will be affected adversely if big foreign countries pressure our country based on the covered up news of the international media."

Veteran journalist U Thiha Saw responded to Myanmar News Agency's query saying that local media should also use journalistic techniques to discover the truth and to release them to the world timely in attempts to refute the wrong information of the international media.

"Purposely biased international media are feeding incomplete information on Myanmar's issue and strengthening terrorism," read a letter on the placard. ■

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong Professor Peter Mathieson in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 October 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor meets with President and VC of University of Hong Kong

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong Professor Peter Mathieson along with his wife Dr Christina Mathieson and Vice President and Pro-Vice Chancellor Ian Holliday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw on 02:00 pm.

During the meeting, they discussed about educational cooperation between the Ministry of Education and Hong Kong University, contribution upon vocational trainings and other educational sectors and suggestions for the improvement of educational teaching system in Myanmar especially for elementary level.—Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor to visit Brunei Darussalam

At the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzadin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will pay a visit to Brunei Darussalam to attend the Golden Jubilee Celebration of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam in the near future.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar's population reaches more than 53 m on 1 October 2017

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population annually produces estimated population of Myanmar on 1 October based on census data in order that the Government and departmental organisations can draw up national policy and projects.

Myanmar population estimate as of 1 October 2017 based on 2014 census of population and households is learnt to be 53.39 million.

State and region population estimate as of 1 October 2017 published by Population Department is learnt to be as follow. Kachin State, male (951,238) female (878,611) total 1,829,849); Kayah State, male (154,330) female (155,883) total (310,213); Kayin State, male (779,398), female (813,655), total (1,593,053); Chin State, male (243,326) female (265,033) total (508,359); Sagaing Region, male (2,590,664) female (2,900,506) total (5,491,170), Taninthayi Region, male (724536) female (735417) total (14599532); Bago Region, male (2,336,464) female (2,582,357) total (4,918,821); Magway Region, male (1,814,230) female (2,127,009) total (3,941,239); Mandalay Region, male (3,021,814) female (3,367,577) total (6,389,391), Mon State, male (955,744) female (1,055,683) total (2,011,427); Rakhine State, male (1,572,956) female (1,727,083) total (3,300,039); Yangon Region, male (3,769,778) female (4,166,859) total (7,936,637); Shan State, male (3,087,257) female (3,101,432) total (6,188,689); Ayeyawady Region, male (3,045,040) female (3,226,030) total (6,271,070); Nay Pyi Taw Council area, male (601,072), female (636,966) total (1,238,038); total in Myanmar is male (25,647,847) female (27,740,101) grand total (53,387,948).—Myanmar News Agency

Authorities meet 10000 Muslims from Buthidaung at border as villagers plan to go to Bangladesh

Border guard police talk to Muslims gathering at the border. **PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

MUSLIMS from the villages in Buthidaung Township gathered at the border area to emigrate from Myanmar to Bangladesh on various reasons. Starting from 26 September, they left their region, claiming that they found it difficult to earn their living there and they felt insecure for remaining to live in their villages because they were now living in the sparsely populated area as most of their relatives had presently been in Bangladesh. And they said that their fellow Muslims of same extraction in Bangladesh made a contact to join them, and they left their villages for Bangladesh.

Upon receipt of the information that Muslims who would emigrate from Buthidaung to Bangladesh arrived between Thinbawhla and Tharyargone villages, administrative committee members and security forces who are working for rule of law in Maungtaw District went there to meet the Bengalis at 11 am on 1 October.

After having known about their claim, the district administrator explained to them that every individual from both sides living in the area with difficulties for their livelihood has been being provided with 4 items of rice, cooking oil, salt and pea, regardless of race and religion.

And he added that authorities are making efforts for peace and stability of the region for the whole populace to be able to live in peace, and authorities concerned would cooperate with them if they found it difficult for living.

They replied that they have been well convinced of the situations of the authorities' efforts but they would like to go there, of their own accord.

