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Students go to school in Maungtaaw as stability returns to normalcy in Maungtaaw, northern Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

Entrepreneurs contribute to UEHRD in Rakhine State

BUSINESSMEN and entrepreneurs from home and abroad donated Ks620 million and US\$2,500 for the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) effort for Maungtaaw at a ceremony at the meeting hall of the Rakhine State Government Office yesterday.

At the ceremony, U Nyei Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State said, "For resettlement of Maungtaaw region, Chief Ministers of Regions and State came to carry out as much as they can. The remaining Regions and States as well are collecting contributions to support Rakhine State. Being the State which is directly affected, we need to take part in the UEHRD more actively in consultation with each other. Accordingly, the meeting was held for bringing about the meaning of contributing donations, labour and suggestions in the Union Enterprise as for local businessmen and entrepreneurs from home and abroad. Today's meeting on the acquisition of donations will be of great benefit for our nationals and populace, and simultaneously it will be successful. So, all the populace will be greatly pleased over the acquisition of such amounts of contribution."

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300 schools in Maungtaaw District to be opened by November

Authorities reopened 130 schools which were temporarily closed in Maungtaaw and Buthidaung townships after the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorist at-

tacks of 25 August and plan on reopening 300 more schools by end of November.

"Teachers are on standby to start at the schools. But we found that some students, es-

pecially from Muslim villages, do not come to school," said U Ohn Myint, Maungtaaw District Education Officer.

"It is impossible to open all the schools in Maungtaaw Dis-

trict this year. We are taking steps to open schools in areas depending on the security situation," he added.



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 6th regular session holds its 8th day meeting

CONCERNING the report of the national planning performances of the first 6 months of FY 2017-2018 U Hset Aung, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance said, "FY 2017-2018 National Planning's value of GDP has been targeted to be increased 7 per cent more than that of the previous year according to the regular prices, with 6.3 per cent increased up to the first six months period and 33.8 per cent of the target implemented. From April to August of FY 2017-2018, 24 countries had been granted to invest US\$3696.442 million for 120 enterprises in nine economic sectors. From April to August of FY 2016-2017, it was granted to invest US\$1253.707 million. As US\$2.79 billion entered the country up to the end of August 2017, it reached 75.4 per cent of the granted amount."

Deputy Minister added, "Till the end of the first six months, FY 2017-2018 national products had been exported, achieving the implementation of 47.3 per cent of the target — US\$14 billion. In the first half of the FY 2017-2018 commodities worth of US\$9.11 billion had been imported, managing to have implemented 60.8 per cent of US\$15 billion—the target. The trade value of the first six months of FY 2017-2018 is US \$ 15739.3 million implementing 54.3 per cent of the target US \$ 29000 million. Trade deficit is US \$ 2489.8 million till the end of the first six months. In implementing the targets of the

national planning, FY 2017-2018, it has been being implemented in the national economic, social and development points of views."

After that, matters of borrowing loans from the Myanmar Central Bank for fulfilling the deficit of Union Government Budget Account for FY 2016-2017 sent by the President were discussed by parliamentarians.

Dr. Thet Thet Khaing of Dagon constituency discussed, "Economically beneficial construction of infrastructure for the acquisition of transport and electricity in the country should be implemented by local and international investors in the means of responsibility and accountability by regarding the private sector to be a development partner. Performing the tasks in the form of cooperation between the Government and Private Sector is building the national infrastructures with the investment of the private sector. So, it is like encouraging the national economic development as it can reduce the budget deficit without needing to include expenditures for construction of infrastructures in the government's budget. Budget deficits should be reduced by spending government budget only in building economically unbeneficial construction of infrastructures. Now is the time for the incumbent government to promptly implement Public Procurement Reform, in an effective and well-qualified way with a view to



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO:MNA

effective implementation of making the private sector perform the public service enterprises and making bribery and corruption lesser and lesser. It is time to carry out Public Procurement Reform so that budget deficit can be reduced in the long run, without disturbing the momentum of national economy and development of infrastructure, and to invest the national finance more in the social infrastructures such as education, health and social welfare."

