

NATIONAL

State Counsellor receives Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark
PAGE-3

**NATIONAL**

Efforts for delivering aid to Maungtau to be stepped up: MRCS
PAGE-3

NATIONAL

Workshop on success of UEHRD projects and voluntary return trips to original locations held
PAGE-7

LOCAL BUSINESS

CBM continues to set a dollar exchange rate at Ks1,366
PAGE-5

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in
Picture

Mobile health clinic, nurses give health care in Maungtau to Muslim villagers

Muslim residents from northern Rakhine are received by a nurse at a mobile clinic in Maungtau to receive medical care as they are gathering at the border with Bangladesh before leaving for the neighbouring country. **PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING**

Consensus reached in peace process with NCA road map

12th meeting of UPDJC continues

The 12th meeting of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee-UPDJC continued yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, with a decision over the peace process to be moved forward in accordance with the plans for the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

The second day of the meeting held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre was attended by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

The discussion at the meeting focused on frameworks for the political dialogue and Terms of Reference (ToRs), Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), the CSO Forum and the UPDJC Proposal Drafting process.

SEE PAGE-3

“We’re ready to accept refugees after scrutinisation”

By Myo Myint and Mi Mi Phyo (MNA)

After the meeting of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC), journalists made enquiries concerning the provision of humanitarian aid

in Rakhine State to U Zaw Htay, Director-General of the Ministry of the State Counsellor Office.

U Zaw Htay replied, “We are negotiating with Bangladesh concerning the Rakhine State affairs. What we want to say is that

we have been ready to launch the repatriation process. The State Counsellor herself publicised to the world officially. On our side, we have been ready to accept anytime. Further negotiations must be made. Now we felt con-

cerned for the delayed process. That is because we have said we will accept anytime, and then Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe went to Bangladesh. Then, State Counsellor has said the process will be based on the 1993 agree-

ment. After the Union Minister’s visit, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Foreign Affairs from Bangladesh were invited to visit Myanmar. The Minister for Home Affairs alone came.

SEE PAGE-6



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw puts new financial year debate on record

By Aung Ye Thwin
Aye Aye Thant

Mahn Win Khaing Than, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, announced a bill that would change Myanmar's financial year calendar, a move that would facilitate development, officials said, at the 4th day meeting of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 6th regular session held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Concerning "the Bill on Division and Appropriation of Additional Budget of the Union for FY 2017-2018," report on the legally made conclusion and report on the financially made conclusion, Dr Myat Nyana Soe, secretary of Joint Bill Committee and U Aung Min, vice-chairman (2) of public accounts Joint committee read out respectively.

Afterward, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that any interested parliamentarians who would like to discuss concerning the policy and principles of the bill, credits and debits, can enroll their names.

And, U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance clarified, "The major cause of changing Myanmar's financial year is that now is the



U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance. **PHOTO: MNA**

time when the country needs to vigorously build infrastructure in the country. It is needed to carry out socio-economic development of the people, hence the need to acquire open season closely related in performing the tasks of purchasing and building of the Union, Region and State Governments. In changing financial years, conditions likely to occur at the very early stage will be able to be solved in many ways. But in the long run, it will result in sustainable good effects. As regards to the change of the financial year, process to be performed will be carried out between the Union Government and Hluttaw. There will be occur-



U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications. **PHOTO: MNA**

rence of potential expenses to some extent, at the early stage only whenever changes and reforms are made. Later, expenses will never come when it goes normal."

The Deputy Minister added, "As lending agricultural loans is destined for farmers to get loans on time, there is no plan to change the lending period though the financial year will be changed and it will be done as usual.

The Union Government will re-designate the financial year from 1st October to 30th September with a view to carrying out more effectively the performances of the government which

will support the socio-economic development of the people and for the effective implementation of useful budget earning and appropriation. The President of the State sent the message to put on record the matter of changing financial year. So, the ministry submitted the matter to be put on record to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw."

Following that, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that the change of financial year will be introduced with effect from FY 2018-2019 and discussions of parliamentarians and clarifications of respective Union-level organizations' members were put on record.

With regard to signing in BIMSTEC Convention on legal aid and legal relation in civil family and criminal cases, as for Myanmar, sent from the President of the State, Maj Gen Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs said, "Myanmar had already enacted rules and regulations on helping aid between countries in criminal cases in 2014. And, Myanmar had signed in the agreement on helping aids between ASEAN countries in criminal cases and the President urged member

countries at the 3rd BIMSTEC Convention hosted by Myanmar. So it is necessary for Myanmar to lead the signing. BIMSTEC's cooperation is the part of great importance in the Asia-Pacific regional countries' trade, eradication of drug problems, across-the-border crimes prevention. And, Myanmar has cooperated in accordance with duties and responsibilities included in BIMSTEC convention, and had promulgated our laws and rules. So, Myanmar is ready to sign the agreement, now it is put forward to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for its approval."

Regarding the matter, Hluttaw approved it.

U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications clarified the matters for signing ASEAN MoU on Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation between ASEAN authorities and PRC Civil Aviation Authority.

Concerning the matter, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that interested parliamentarian can enroll their names to discuss the matter.

