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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 191, 6th Waxing of Tazaungmon 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Wednesday, 25 October 2017



Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe (Left) gives thumbs up to his Bangladeshi counterpart Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan following a signing in Nay Pyi Taw agreeing to 10 points of bilateral cooperation between the two neighbouring countries. **PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO**

Myanmar, Bangladesh to cooperate on border security

THE Ministerial Meeting on Border Security and Law Enforcement Cooperation between the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Ministry of Home Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was held at the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. After the ministerial meeting from 9am to noon, the Pre-Coordination Bilateral Meeting on the Senior Official Level was held.

Discussed at the meeting were strengthening border security, law enforcement cooperation, counter-terrorism, establishing border liaison offices, identification for entry and exit, illegal border crossing, verification of citizenship, narcotic drugs control and repatriation after the verification process for refugees in Bangladesh. Both countries agreed to adopt 10 points of bilateral cooperation between the two ministries.

The meeting was attended by H.E. Lieutenant General Kyaw Swe, Union Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Major General Aung Soe, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Police Major General Aung Win Oo, Chief of Myanmar Police Force, the Permanent Secretary and Directors General from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office of the State Counsellor, Ministry

of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Planning and Finance. From the Bangladesh side, H.E. Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, Minister for the Ministry of Home Affairs, Permanent Secretaries, Director General from the Bangladesh Police, Major General Abul Hossain, Director General of the Bangladesh Border Guard Police and the Senior Officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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Peace is at hand: UNFC

PEACE in Myanmar is "an arm's length away", a member of the group representing armed ethnic groups that have yet to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement said yesterday.

The Delegation for Political Negotiation (DPN), an association representing armed ethnic groups formed by the United Nationalities Federation Council (UNFC), held its seventh meeting the Peace Commission at the National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) on Shweli Road in Yangon yesterday morning, after which participants said they are close to an agreement on a comprehensive ceasefire. The revelation was made when representatives from the two sides met with local and foreign media immediately after yesterday's meeting.

The following are the essence of the answers provided by U Zaw Htay of the Peace Commission and Nai Aung Ma Ngay and U Tun Zaw of the DPN. The meeting is centred around an eight-point agenda that specifies certain negotiating points.

The eight-points of the UNFC amendment proposal are:

1. Bilateral ceasefire agreement between the government-military and the UNFC;

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Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Harvesting combines arrive in Rakhine State

THE terrorist attacks in Rakhine State that began on 25 August and prompted an exodus have made the harvest of rainy season paddy crops a challenge, which is why the Agriculture Mechanisation Department has arrived to assist with 24 combine harvesters.

These harvesters began to arrive in Sittway on 17th October with 53 drivers and mechanics for the machines from the Agriculture Mechanisation Departments of Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Nay Pyi Taw.

The harvesters, drivers and mechanics continued to Maungdaw on 24 October.

The Agriculture Mech-



Agriculture Mechanisation Departments provide twenty-four combine harvesting machines to harvest paddy crops in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: AGRICULTURE MECHANISATION DEPARTMENT**

anisation Department will open seven stations to harvest the ripe paddy crops of

20 village tracts in Maungdaw Township.

The harvesting process

will start at the beginning of November. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Cash assistance for families of police killed in Buthidaung

PROVISIONS of cash to family members of security officers who were killed in the extremist terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on 25 August were made at the community hall of the Lanmadaw Monastery in Buthidaung Township on Monday.

The assistance is to acknowledge those last police forces who sacrificed their lives for their country and its people in the face of terrorist attacks. This provisions are for surviving family members remaining in Buthidaung Township. Provisions will also be made for surviving family members in Maungdaw Township, said Wai Hin Aung from the Wai Hin Aung



Wai Lu Kyaw provides cash assistance for families of police in Buthidaung Township on 23 October 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

philanthropic group.