It has been learnt that 168 Muslims from Gutarpyin village in Buthidaung township reached nearby Ywathitkay on 26 September, with 255 Muslims from Shwehtar and Zinkharma villages, 281 Muslims from Taungchaung and Pauktaw villages, 200 Muslims from Theintaungpyin and Karli villages, 35 Muslims from Duohthema village arriving at the beach nearby Layyinkwin village on 27 September. On 28 September, 895 Muslims from Taungchaung, Zinkharma, Boli and Ngwe Taung villages arrived at the beach nearby Layyinkwin village, with 530 Muslims from Gutarpyin village arriving between Panyaungpingyi and border fence.

Now, more some 10000 Muslims are arriving at the western grove between Letphwekya and Kwunthipin villages, to emigrate to the neighboring country, according to local authorities.—Myanmar News Agency

Rice delivered to villagers in northern Rakhine

Deputy Speaker U Aye Thar Aung provides rice and cash assistance to displaced people in a village in northern Rakhine. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Aye Tha Aung, the Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw and donors accompanied by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement went to ethnic national and Hindu villagers remaining in their villages and donated rice bags and cash assistance yesterday.

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and donors went to Laungdon, Kyeinchaung, Yan Aung Myin (Na Ta La), Thatkinenya, Yenaug Ngathar, Tamanthaa, Minkhamaung, Aungthabyay and Indula (Bandula) village tracts and donated 1,208 rice bags and cash assistance of Ks 100,000 per village.

Similarly, head of Department of Rakhine State, Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Ministry U Kyaw Min and officials also provided ethnic nationals with Ks. 10,000 per household to 1,972 households in 47 villages totaling Ks 19.72 million donated by donors.

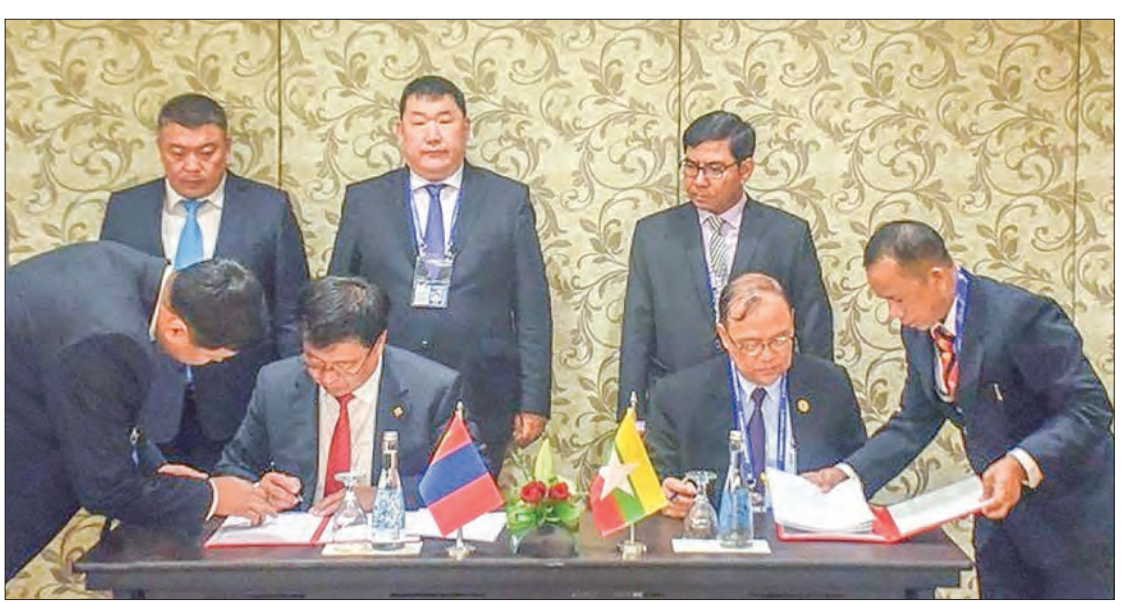
Deputy Speaker U Aye Thar Aung provides rice and cash assistance to ethnic villagers in northern Rakhine. **PHOTO: MNA**

While providing the donations, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung enquired about difficulties faced by ethnic nationals remaining in villages and encouraged them while Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Tun explained about status of setting and implementing long term security, education, economy and health programs with regards to resettling villages.

