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Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, centre, in saffron jacket, and UN Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman, centre left, meet with villagers. **PHOTO: MNA**

UN envoy visits northern Rakhine

VILLAGERS from conflict areas in northern Rakhine State voiced their concerns for security, resettlement and job opportunities at a meeting with a UN delegation yesterday.

The UN delegation led by

Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations, toured villages in Yathedaung and Maungdaw townships yesterday to listen to the voices of communities who endured the

terrorist attacks in August and their current challenges.

The delegation, accompanied by Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu, visited the Islamic village of Anaukpyin in Yathedaung Township, Maung-

taw Township's Ngakhuya Village, where Rakhine ethnic people, Hindus and Islamic villagers are living in harmony and the village of Shwe Yin Aye (Na-ta-la).

At the meeting with villag-

ers, Mr. Jeffrey Feltman explained to villagers about his mission, calling on the villagers to disclose their suffering, worries and current challenges due to the deadly terrorist attacks.

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BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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President accepts her credentials from Ms. Riikka Laatu, the newly-accredited Ambassador of Finland to Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Htin Kyaw receives Mr. Kristian Schmidt, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to Myanmar, at Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

President accepts credentials of Ambassadors Finland, EU

H.E. Ms. Riikka Laatu, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to Myanmar, presented her Letter of Credence to U Htin

Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 3pm yesterday. Following the event, H.E.

Mr. Kristian Schmidt, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to Myanmar, presented his Letter of Credence

to President U Htin Kyaw at Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. Present on the occasions were Minister of State

for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and Director-General U Thant Sin of the Protocol Department.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor shakes hands with Mr. Richard Gordon, Chairman of Philippines Red Cross in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives USIP's Senior Advisor Mr. Derek J. Mitchell at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 October 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Red Cross delegation, USIP's Senior Advisor

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received the Red Cross delegation comprising Mr. Richard Gordon, Chairman of Philippines Red Cross, Prof. Dr. Daw Mya Thu, President of Myanmar

Red Cross Society (MRCS), Mr. Xavier Castellanos, Director of Asia Pacific Regional Office (IFRC), Prof. Dr. Tha Hla Shwe, Honorary President (MRCS) and Mr. Joy Singhal, Head of Delegation of IFRC Myanmar Country

Office, on 17 October 2017 at 11:00 hours at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During this meeting, they exchanged views on strengthening cooperation to accelerate the provision of humanitarian assistance to all affected

communities. Following the meeting, the State Counsellor also received Mr. Derek J. Mitchell, Senior Advisor to the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and former U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar on 17 October 2017 at 10:00 hours at

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During this meeting, they exchanged views on recent developments in Rakhine State and possible ways to support Myanmar government's efforts to address the issue.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye delivers the opening speech at the 12th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development in Yangon. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Dr Win Myat Aye attends 12th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development

THE 12th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development and the related ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on social welfare work in the ASEAN Social Community that are meant to strengthen and develop the inter connectivity and assistance of the three communities in the ASEAN Blue Print hosted by Myanmar was held in the Sule Shangri La Hotel yesterday morning, where Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye delivered an opening speech.

In his speech, the Union Minister explained about social welfare works conducted in the country, cooperation between ministerial departments and non-government organisations, cooperation with civil society organisation, region and sector-wise discussions and meetings. Similarly, the Union Minister said the current forum was held with an aim to increase and strengthen cooperation between ASEAN region governments and civil society organisations and establishing projects that

enable region-wise, and country-wise cooperation. The Union Minister added that the current ASEAN meeting was held under the theme “Strengthening Social Protection to Address Challenges of Aging Societies” and governmental departments, civil service societies and development partners are invited to discuss the topic openly and establish social welfare protection work policies for ASEAN countries and share country-wise experiences on implementation.

The forum was attended by 79 officials and representatives of governments and non-governmental organisations from 10 countries in the ASEAN region and the ASEAN Secretariat’s office.

From 18 to 20 October 2017, the 13th ASEAN social welfare and development meeting of senior officials and the 12th ASEAN+3 social welfare and development meeting of senior officials will be held.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Order No. 86/2017

12th Waning of Thadingyut 1379 ME
(17 October 2017)

Establishment of the Committee for the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine

1. In order for the Union Government, the people, the private sector and local NGOs, CSOs, partner nations, UN agencies and INGOs, to implement the projects in all sectors for the development of Rakhine State in cooperation, a Committee for the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine has been established with the following persons.