As regards the matter, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that clarification from respective Union-level organization members and acquisition of Hluttaw's decision will continue to be made at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting to be held on November 21.

U Wai Sein Aung of constituency 1 in Rakhine State discussed, "According to 2017 March statistics, there were actually appointed 41,493 SATs, 101,955 JATs and 227,292 PATs across the nation. Budget allotment for education was increased five times as of 2012. After 2020 a large amount of teachers will be appointed, and for acquisition of teachers with high capacities, policy on teachers is required to be laid down. Educational universities must be opened more. In a democratic nation, private school law must be promulgated. It is necessary to systematically implement the emergence of internationally standardized private schools and universities. In the higher education sector, it needs to promote distance university education's

quality. If higher education learning is available without flinching an inch from one's home and region, human resources will increase for the nation. In previous years, 80 percents of candidates passed exams from distance education universities, but there were presently only 30 per cent of candidates who completed the higher education due to lack of qualification, that is, there will be 26,000 graduates annually. For emergence of well-qualified graduates, the commission must give suggestions."

Concerning the matter, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that replies from union-level committee members and getting the approval of Hluttaw will be made at Hluttaw meeting to be held on November 21.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Deputy Director of IMF

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung received a delegation led by Deputy Director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department, Mr. Markus H. Rodlauer, at the Amyotha

Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters about the Hluttaw.—Myanmar News Agency ■

300 schools in Maungtaw District to be opened by November

FROM PAGE -1

Of the 130 schools reopened were primary, middle and higher education schools.

Maungtaw District Education Department has ordered heads of schools to enforce rules of the Ministry of Education when students return to schools.

"We ordered the heads of the schools to sign agreements with parents of the students that those students who do not obey the rules would be expelled, he added.

More than 270 schools

in the district remain closed since the late-August attacks by ARSA terrorists.

But academic life has been fully restored in Maungtaw, officials said yesterday.

According to the office of the head of the Rakhine State Education Department, schools in Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships were reopened, but schools in villages were not yet opened due to security situations.

"Opening of schools in rural areas of Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships depend on security. Schools in ethnic

villages are safe and secure, but we need to think about schools in Muslim villages. If the administrative side considers it safe, these schools will reopen. Teachers are ready", said U Aung Kyaw Tun last month.

According to the Rakhine State Education Department, about 3,000 students who fled from Maungtaw and Buthidaung towns to Sittway after the ARSA terrorist attacks were attending schools in Sittway so that there would be no gap in their education.—News Team ■

Union Minister Dr Aung Thu inspects paddy harvesting

THE Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu, accompanied by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Rakhine State minister for agriculture, livestock, forestry and mines U Kyaw Lwin and state government officials inspected the status of harvesting ownerless monsoon paddy in Yathedaung Township and Maungtaw region yesterday.

First, the Union Minister, Chief Minister and officials arrived at Cheinkhalein Village, Yathedaung Township and inspected the status of Agricultural Mechanization Department (AMD) systematically harvesting ownerless monsoon paddy with harvesters and the piled harvested rice.

Next they went to Myinlut village tract south of Maungtaw town and Mawrawadi front line station to inspect the status of harvesting and then went on to Alethankyaw Village south of Maungtaw town to inspect 40 workers drying harvested rice accepted by Department of Agriculture.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party inspected the

harvesting of rice in Laungdon Village north of Maungtaw town and went on to view ripe monsoon paddy in the field near the road junction of Taungpro-Bandoola road and remarked on systematically harvesting it with the least wastage.

Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu further remarked to officials and staffs on providing more harvesters and workers to expand and increase the rate of harvesting.

The Union Minister also encouraged the staff and workers who are systematically harvesting with harvesters and drying rice in Yathedaung and Maungtaw region while presenting food gifts.

For the timely harvesting of remaining paddy in Maungtaw region, more harvesters, weighing machines, bags and construction of temporary stores to store harvested and dried rice are being required it is learnt.