The Wai Hin Aung and Wai Lu Kyaw philanthropic groups provided Ks300,000 to each family of the nine policemen killed

in Buthidaung Township, and also presented one ambulance to the Anaut Tagar social rescue association in Buthidaung. —Tin Tun (IPRD) ■

Stimulant tablets and opium seized

A combined squad including police from Bhamo Myoma Police Station searched Myint Oo's house in Kanni Village, Kyun Gyi village tract in Bhamo Township and seized 680 stimulant tablets and 5.3 grams of opium from his bag on 21 October.

Similarly, authorities seized 5,000 stimulant pills and Ks33,000 from Zaw Naing Htway, also known as Fatty, Thiha Maung and Sai Thura Naing, also known as Ko Sai, while searching Holly Wood KTV on 35th Street between 60th and 62nd Street in Nagar Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay on the evening of 22 October. On the same evening at about 10pm, a police squad searched a passenger bus at the Thaze combined inspection gate in Kalaw Town and found 20,000 stimulant tablets and a hand phone in Myo Zaw Lwin's luggage.

Police have taken action against them under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. —Myanmar Police Forces ■



Myo Zaw Lwin. **PHOTO: MPF**

Tourists visit along Chindwin River by Cruise Ship

A luxury cruise ship, R.V Anawrahta was cruising from 19 September to 28 October along Chindwin River carrying 26 foreign tourists who will get the experience of the natural charm and culture of regions along Chindwin River.

The tour was organized by the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism and Trails of Indochina Travels & Tours Co.,Ltd.

During the tour, R.V Anawrahta Cruise will offer fascinat-

ing travel plans including visits to Yangon-Mandalay-Yaysagyo, Amyint Ywa, Monywa, Muhtaw village, Thinhaw village, Mauk Kataw, Kalaywa, Kalay, Kintat, Sitt Thauang, Phaung Pyin, Homlin, Mawlite, Kyitaung Oo, Pho Win Taung, Shwe Ba Taung, Monywa, Bagan, Yangon and Mandalay. The tourists group will depart from Yangon and Mandalay International Air Port on 29 October. Besides, under the arrangement of Trails

of Indochina Travel Company, twenty five New Zealand foreigners toured with Anawrahta Cruise Ship along Chindwin River from 6 October to 15 October. Due to the improving socio-economic conditions and transporting infrastructures more tourists are coming to enjoy the riverine cruise along Ayeyawady, Chindwin rivers and other historical places.—Ministry of Hotels and Tourism ■

MRF to conduct short and long-term projects for development of rice sector in Rakhine State

May Thet Hnin

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) will set up short and long-term projects in an attempt to effectuate the development of the rice sector in Rakhine State, said U Ye Min Aung, the general secretary of MRF.

The paddies in Rakhine State are due to be harvested next month, but many paddy owners fled, were captured or killed following the terrorist attacks of 25 August. For the same reason, the paddies also lack labourers, which would mean damage or destruction of crops due to neglect. Therefore, the MRF has stepped in and will concentrate on dealing with this time-sensitive problem.

"There are 30,000 to 40,000 acres of paddy each in Buthidaung, Maungtau and Yathedaung townships. As a priority activity, we will provide grain machines, tractors and grain dryers. We will sell the fertilizer at a cheap cost. Also, we will purchase the paddy, setting a price," said U Ye Min Aung.



Ethnic women harvesting rice in a paddy field in Maungtau on 23 October 2017. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG LWIN

"We will carry out the activities under the supervision of state government. It is better that the government handles ownerless farms, as this might raise unnecessary accusations when the owners emerge. We will help harvesting activities for farms which have owners", he said.

In a bid to help develop the

agriculture sector, the MRF will open Agribusiness Services centres in the Kyauktaw, Sittway and MraukU areas within three years, providing contract farming and seed production drying storage and processing, fertilizer and agrochemicals and farm mechanisation service.

Additionally, the MRF will

also establish Agri Food Park on 500 acres of land in Buthidaung Township for value-adding to agro products. In addition to the rice sector in Rakhine State, the MRF will study the production of other crops and the livestock sector. Then they will conduct a feasibility study with international organisations that will determine in

which sector investment is best.