The 5th day meeting of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 6th regular session will be held on 7 November, it was learnt. ■

Deputy Minister for SRR U Soe Aung receives Mr. Simon Henshaw and party

DEPUTY Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung received Mr. Simon Henshaw, the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration from the United States at the ministry yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed humanitarian aid, the cooperative conditions for the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) project, which includes enhancing humanitarian aid, resettlement and development, the condition of negotiations between the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh on four points of the 1992-93 agreement for receiving the refugees, the updated situation of receiving camps, temporary relief camps for re-



Deputy Minister U Soe Aung meets with a delegation led by the United State Acting Assistant Secretary Mr. Simon Henshaw. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

ceiving refugees and ministries' cooperation for resettlement, the distribution agreement of World Food Programme (WFP) via Red Cross Movement, the negotiation situation for taking assistance from UN-Habitat - United Nations Human

Settlements Programme, holding a workshop by the UNHCR for receiving refugees and negotiating matters for the Rakhine case between the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Authorities set up NV Card and National ID process in Maungdaw

THE Deputy Director of the Rakhine State Immigration and Population Department led staff members from his department on a site visit to a post-primary school compound in Shwezar Village, Maungdaw Township, one of the places where national identification processing work and National Verification card issuing were performed on 30 October; Deputy head of State Immigration and Population Department U San Wai provided mosquito nets and foods for resident villagers who made NV Cards.

This work was already being conducted, but was delayed due to the ARSA extremist terrorist attacks of 25 August and was restarted in Maungdaw Township, Shwezar village tract on 12 October.

As of that date, 110 men and 34 women have been issued an NV card after biometric records for the National ID process were taken. A total of 33 people, 18 men and 15 women, were being specially recorded with the biometric system for the National ID process, it is learnt.

Biometric record collection of local villagers who wish to receive an NV card and for the National ID process will be conducted continuously through site visits, and only those who can be confirmed as nationals in Rakhine State will be recognised. Work programmes were drawn for the National Verification Process to be conducted with promptness. — Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Ms. Ulha Toernaes, Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received a delegation led by H.E. Ms. Ulha Toernaes, Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark at 2:00 pm on 31 October 2017 at the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters relating to Denmark's assistance to Myanmar as well as challenges and needs occurring in Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives to attend the 12th meeting of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee in Nay Pyi Taw, on 31 October 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

Consensus reached in peace process with NCA road map

FROM PAGE-1

Dr. Salai Lian Hmon Sak-hong, leader of the representatives of ethnic armed organizations EAO-UPDJC, expressed thanks for reaching consensus for keeping the peace process on track, in accordance with the NCA road map.

Vice Chairman of the UPDJC Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe said the Union Government's commitment to holding

the third meeting of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong, expressing his hope that the ethnic armed groups, political parties and the Tatmadaw would support and assist the meeting.

The Union Minister also requested them to cooperate and assist the Union Government in its efforts for resettlement and rehabilitation in Rakhine State.

"The Union Government

considers the Rakhine issue the union's issue. The State Counsellor leads the Union project for Rakhine State with the use of people's power," he said.

Regarding implementing the decisions of the meeting, U Thu Wai, Vice-Chairman of the UPDJC, urged all stakeholders to work together in unity for implementation of the decisions of the 12th meeting in order to reach the goal as soon as possible.—GNLM

Efforts for delivering aid to Maungtaw to be stepped up: MRCS

By Maw Si

Aid from the Myanmar Red Cross Society, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement has reached the people affected by the terrorist attacks in August. The following is an interview with the members of the organisations.

U Aung Thaung Shwe, Deputy Director of Myanmar Red Cross Society, Disaster Management Department

Q: May I know your duty with the Red Cross movement and your voluntary works in Maungtaw?

A: I am currently staying in Maungtaw and in charge of the Red Cross Association. Together with the Myanmar Red Cross Society, International Committee of the Red Cross, and other Inter-

national Red Cross and the Red Crescent Association, we are providing aid to the people affected by the conflict in Rakhine State.

Q: How about your plan to deliver aid from the ship which is now at the Kanyinchaung Jetty?

A: The ship has brought the Red Cross Movement's aid which includes rice, beans, pulses, salt, oil and nourishing food for the babies, things for personal hygiene, blankets, mosquito nets and so on.

To be exact, 250 tons of rice, 60 tons of beans, 10.5 tons of oil, 2.5 tons of salt, 1.5 tons of nourishing food, blankets, mosquito nets, toothpaste, shampoo, hammers, ropes, clothing for both men and women, school uniforms and things for family and personal hygiene are to be distributed with the help of voluntary workers and local NGOs.

The aid will be delivered to



U Aung Thaung Shwe, Deputy Director of Myanmar Red Cross Society, Disaster Management Department speaks during the interview. **PHOTO: MAW SI**

to those who are really in need of help.

Q: How about the achievements of the Red Cross Movement so far regarding the supply of aid to the people?

A: There are mainly two parts in the process of providing assistance. We have provided cash assistance individually to

those who return to their homes in conflict areas. Meanwhile, we have also provided aid to the families. The government gives Ks9,000 each to the villagers for ferry fee from Sittway to their native village and an extra Ks20,000. Under the Red Cross Movement, we provide Ks45,000 each to the villagers. Our Red Cross Movement set a target of 180,000 people to be provided with our aid by December 2017. So far, our aid has reached more than 10,000 people and our aid is also flowing into villages.

Q: Let me know your next plan?

A: The ship which has arrived just now is the first batch of aid. A further 400 tons of aid will come. The second batch includes basic needs such as food, safe drinking water, rice, sardines, and other items for the local families. We will step up our efforts for sup-

plying aid to the people. We also have organised mobile teams and sent them to the conflict areas since 2014.

Q: What is the purpose of your Red Cross Movement and how would you perform to be effective?

A: We provide assistance regardless of race, religion and colour, which are the seven points of basic principles. We focus on their needs equally and try to console their feelings.

Q: Do you supply the assistance equally and what are the criterion to be made in the long run?

A: We provide the assistance depending on the needs of the families and individuals. We also make a thorough plan to do in the long run. To help them physically and mentally is of vital importance in order to alleviate their suffering. ■