Next, Rakhine Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Minerals U Kyaw Lwin explained about providing good transportation in order for ethnic nationals to live securely, making arrangements to conduct agricultural works and urge the ethnic nationals to live together in harmony.

U Maung Tun Win, Deputy Head of Rakhine State education department then urged the parents to support and encourage their sons and daughters in education and explained about teachers being called in to continue school education as the region stabilizes.

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and donors will continue to donate rice bags and cash assistances on 3 October to remaining villages where villagers remains without fleeing it is learnt. — Naing Linn Kyi, Thant Zin Win ■



Ulaanbaatar /MONTSAME/ Mongolia has signed agreements on air communication with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Cambodia. **PHOTO: MNA**

Mongolia signs air communication agreements with Myanmar and Cambodia

THE agreements were signed on the sidelines of the 4th ASEM Transport Ministers' Meeting which took place on September 26-28 in Indonesia.

The Acting Minister met with Thant Sin Maung, Minister of Transport of Communications of Myanmar and expressed satisfaction at the development of bilateral relationship.

The Agreement on Air Communication comes after the signing of Mutual Agreement on Visa Exemption for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders in 2013 and Agreement on Cooperation in Tourism in 2015. —Mongolian News Agency ■

Eradication of External Destructive Elements with Our Unity of Strength

Khin Maung Oo

THERE used to be colonization and invasions in the world from the very advent of human history till the end of 20th century. Imperialism which controls or influences other countries with its increasing power of military strength came to an end after the Second World War. In the post-cold war period, the United Nations, international organizations and the Great Powers made efforts for more imperialist wars not to emerge in our planet.

After aligned countries' defeat against imperialist wars of countries in the polar region of the world, surrenders of the polar countries led to the end of the Second World War and made countries under colonial rule liberate. In fact, most of the global countries were under the colonial rule of Polar Countries and the Aligned Ones since the earlier time, thence they gained their Independence through the concerted efforts of their people at the cost of their lives.

At the Post-Second World War, imperialism disappeared, but the UN, international organizations and the Great Powers got involved in dealing with violations of human rights and terrorist attacks, based on power adjustment of the great powers—leftists and rightists and internal conflicts and unrest of small countries. At the present time, the said small nations are nearly losing freedom to govern their countries themselves, that is, their sovereignty, on account of co-existing with super powers and their followers desirous of intervening in other countries' internal affairs.

At the Post-Cold War, there are allusive colonization and interventions emerging in our planet, based on weakness of some countries. It can be vividly seen from dialectical assessment of the events of split countries, and this will be a good example for us to take lessons. After the end of the Second World War, colonization which can consume a country's Independence can be said to have ceased. Yet, we must take notice that there are still capitalism and imperialism which can totally destroy a country.

Colonialism and imperialism are really the same in essence. Capitalists are powerful, wealthy and proud. They never designate anyone as friend or foe, regarding them depending upon their personal benefits, as per their nature. They are not above making friends with foes if it will be fruitful for them, or vice versa. They tend to change their minds and get upset easily.

Having lived under colonial rule for over one hundred years, Myanmar acquired its Independence through concerted efforts of all the nationals living in the country. Throughout 70 years after gaining the Independence, we are still suffering from evil effects of colonial heritage. Now, external interventions and political instigations are being found, based on Myanmar's internal affairs. To sum it up, we firmly believe that the acquired Independence and sovereignty will survive for ever only if the nation will be strengthened, and simultaneously we can eradicate all the foreign interventions we are now experiencing through the unity of strength. ■

The world deserves to know the truth about terrorist attacks in Rakhine

By Thidar
PhD. candidate in Department of International Relations

THE world has long been deceived by the fabricated news and bias analysis on the issue of conflicts in Rakhine. The International community is constantly told the stories which demonize the law enforcers and humanize terror-minded groups. Those fabricated and one-sided stories got more traction as they involved more drama than facts. On the other hand, fact-laden and truthful information has not got the due attention that they deserve.

However, truth can't be hidden forever and truth must prevail.