To implement those activities, the MRF will organize Rakhine Agribusiness Public Co. (RAPC) by end of this year. About Ks50 billion is allocated to be spent on RAPC, with capital from MRF and local and international loans. Those activities are meant to support the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The MRF cooperates in the development of the rice sector, said U Ye Min Aung.

"Dependency culture is good for a brief period. We need to make investments in capital goods and infrastructure in order to effectuate the development in this sector", he added.

Beyond self-sufficiency, Rakhine State's rice is sent to other areas. There are around 1 million acres of rain paddy plantations, whereas only 10,000 acres are found during summer paddy season due to the lack of irrigation projects from dams and rivers. ■

Japan investments in Myanmar: \$717 million and counting

SINCE the 1988-89 fiscal year, Japan has put foreign direct investments of an estimated \$717 million into Myanmar with 96 projects, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission. The fiscal year of 2015-2016 marked the highest amount of investment with \$219 million.

The manufacturing sector at Thilawa Special Economic Zone has drawn Japanese investments totalling \$183 million so far.

The 13th Joint Meeting of the Japan-Myanmar Business Cooperation Committee between the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UM-FCCI) and the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry was held last Monday.

At this meeting, U Zaw Min Win, the chairman of UM-FCCI, invited Japanese businessmen to invest in agriculture,

livestock, offshore fishing and small- and medium sized enterprises.

Moreover, he suggested that investments in electric power generation, transportation, inland and international port construction, and technology are likely to reap the most benefits.

Mr. Yoichi Kobayashi, chairperson of Japan-Myanmar CCI Business Cooperation Committee, said that Japanese entrepreneurs are interested to invest in Myanmar, but Myanmar still lacks adequate economic infrastructure. Union Minister U Kyaw Win for Planning and Finance remarked that FDI statistics showed Japan's investment in Myanmar is still weak.

"We expect this meeting will find a way to promote Japan's investments", U Kyaw Win said.

Bilateral trade between Ja-

pan and Myanmar in the first five months of the current fiscal year has reached over US\$756 million, comprised of exports worth about \$360 million and imports worth \$396 million, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar's edible oil crops, rubber, green grams, sesame seeds, rice and broken rice, honey, fishery products and apparel from the garment sector using the Cutting-Making-Packaging (CMP) system are exported to Japan, while capital goods such as machinery, intermediate goods such as raw materials and consumer goods from Japan are imported into the country.

Bilateral trade values were about \$2 billion in 2016-2017 FY, \$1.8 billion in 2015-16 FY, \$2.3 billion in 2014-2015 FY, \$1.8 billion in 2013-2014 FY, \$1.5 billion in 2012-2013 FY and \$822 million in 2011-2012 FY. — Ko Htet ■

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင်ဝယ်ယူဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

- Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)
- Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)
- Market Place by City Mart (Junction City)
- City Mart (Aung San Stadium)
- City Mart (47th street)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)
- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- City Mart (Junction 8)
- City Mart (St. John)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegonedine

Ocean City SUPERCENTER **City Mart** Supermarket

From collective contributions towards national strength

Khin Maung Oo

BY nature, Myanmar people are never reluctant to donate and when they donate they do so lavishly. When they make offerings to the Sangha, they present offertories to the Buddhist monks with three kinds of “cetana” or good will. When Buddhists make donations, they have this feeling of goodwill (Cetana) before the act of donation, during the donation and after the donation. We believe that if the act of donation is done in this way, we will get full benefits of our good deeds in this lifetime and in the lifetimes to come. In addition to making offerings to the Buddhist monks, we also make offering to the Five Infinite Ones (in Burmese language we call them Anandaw Ananda Ngabar). Those who constitute the Five Infinite Ones are the Buddha, the Dhamma, the Sangha (order of Buddhist monks), Parents and Teachers. From early childhood, Buddhists are taught to pay respects to the Five Infinite Ones as well as those who are older than us. When we walk in front of our teachers

or parents, we are all taught to bow our heads and walk with eyes cast downwards. We pay the same kind of respects to our elders who are older than us. That is why in times of natural disasters like hurricanes, typhoons, earthquakes or man-made calamities like what has happened in the Rakhine State, the Myanmar people have never been hesitant to make donations or take part in volunteer services.