AMD is harvesting ownerless monsoon paddy in Maungtaw region with 32 harvesters and storing it and to date 1,700 acres has been harvested to according to AMD it is learnt.—
News Team ■



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu inspect harvesting ownerless monsoon paddy in Yathedaung Township and Maungtaw region, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**



Myanmar marine conservation policy workshop held

A workshop on drafting Myanmar marine conservation policy was held yesterday morning at the Mann Myanmar Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Forest Department Director General Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw delivered an opening speech at the opening ceremony for the workshop, which was attended by representatives from states/regions, professors/lecturers from universities, representatives from non-government organisations, marine conservation experts such as Professor Mr. Philip Dearden University of Victoria (Canada) and invited guests.

At the workshop, attendees discussed classifying Myanmar Marine Protected Area (MPA) zones, framework and future programmes.

The workshop was held to draw up a Myanmar marine conservation policy (draft) which is the duty and respon-

sibility of a central committee for the administration and management of natural resources in coastal areas (national level). Coastal and marine areas in Myanmar are 2,831 kilom-

eters long from the mouth of Naf River in Rakhine State to Kawthaung, where Myanmar joins with Thailand. Offshore shallows cover about 225,000 square kilometers and the Ex-

clusive Economic Zone (EEZ) covers about 486,000 square kilometers, it is learnt.

The main threat to Myanmar marine and coastal regions is unsustainable fishing, pol-

lution of the ocean and the destruction of mangrove forests, seagrass and coral reefs that are important for the survival of fish species. Climate change is damaging the ecosystem and the bio-species in marine and coastal regions that results in declining production of fish, marine experts said at yesterday's workshop.

State-level policy on marine and coastal regions that will result from yesterday's workshop will support the pledges made in international circles on extending the marine and coastal nature conservation areas. Most importantly, the marine conservation policy drawn up must be not for conservation and protection sector only but encompasses the three sectors of conservation, protection and sustainable usage, experts said.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Forest Department Director General Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw delivers the opening speech at the ceremony of marine conservation policy workshop held in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Nineteen suspected of involvement in 25 August terrorist attacks arrested

NINETEEN men suspected of involvement in the terrorists attacks of 25 August were arrested and charged under the anti-terrorism law.

Security forces and other personnel found 38 suspects in Harbi village (west) and Harbi village (middle) in the Harbi village-tract during surprise checks on the morning of 7 No-

vember. Following an investigation, it was found that 19, including a man named Mohamed Jarwis and another man named Ismai, were strongly suspected to have been involved in the 25 August terrorist attacks. Under the anti-terrorism law, cases were filed against them at the Pyin Phyu police station. —Myanmar News Agency ■

National Verification Cards issued in Maungtaw, Rakhine

STAFF from the Rakhine State Immigration and Population Department under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population issued National Verification Cards (NVCs) to residents in Shwezar Village in Maungtaw Township, northern Rakhine State yesterday.

Led by U Aung Min, the state head of the department, the issuing process of NV Cards took place at the post-primary school in Shwezar Village. U Aung Min explained the benefits of the NV Card to the local residents. The issuance of a national ID is a priority of the Union government, and one of the main recommendations of a commission led by former

UN chief Kofi Annan for the resettlement of Rakhine State following terrorist attacks in 2016.

Mosquito nets and food were provided to local residents who were issued NV cards.

This effort was started in Maungtaw Township, Shwezar village tract on 12 October and so far, after scrutiny with a Biometric system, 787 people, including 463 men and 324 women, were issued National Verification Cards. The information of 46 people, including 25 men and 21 women, were recorded in preparation for issuance of an NV Card. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Staff scans finger print for register with biometrics identification were issued National Verification Cards. **PHOTO: MNA**



The car damaged by mine explosions on Yangon-Sittway Road. **PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

Multiple mine explosions on Yangon-Sittway Road

A series of landmine explosions on Yangon-Sittway Road in Rakhine State on Wednesday that were apparently targeting convoys of Tatmadaw vehicles resulted in an injury to a pedestrian and extensive damage to several army trucks.