Well-planned attacks by Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) Extremist Terrorist with the support of the terror-minded Bengali community in Northern Rakhine state give a clear message about their terror-intent and overt pursuit of violence against the endeavours of Myanmar Government and the international community to solve the conflicts in peaceful ways.

Terror-minded groups' intent has become clearer as their planned attacks coincide the launch of report and recommendations by Advisory Commission on Rakhine State led by Mr Kofi Annan and following the announcement of Myanmar Government's commitment to implement the Commission's recommendation on conflict prevention, humanitarian assistance, reconciliation, institution building and development.

International mainstream media's misinformation and disinformation on the issue in Rakhine implicates international community in several ways. Fabricated media did not allow the international community to differentiate the villains from victims and terrorist's propaganda blind international community from seeing the masterminds behind all the conflicts and terror acts. Accordingly, global policy and investments were misplaced on villains fertilizing terror-breeding grounds. Most importantly, the humanitarian and human rights values, which Myanmar shares with international community, are critically undermined as they are abused by terror-minded groups to smoke screen their activities.

Who are villains and who are victims?

International community needs to reassess the information they consume from formal and social media and question who is who in the conflicts, what is the bigger picture and which organizations are behind ARSA Extremist Terrorists.

Recent incidents and ensuing media reports are more revealing of their bias stands. Known Media outlets report exaggerated Bengali exodus to their home country while they fail to report on the trauma and miseries of ethnic Rakhine and Hindu families who were displaced by terrorists' attacks and threats.

Underreported are the ARSA Extremist Terrorists' cruel slaughters of innocent ethnic Rakhine and Hindu civilians in the area. ARSA Extremist Terrorists' brutal attacks left lasting trauma to peace loving ethnic Rakhine and Hindu community. Trembling voices of ethnic Rakhine and Hindu individuals recounting ARSA Extremist Terrorists' killings of their loved ones in front of their own eyes are nightmares to anyone hearing the stories.

ARSA Extremist Terrorists' indiscriminate razing of tens of thousands of dwellings drives their own groups to the other side of the border. Some moderates Bengali are also threatened to make false testimony to media pointing fingers to law enforcers and security personnel for those destructions. For terror-minded groups telling 'lies' and fishing for international sympathy has never been a big deal.

ARSA Extremist Terrorists' cruelty does not end there. They left landmines in affected areas leaving hundreds of innocent civilians entrapped with drying foods staffs. Continuing attacks of ARSA Extremist Terrorists since August 25 has forced local Rakhine and Hindu community to flee their homeland in search of refuge in bigger towns of Rakhine.

One can guess the extent of ordeal suffers by innocent Rakhine and Hindu community, their genuine feelings of insecurity from terror threats by observing their timid response and decline to offers of assistance from international agencies.

This also shows peoples' declining confidence in the global community and their growing doubt on the sincerity of humanitarian actors towards Myanmar people.

Terrorists' manipulation of media did not give chance for the international community to understand the true stories of the incidents and thus seeing the villains as victims and blaming law enforcers for unfounded human right abuse. What is gradually revealed by the continuing incidents and war of words on social and formal media is a big plot of terrorists' shift of theatre to Asia, for which Myanmar security forces have long been suspecting.

SEE PAGE 9

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomes Viet Nam Minister of National Defence

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with Viet Nam Minister of National Defence H.E. General Ngo Xuan Lich in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 October 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomed Viet Nam Minister of National Defence H.E. General Ngo Xuan Lich in front of Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday with a ceremonial guard of honour.

Afterwards Viet Nam Minister of National Defence and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services had a meeting where matters relating to increasing co-operation between the two armed forces, exchanging intelligence news for regional security, preventing and defending against international terrorism, exchanging experiences on border region management through meetings, increasing cooperation between the defence ministries and increasing the momentum of cooperation in communication sector between the two militaries were discussed and views exchanged. — Myanmar News Agency

The world deserves to know the truth about terrorist attacks in Rakhine

FROM PAGE 8

The International community should be asking whether it is prudent to putting pressure on Myanmar government and blaming security forces of the country based on the manipulated media reports.