(a) Daw Aung San Suu Kyi State Counsellor	Chairperson
(b) Dr. Win Myat Aye Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement	Vice-Chairman
(c) Dr. Aung Tun Thet	Chief Coordinator
(d) U Kyaw Myaing	Information and Communication Director

2. Duties of the Committee for the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine are as follows:
 - (a) To carry out the effective provision of humanitarian aid.
 - (b) To coordinate the resettlement and rehabilitation efforts.
 - (c) To carry out regional development and work towards durable peace.
 - (d) As the tasks would be carried out using cash assistance funded not only by the State but also by local and foreign donors, the committee must arrange for its financial accounts to be audited not only by the Union Auditor-General but also by an international audit firm.
3. The Chairperson may form a group of consultants as needed.
4. The Chief Coordinator is to establish the Committee Office and carry out administrative matters with the knowledge and approval of the Chairperson.
5. The administrative affairs of the committee are to be jointly carried out by the Office of the President and the Office of the State Counsellor.

(sd) Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
(Unofficial translation)

Private sector assistance in Rakhine State

IN recognition of the need for development of the economy of Myanmar, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), including all brotherhood associations and entrepreneurs, will be strongly involved in the resettlement of conflict areas and under-developed regions in Rakhine State.

Representing the private sector in the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine, the UMFCCI will help the people to devel-

op skills, said U Zaw Min Win, president of the UMFCCI.

Private sector representatives under conduct of the Government and specified State or Region governments, will first conduct a survey to determine the social, educational and economic requirements and also determine the most effective way for resettlement in Rakhine State. Upon analysing the results of the survey, work projects will be performed with the skills and support of the representatives.

Yangon Region Chief Min-

ister U Phyo Min Thein and representatives from the UMFCCI met at the offices of the UMFCCI on 7 October and negotiated how to implement the work projects, which will prioritise jobs creation, health care services and schools.

The UMFCCI recently urged all Myanmar entrepreneurs and brotherhood associations to provide cash assistance through the Government in order to implement regional development projects in Rakhine State.

Works projects, which were

negotiated in the meeting with the Yangon Chief Minister, will include vocational training, building millers, equipment and machinery required for agricultural development, upgrading of the Sittway port, providing furniture and construction items necessary for schools and health care services centres, assisting the treatment of mental injuries and help on restoring the self-confidence of local women in Rakhine State.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi urged entrepre-

neurs, in her speech of 12 October, to cooperate in bringing about results in practical development to ensure a peaceful and developing Rakhine State.

Previous assistance from the UMFCCI were humanitarian assistance worth over Ks56 million presented to the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on 30 August, Ks30 million to the Yangon Region Chief Minister on 5 September and over Ks52.8 million to the Rakhine State government on 6 September.—Myanmar News Agency ■

UN envoy visits northern Rakhine

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Muslims from Anaukpyin Village expressed their needs for education and health care, security for travelling and communications, agricultural machinery for farming, road infrastructures, rebuilding of houses destroyed in the terrorist attacks, TVs, job opportunities and negotiations for peaceful coexistence with ethnics from neighbouring villages.

At the meeting with the UN delegation, Rakhine ethnic villagers, Hindus and Muslims from Ngakhuya Village expressed their concerns among

the different communities, and their requirements for jobs and national security.

Villagers from Shweyinaye Village (Na-ta-la) shared what they experienced on 25 August, the day of the terrorist attacks, and their current challenges for their livelihoods and security.

Following the visit to villages, the UN delegation met with Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panna Jota and Sayadaws of Alotawpyae Monastery in Sittway, who carried out rescue and relief works soon after the terrorist attacks occurred.

During the visit, they sought advice from the Sayad-

aws for stability, peaceful co-existence and eradication of anxieties of the different communities and regional development.

Before returning to Yangon, the delegation met with religious leaders at Thakkepyin Village.

The delegation also held talks with representatives of Rakhine State government in Sittway before their visit to villages yesterday, discussing how to supply humanitarian aid effectively, repatriation of refugees, resettlement and rehabilitation, regional development and ridding the state of conflict. —GNLM