To our great delight and pleasure, we saw collective mass contributions. We would like to repeatedly make acclamations, “Well-done, Well-done, Well-done.” (Sadhu, sadhu, sadhu) for the contributions made by the local business leaders and entrepreneurs. Contributions are being provided to be used for providing humanitarian assistance, resettlement, rehabilitation and development in Rakhine State. In supporting regions and those who are greatly in need, under the current situation, Rakhine Region is to be placed in the top of the priority list, as it urgently needs our help and support.

The collective mass donation ceremo-

ny can be said to be not only ordinary donation but also contributions for spiritual, mental and cooperative support which will help national development, progress and peace. In the past people assumed that it was the task of the government alone to work for peace and development; but now people of great wealth have come forward to co-operate with the government. This is the first-ever milestone of co-operation between the government and powerful and wealthy entrepreneurs.

The present contribution is the first one done after the invitation on October 12 to join in the contribution to the project to be launched by the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State chaired by the State Counsellor.

After making a request to the people, internal NGOs, CSOs and entrepreneurs to take part, such contributions started to come in. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi invited the people of Myanmar at home and abroad, UN Agencies, financial institutions such as World Bank and

Asian Development Bank, INGOs such as the Nippon Foundation and other friendly countries to help in providing humanitarian assistance and development of Rakhine State in her speech delivered on 12 October 2017.

Myanmar hoped for support moral rather than material support in inviting international donations, that is, hoping to get their sound advice and suggestions plus their professional expertise.

The present contribution is the preliminary launch, and it can be said that a good foundation has already been built for the successful implementation of the Union Enterprise through the concerted efforts of the three main pillars—the people, the government and the private sector. Accordingly, we deeply invite our well-wishers to come forward with good ideas, suggestions and active participation to cooperate with the UEHRD for peace and development in Rakhine State. We know that challenges are great but the genuine and sincere “Cetana” of the Myanmar people is far greater. ■

Create rural jobs for youths to stem flight to cities, says UN

INDUSTRIAL and service sectors in South Asian and African cities have not grown enough to meet the demand, and won't absorb the millions of new job seekers wanting to escape grinding poverty and hunger in their rural homes, says a report.

Young people growing up in rural Africa need jobs where they live, so they are not forced to join the growing ranks of poor seeking work in cities or to make dangerous journeys to reach Europe, the United Nations' food agency said on Monday.

By 2030, there will be about 1.3 billion 15 to 24 year olds on the planet, some 100 million more than in 2015.

Most of that increase will be in rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said at the launch of its annual State of Food and Agriculture report.

Industrial and service sectors in

African and South Asian cities have not grown enough to meet the demand, and won't absorb the millions of new job seekers wanting to escape grinding poverty and hunger in their rural homes, FAO said.

“In Africa, every year 10 to 12 million youths join the labour force, but we have only been providing about 3

million jobs ... So it is not a surprise that they try to cross the desert and the Mediterranean looking for a better opportunity,” said FAO director-general José Graziano da Silva.

Rural areas are not doomed to be poverty traps and could thrive with more invest-

ment in farming and food industries and better infrastructure linking farms and rural businesses to meet the rising demand for food in cities, the report said.

“People can get out of poverty even if they stay in rural areas,” said Marco Sanchez-Cantillo, acting director of

People can get out of poverty even if they stay in rural areas.

Marco Sanchez-Cantillo, acting director, Agricultural Development Economics Division, FAO



Workers dry the paddy grains at a village in Kangyidauk, Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

FAO's Agricultural Development Economics Division. “There are parts of the world where rural transformations have lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Countries in East and Southeast Asia have been able to boost incomes in both cities and the countryside in the past 20 years.