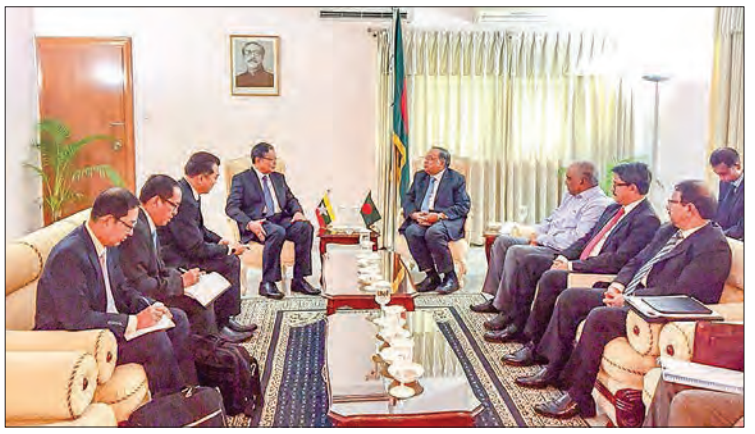
Recent incidents in Rakhine also disclosed some disturbing facts about the world. Well-wishers' humanitarian support materials and foodstuff seized in the terrorists' camps could disappoint tax-payers in well-wishing friends of Myanmar. This indicates international community's investments to alleviate human sufferings were unconsciously misplaced serving for opposing purpose of terrors. These revelations for international community are expensive as they are gained at heavy costs of lives and livelihoods of vulnerable ethnic Rakhine and Hindu people, those in public service, police and security personnel in Myanmar.

Global fight for terrorism needs strong and united Myanmar as a partner of the international community.

Therefore, long misguided policy towards Myanmar needs to be re-evaluated and recalibrated for a collective fight against ARSA Extremist Terrorists and global terror groups. More should be invested to support the country's efforts to clear out the terrorists, to prevent the tendencies of cleavages of ethno-religious groups and to build long term development of all social classes.

International community needs to pay careful attention to their media consumption differentiating facts from fictions. So that, their policies towards Myanmar can be sound, your investments can give strength to peace-lovers and shared values of humanitarian and human rights can be saved from jeopardy and from the hands of terror groups. ■

About the Author Thidar is a PhD. candidate in Department of International Relations, in the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Australian National University.



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe holds talks with Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Mr Abdul Hassan Mahmood Ali. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister holds talks with Bangladeshi FM over Northern Rakhine issue

FROM PAGE-1

The meeting was attended by H.E. Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, Minister of Home Affairs and Senior Officials from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs of Bangladesh.

The Union Minister also reiterated the commitment made by Myanmar's State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 19 September 2017, that Myanmar is ready to begin the verification and repatriation of refugees. It was recalled that in accordance with the agreed criteria set out in the Joint Statement between Foreign Ministers of Myanmar and Bangladesh on 28 April 1992, a total of 236,495 people of 46,993 households had been repatriated from Bangladesh to Myanmar from September 1992 until July 2005.

The Union Minister also referred to the agreement made at the Senior Officials Meeting between Myanmar and Bangladesh held in Yangon on 14 January 2000, in which both sides agreed that, in the case of the repatriation of split families and their left behind family members, this process could be carried out on the presentation of legal documents certified by the Government of Bangladesh. The Union Minister expressed his firm conviction that issues arising between two neighbours can be resolved bilaterally, in an amicable manner, taking into consideration the national interests of both countries.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh reiterated the desire of Bangladesh to maintain the traditional friendship between the two neighbouring countries and expressed its position that ARSA is regarded as a common enemy of both Myanmar and Bangladesh and stressed its policy of Zero Tolerance against terrorism.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Union Minister invited H.E. Abdul Hassan Mahmood Ali to visit Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, with a view to taking forward arrangements with regard to the security of the border, and the verification of those refugees who wish to return to Myanmar according to the criteria agreed to in the Joint Statement of April 1992. The invitation to visit Myanmar was accepted by the Bangladesh Foreign Minister.