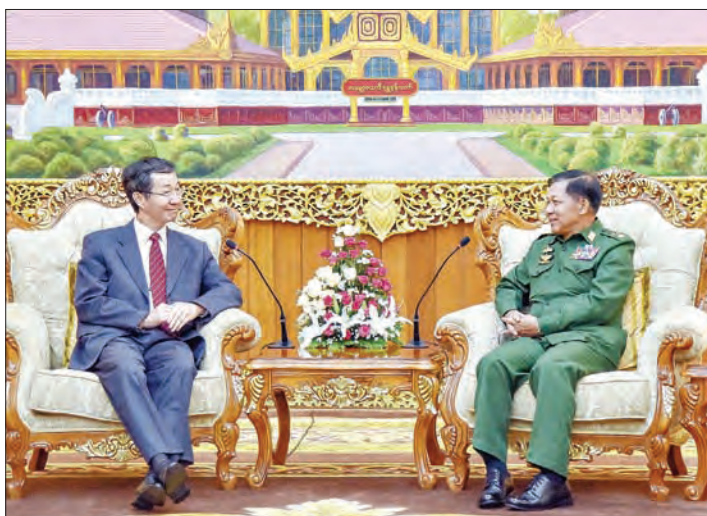
Senior General receives special envoy from China, UN Under Secretary-General

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received H.E. Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China at the Bayintnaung guest room in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, Mr. Sun Guoxiang said that the stance of their government strongly supports the Myanmar peace process and it is believed that there is good potential in the peace process.

He also discussed matters relating to negotiations for peace by closely dealing with the armed groups in northern Myanmar, recommending the Government and Tatmadaw's implementation for the State's independence and sovereignty in Rakhine affairs. Mr. Sun Guoxiang said his country will help by standing as a good neighboring country, promoting bilateral relations and cooperation in addition to closely collaborating in anti-terrorism efforts, and matters on the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, which will be held in China.

The Senior General said that the Tatmadaw is ready to negotiate with groups who have yet to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. He said he hopes for participation by all ethnic armed groups in signing the NCA based on Myanmar's peace process, Rakhine State affairs, the multi-party democratic path and acceptance of the three main national



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with China's Special Envoy for Asian Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

causes.

The Senior General also met Mr. Jeffery Feltman, Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs of the United Nations at the Bayintnaung Guest Room in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, Mr. Jeffery Feltman said that the world is interested in Rakhine State affairs and that there are differences between world views and Myanmar's practical implementation upon this. He added that the purpose of his tour is to accelerate the process implemented by the Myanmar government. The UN will provide long and short-term support on the Government's performance. He then said it is necessary to know the security of local nationals as it is not possible to implement the support with no security.

The Commander-in-Chief then explained that the Tatmadaw systematically monitored events concerned with Rules of Engagement (ROE) from day violence broke out to more recent days, and that there is nothing being performed outside of rule and regulations. If there is a violation of rules, it will take action in accord with the law. People did not accept the allegations that the Tatmadaw used force in terrorism.

There were fewer deaths of innocent people, staff and police forces because of the Tatmadaw's implementation of security. People are still worrying for their security, as there is a threat that the terrorist attacks will be made again. Thus, the Tatmadaw must protect the security of local people, the Senior General added. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Cash assistance, supplies for displaced people in Kyauktaw

OFFICIALS from the social welfare department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided cash assistance and supplies for displaced people in Kyauktaw Township, Mrauk-U District, Rakhine State yesterday morning.

Officials met and gave words of encouragement to 34 family members of seven households in Thatyatpin Village and 17 family members of three households living in Pyay-tawtha ward. Officials provided women with personal products,

clothing, cans, cooking oil, soap and other supplies. Ks20,000 was given to five people above the age of 60, a total of Ks100,000.

Encouragement was also given to the displaced children. Places for them to play were also created.

“Officials from the social welfare department will go to the IDP camps in Mrauk-U Township and provide aid”, said Daw Cho Pyone Assistant Director of the Department of Social Welfare. —Win Min Soe (IPRD) ■

Housing project for Mro ethnics in Rakhine State launched

Under the instruction of the Head of the State, a project is underway to build houses with border development funds by the arrangement of the Ministry of Border Affairs for Mro ethnics at Khondine Village in northern Maungdaw, where houses were destroyed in terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on, 16 October.

The new houses will not be built at the original location, which was destroyed, but nearby at rough index map DU-309402 Padakar Chaungzone roadside Maungdaw-Bandoola, according to the desires of the local nationals.

In the first phase of the project, 48 dwelling places will be built with acquisition of water to be prioritised. If it is necessary to build Khondine Village as a combined village, an extension containing more houses will be constructed, under instruction of the State Government.

The housing estate project includes a village assembly hall, a monastery, a rural dispensary, a primary school, a marketplace, lakes, wells and solar panel installations.

The first phase of the project will be completed by the end of January 2018. —Myanmar News Agency ■