“In Vietnam most of the rural poor have exited poverty while staying in rural areas ... Latin America has many examples too,” he said.

As urban populations grow, so will their demand for food, so farmers need to produce more at a time when climate change is bringing erratic rains and af-

fecting crops in many parts of the world, the U.N. agency said.

Currently 80 percent of food in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia is produced by small-scale farmers, according to FAO. With the right kind of investment in rural infrastructure and farming, young people could find jobs on farms but also in food processing, transport and storage.

In June, several African governments pledged to restore degraded land, invest in agriculture and create “green jobs” for young people in a drive to reduce unemployment, fight radicalisation, and stem the tide of migration to Europe.—Thomson Reuters Foundation ■

Myanmar, Bangladesh to cooperate on border security

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A total of 45 people were in attendance. After the meetings, a Memorandum of Understanding on Security Dialogue and Cooperation was signed by Maj. Gen. Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, and Mr. Mostafa Kamal Uddin, Permanent Secretary of Home Affairs of Bangladesh.

Police Brig. Gen. Myo Swe Win, Chief of General Staffs, Myanmar Police Force and Maj. Gen. Abul Hossain, Director General of Bangladesh Border Guards also signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Establishment of Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) between Myanmar and Bangladesh. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Voices from meeting between Myanmar and Bangladesh

U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

“Both sides mainly discussed establishing the border liaison offices, promoting information exchange and understanding between the two countries and formation of joint working groups. Our side mainly discussed going through the process step by step, especial-

ly in the information exchange sector. We also discussed the agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh signed in 1992 and four agreements between immigration official level meeting between the two countries in 2000.

U Tin Myint, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs

Both sides discussed matters related to solving amicably the issues of the rule of law, security and drug trafficking and border issues. Our meeting also touched on the issue of repatriation of refugees who fled from Myanmar to Bangladesh following the attacks by ARSA terrorists. The meeting also focused on solving the bilateral issues in accordance with international rules and regulations because both are neighbouring countries. The repatriation issue would be discussed by the State-level meeting. I can not say how many people would be repatriated, but that would be carried out based on the National Verification process of the Immigration and Population Ministry.

Both sides also agreed to cooperate in fighting terrorism and opening border liaison offices, especially in Maungdaw and the border areas, fighting illegal migration through borders, and fighting drug trafficking. —Kyaw The Ein, Kyaw Hteik Soe ■



Memorandum of Understanding on Security Dialogue and Cooperation is signed by Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe and Mr. Mostafa Kamal Uddin. **PHOTO: MNA**



Vice President U Henry Van Thio holds talks with Mr. Hiroto IZUMI, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 October, 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

VP U Henry Van Thio receives Japanese PM's Special Advisor

VICE President U Henry Van Thio received Mr. Hiroto IZUMI, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan and party at the diplomatic hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 24 October at 4:00 pm.

During the meeting, development of Dawei Special Economic Zone which will be cooperated between Myanmar and Japan, and projects on regional development were discussed.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint, Tanin-

thayi Region Chief Minister Dr Le Le Maw, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Hset Aung and officials attended the meeting. —Myanmar News Agency ■

19th National Congress of CPC completed

THE closing ceremony of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China was held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing yesterday.

President Xi Jinping was re-elected as General Secretary of the Communist Party by the new Central Committee during the ceremony.

The Communist Party elected new central committee candidates and also enacted matters concerning New Silk Road in the constitution.

In the ceremony, President Xi Jinping said that the Party will continue to set up China as a modernised socialist country.

The Congress takes place every five years. The 19th National Congress opened on 18 October. —Myanmar News Agency



The closing ceremony of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China being held in Beijing, China. **PHOTO: MNA**

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

Yangon General Hospital receives YHT Commemorative Blue Plaque

By Ko Moe

THE prominent Yangon General Hospital in downtown Yangon received a commemorative Yangon City Heritage Blue Plaque on Tuesday.

This Blue Plaque marked 19th plaque of the Yangon Heritage Trust.