Following the meeting, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh hosted a luncheon for the Union Minister, which was also attended by the Bangladesh Home Affairs Minister. The Union Minister, on behalf of the Union Minister for Home Affairs of Myanmar, Lieutenant General Kyaw Swe, handed over a renewed letter of invitation to the Bangladesh Home Affairs Minister to visit Myanmar at an early date for further discussion. The Home Affairs Minister expressed his agreement to visit Myanmar at an early date, and will give the finalised dates when the Prime Minister of Bangladesh returns from the United States.

The discussions were held in a friendly and candid manner.— Myanmar New Agency ■

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

Discovery of ARSA extremist terrorists' hidden IEDs

SECURITY personnel conducting law enforcement measures in Yathedaung and Maungtaw townships in Rakhine State discovered ARSA extremist terrorists' hidden IEDs.

About 11:40 a.m. on 30 September, security personnel conducting law enforcement measures found a suspicious blue color plastic container in a bush about 300 meters west of Ahtetnanya Village, Yathedaung Township. Upon inspection, two IEDs made from a 9 inch long 4 inch diameter pipe and 9 inch long 2 ½ inch diameter was found in the container.

Similarly, on the morning of 1 October, security personnel conducing law enforcement measures dug suspicious loose earth in the compound of a burnt house in Myazin Village, Maungtaw Township and found two yellow color plastic containers containing IEDs hidden underneath rice husks.

In the two plastic containers were two 6 inch long 4 inch diameter IEDs and ten 9 inch long 2 inch diameter IEDs totaling 12 IEDs, four remote controls with the word RE on it and a coil of wire about 125 ft. long. ARSA extremist terrorists were conducting mine attacks and there were 13 attacks before 25 August and 75 attacks after 25 August. — Myanmar News Agency

File photos show IEDs which were found in Myazin Village, Maungtaw Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

WFP and ICRC provide humanitarian aids

A convoy of 10 vehicles carrying 2160 bags of beans weighing 108 tons from WFP, Sittwe arrived at Rakhine State Police Force at 9:25 am on September 30, delivering them to WFP warehouse in Ywagyi south ward in Sittwe at 10:45 am the same day.

Similarly, at 2:30 pm, motor boats carrying WFP provisions and subsidies left Sittwe port for Minpya and Mrauk-U at 2:30 pm, arriving at Aungtine Bengali village in Minpya township, at 7:30 am on October 1. There, 136 rice bags, 8 pea bags, 35 packs of cooking oil, 1 salt bag and 36 nutritious powder bags were given to Jarkey, 100-household-leader, with at 11:20 am 354 rice bags, 23 bean bags, 54 packs of cooking oil, 3 bags of salt, 20 packs of nutritious powder given to Maung Maung Zaw (a) Par du shar, 100-household-leader. At 4:10pm the team arrived at Thayetoat Muslim village, giving out 284 rice bags, 19 pea bags, 44 packs of cooking oil, 3 bags of salt and 67 packs of nutritious powder to Numar, leader of 100 households.

Similarly, commodities from ICRC warehouse nearby Shwemingan Kyaytaw village in Sittwe were carried in 6 motor vehicles to support displaced people in Maungtaw region. Vehicles arrived at Shwe Min Gan port at 4:20 pm. Out of 6 vehicles, goods on 4 cars were carried by vessel with security forces on board leaving for Buthidaung port, it was learnt.

After the events of ARSA extremist terrorists' attacks, provision of humanitarian aids was being carried out in northern Rakhine State under Red Cross Movement. It has been learnt that displaced Rakhine nationals, Muslims, Hindus, Mro and Daingnet are being supported. After August 25 terrorist attacks, humanitarian aids commenced to have been provided as of 27th August.—MNA

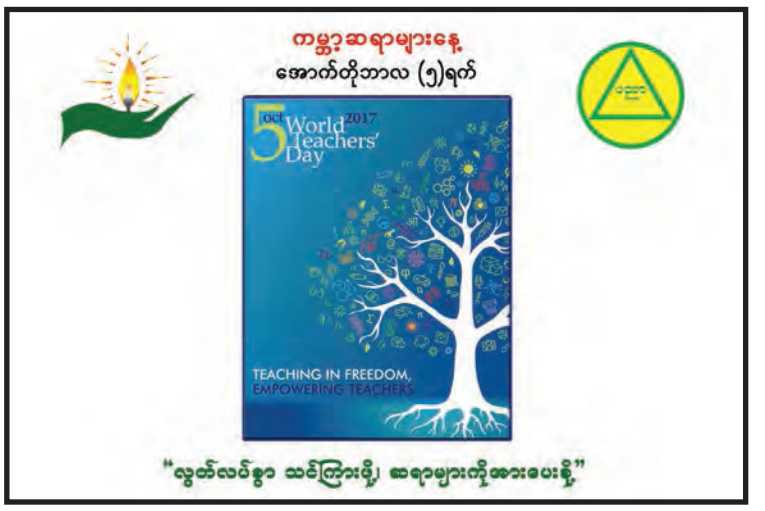
Sugar import wanted banned by sugar mill owners and sugarcane growers

LOCAL sugar manufacturing needs to boost to fulfill local consumption, which has tripled in a decade, according to a report in the City News Daily yesterday.

This year, the individual sugar consumption is over 14 kilogram. Therefore, local sugar manufacturing needs to increase to meet the local demand. Although sugar is used by all small, medium and large foodstuff enterprises in making sweets, juices, cakes, biscuits, coffee mix and also raw industrials, the manufacturing has not increased proportionately to the demand with only 150,000 tons more produced during the past decade. As a result, Myanmar had to import the sugar from aboard because of the mismatch between demand and supply. It has adversely affected the local sugarcane growers and the sugar mill proprietors. Therefore, these businessmen want the government to ban the sugar import and to encourage higher production of sugar locally.

Currently, there are over 500,000 acres put under cultivation of sugar in Myanmar. If the local sugar mill run to the full capacity, we can manufacture 1,000,000 tons of sugar annually, we cannot only meet demand the local demand but also export the sugar.

In fiscal 2006-2007, Myanmar manufactured over 230,000 tons of sugar from both the state-owned and private-owned. In fiscal 2016-2017, Myanmar manufactured over 370,000 tons of sugar with only a surplus of about 150,000 in even a decade.—GNLM



Deepavali National Holiday to fall on 18 October

The Union Government announced yesterday that the Hindu festival of Deepavali, which is also known as Dewali, falls on 18th October and is a public holiday under Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

All Myanmar Hindu Central Board issue statement

ALL Myanmar Hindu Central Board issued a statement on 1 October expressing deep sorrow for ethnic nationals and Hindus killed by ARSA extremist terrorists in Rakhine region and urges to make arrangements to provide security and restore the livelihood of the remaining family members.

The statement said ethnic Rakhine nationals, public servants and some Hindus were killed and wounded by recent ARSA extremist terrorists' atrocities in Rakhine State, Maungtaw region.

The worst incident was the cruel mass killing of Hindu villagers of an entire village and the forced abduction of some Hindus to another country.

ARSA extremist group is strongly condemned for this action and the Hindus in Myanmar share the sorrow of the families of those killed.

The board also stated its willingness to work together with the government in rehabilitating the lives of the remaining families of the massacred victims and to heal the physical and mental scars of remaining families who had seen their family members killed

Some international organisations and media that ignored this terrorist act are also categorically denounced.

Some international media using a new word "Rohingya Hindu" for Hindus is also noted. There is no such word in the history of Hindus in Myanmar and the 10 races shown in Hindu Central Council regulation. This is a new word invented by some people to confuse other countries and that word is requested not to be used.

Hindus who lived peacefully with all religions in Myanmar do not view this act as being done by one religion to another religion. It is viewed as death and misery caused to innocent peoples by terrorism and brothers and sisters of all religions are urged to continue living with loving kindness and without hatred.

Hindus in Myanmar are urged to conduct similar prayer meetings as this present one in their respective towns, cities, temples and groups. All are also urged to say the truth with courage when interviewed by foreign media while remaining loyal and faithful to the country they are living in. As such, in holding the traditional Hindu Deepavali or Diwali festival this year, all are urged to hold it according to their respective tradition by praying and not indulge in exuberant festivities said the statement.— Myanmar News Agency