The city's first General Hospital, located across the street

at the site of Junction City Complex, had become too cramped for the number of patients it was treating, and thus by the early 1890s, the present site of Yangon General Hospital, which was then Agri-Horticultural Gardens and a Phayre Museum, had been scouted for relocation.

With plans drawn up by Henry Hoyne-Fox, Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department,



The Yangon General Hospital in downtown Yangon accepts the commemorative Yangon City Heritage Blue Plaque on 24 October 2017. **PHOTO: YANGON HERITAGE TRUST**



the main building was built in 1904 and completed in 1909, and fitted with all the latest modern medical improvement at that time, including operating theatres with electricity and anesthesia rooms. In the following year, the administrative block and other structures such as the Matron's accommodation and the morgue was added and cost four million rupees overall.

In 1911, the new and larger hospital opened its doors for the first time with a total of 342 beds. It also housed the country's first bacteriological laboratory, though which several contributions to global medical science

were made during the early 20th century.

During the Japanese Occupation, the Imperial Japanese Army occupied the building and reserved them for Japanese personnel and the General Hospital had to temporarily relocate to the former Diocesan Girls' School on Signal Pagoda Road. After the World War II, the hospital's capacity was expended to hold 546 beds and in 1962, the total capacity increased to 1500 patients.

"Yangon General Hospital is located in the heart of Yangon as a grandeur of the city. Installation of blue plaques at the heritage buildings in Yangon would en-

courage the people to learn the history of the city, said U Thurein Aung, Project Manager of the YHT. Additionally, Rangoon General Hospital played a huge part in Myanmar's contemporary history, witnessing some of the pivotal moments in the history of the city. The hospital was also the site where the former opposition leader and Noble laureate Aung San Suu Kyi made her first public speech on August 24, 1988.

The commemorative Blue Plaque is a part of Yangon Heritage Trust's efforts to highlight historical buildings and renowned residents who contributed to the narrative of the city. ■

Tatmadaw releases statement on Rakhine terrorist attacks

THE Tatmadaw released a statement yesterday regarding the terrorist attacks of 25 August by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on police outposts in which dozens were killed and which prompted hundreds of thousands to flee northern Rakhine, saying the attacks were meant to intentionally harm national security and turn global sentiment against the country.

"As regards the terrorist attacks by extremist terrorists who had already been in Rakhine State which took place on 25th August, 2017 in Buthidaung and Maungdaw region, Rakhine State, there had been news releases based on false news and allegations over Myanmar made by some international communities and countries and some foreign media very recently", read the statement released by the Tatmadaw True News

Information Team.

The statement went on to say that the attacks were well-planned by thousands, not hundreds, of terrorists.

"In actuality, some 4,000 ARSA extremist terrorists conspired to violently attack 30 police outposts and a military camp simultaneously, and behind the events there had been very complicated background history, hence the need to be well convinced beforehand.

"On 8th June 2012, a Rakhine national girl named Ma Thida Htwe was raped and killed by four Bengalis in Yanbye township, Rakhine State. It caused conflict and on 9th October 2016, Bengali terrorists made violent surprise attacks on border guard forces and three police outposts simultaneously. On 25 August, as the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services went

abroad, the Deputy C-in-C of the Defence Service called on the President of the State and the State Counsellor to get instructions regarding the Rakhine State affair. On 4 September, the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services met with the State President to receive instructions on Rakhine State affair."

The Tatmadaw statement said security forces were repeatedly reminded to stay within legal bounds when engaging with the terrorists and dealing with civilians.

"In the events of the ARSA extremist terrorists' attacks, security forces who were performing the tasks of defending the national populace living in the region, maintaining the peace and stability of the region and rule of law were instructed, depending upon situations on the ground, to be very mindful of the

rules of engagement concerning armed conflicts and terrorist attacks. They were also instructed to abide by the criminal code in dispersing mobs, and to use self-defense tactics in fighting against terrorists over innocent civilians and security forces. The security forces kept to the rules and regulations.

"At the time of outbreak of the terrorist attacks, local residents and national people who were very frightened were helped in evacuating to safer places, regardless of race and religion. And those displaced people were supported with provisions and they were given medical treatments by mobile health teams. Provisions and humanitarian aid donated by people and communities across the nation were delivered by Tatmadaw helicopters, vessels and motor vehicles.

"Union Government, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Rakhine State Government are performing the task of delivering humanitarian aid to the people in need, hand in hand with the Tatmadaw".

The Tatmadaw statement said it is important to view the attacks as an intentional disruption of national security and undeserved accusations of rights violations.

"Concerning the events of ARSA extremist terrorist attacks which took place in northern Rakhine State, it is necessary to take special surveillance over potential destructive performances which can intentionally harm national security and interest, on the wrong pretext of human rights and humanitarianism", the statement said.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Maungtau officials conduct field trip to resettle ethnic national villages

CHAIRMAN of Maungtau Township Management Committee U Myint Khaing and party conducted a field survey trip to survey land on which to build ethnic national villages that were burnt and destroyed during the extremist terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). They also met and discussed the plans with the local populace.

Next, Maungtau Township Management Committee chairman and members went to Thitone-nar Gwasone village tract,

Natchaung village tract, Ngayantchaung village tract to meet and discuss with local populace about resettlement.

Afterwards, they provided 96 households from Yaynaukngathar village and Thet Kaing Nyar village with solar lighting from the border area and national races development department and clothing from the relief and resettlement department and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, it is learnt.—Thant Lin Kyi ■

Ownerless cattle cared by veterinary department

TO keep and care for cattle in Maungtau Township whose owners fled after the 25 August terrorist attacks, three animal camps had been built in Pantaw Pyin, Khonetine and Ngakhura.

Working committee and township veterinary teams had already been organised to systematically give the ownerless cattle, cows and goats from

nearby villages medical treatment, it was learnt.

In Maungtau township, there are 67 cows and 298 goats. In Pantaw Pyin, there are 27 cows and 135 goats. In Khontine, there are 17 cows and 95 goats. And in Ngakhura, there are 23 cows and 68 goats. All are being fed and are receiving medical care, it was learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■



People of different faiths pray for peace in Myanmar at the 3rd interfaith rally. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH

People hold 3rd interfaith rally in Yangon

By Zaw Gyi (Panita)

THOUSANDS of people turned out in Yangon to participate in a third interfaith rally on Tuesday in Yangon, praying for peace and harmony in Myanmar.

More than five thousands of people gathered in the Thuwunnabumi Event Park in Thingang-

yun, showing a unity of people from different faiths.

Buddhists, Christians, Hindus and Muslims, holding candlelit lights, prayed for peace in display of support for State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's handling of the crisis in Rakhine.

"We all are here with

equal willingness and equal loving kindness. With our joined hands, let's build a Federal Union. Let's struggle with unity under the leadership of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for building our Union," said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

The prayer service

kicked off with women representatives from different faiths lighting candles at 6 pm.

"We see our brethren from different faiths here and I hope that this kind of interfaith prayers would assist in building peace in the country," said Ma Htet Yadana Kyaw, an Islamic from Mayangon Township. ■

Public talk on drug dangers to be hosted in Myintkyina

MYITKYINA will host a Public Talk on the increasing drug threat against youth at the community centre co-run by the Information and Public Relations Department in Myintkyina, Kachin

State and the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation on 28 October at 1:00 pm. In the public talk, State Chief Judge U De Sin Ram, member of Kachin State government, U Zaw Win, Kachin State hluttaw rep-

resentative of Tanai constituency 2, IPRD Deputy Director-General U Aye Kywe, Police Colonel Lwin Maung Thein, Acting Head of State Police Forces, Dr Hwe Hla (Psychiatrist), Specialist of Kachin State

Drug Dependency Treatment Health Hospital, author Pone Nya Khin and U Aung Ngwe Soe, youth representative from Myintkyina will participate. Anyone who is interested can attend. —MNA ■

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Dated 25th October 2017

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