Three landmines exploded on Wednesday morning on Yangon-Sittway Road near the 84/4 mile marker west of Phar Pyaw (Chin Ywa) in Minbya township, Rakhine State, as three Tatmadaw trucks carrying medicine from Kamni approached, it was learnt. There were no injuries.

Shrapnel from the explosions caused extensive damage to the three trucks, flattening tyres, shattering windscreens and destroying the bodies of the vehicles, according to a Tatmadaw news release. No injuries were reported, it was learnt.

Later the same day, another landmine exploded near a concrete bridge between the 116/3 and 116/4 mile markers near Vethali Village and Pauktawpyin Village as seven Tatmadaw convoy trucks approached from



A concrete bridge damaged by landmine explosions on Yangon-Sittway Road in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

Minbya. The force of the blast created a 3-feet wide, 1.5-feet deep hole in the ground near the bridge and caused some of the concrete from the bridge's left guard rail to peel off.

The blast didn't damage the trucks or Tatmadaw personnel on board, but shrapnel from the explosion hit the left side of the forehead and left ear of nun Daw Thawna Htayri, 64, who was walking from Mrauk U side to Vethali Village. Her condition could not be determined.

Yesterday morning, secu-

rity personnel were conducting security measures along the Yangon-Sittway Road when they came upon three suspicious mound of earths 20 feet apart between mile markers 243 and 244 near the border of Kyauktaw and Ponnagyun townships. Upon investigation, three mines were found and deactivated. A further search of the vicinity turned up another mine, which was also deactivated. The four mines found yesterday were learnt to be remote-controlled IEDs. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Four out of 20 suspects found to be involved in terrorist attacks

AN investigation of 20 men detained after the stakeout of an area alleged to be a hiding area for fugitives resulted in the arrest of four people on suspicion of terroristic activity.

On receipt of a tip-off the that terrorists and fugitives were hiding in the prawn breeding ponds between Gordu

Thara west and Gordu Thara Chaungwa, a combined team that includes security forces launched a stakeout starting on the morning of 11 November until the evening, when 20 people arrived and were immediately detained on suspicion of terrorism. Under the investigation conducted in accord with

rules and regulations, four men, including Marmed Cobi of Myo Thagyi village in Maungtaw village and Marmed Haron of the village of Du Nyaungbingyi in Maungtaw Township, were filed under the anti-terrorism law, with the remaining men under investigation, it was learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■

We Will Prove Truth and Bring About Virtues

VERY recently, Myanmar-based foreign media groups went to meet over 70 Muslims arriving at the beach between Hmowin Chaungwa and Gordu Thara creek near Alei Thangyaw village in northern Rakhine State to enquire as to why they left for Bangladesh. At the same time security forces concerned were interviewed as well by the media group because they wanted to know how security measures were being performed in that area.

According to the interview, it was found out that those who were waiting there to leave for the neighboring country unanimously gave the same reply saying that they wanted nothing but to return their native land. In spite of the fact that the Government definitely and repeat-

edly promised to provide humanitarian assistance, take care of resettlement measures and security measures, they all expressed the same desire saying that they wished to go to the neighboring country. When asked as to whether there were threats, tortures or assaults to drive them away, the unanimous answer was, "No." In asking them whether they have got NVCs most replied that they did not take NVCs according to the majority decision. They also said that only a few village elders took NVCs.

Muslims in the region, who are neither terrorists nor those involved in terrorist attacks, were overwhelmed with fears and worries, and local nationals had the same fears and worries. So as to arouse such feelings among the local

populace, ARSA extremist terrorists arrested local nationals and Hindus and killed them brutally before 25th August. In early August they killed informers from the villages, village administrators and village administration committee members where the Muslims lived. This was their way of warning others not to cooperate with the government or abide by rules and laws of the government. Those who did not heed their warning would meet the same fate.

Earlier on, extremist terrorists infiltrated among the Bengali villagers, killing one by one and making sudden and simultaneous attacks on August 25. They killed local nationals and Hindus, thus showing to the world their evil intentions and atrocious methods. Accordingly, it

must be said that the events which took place in northern Rakhine State and its related challenges were attributed to ARSA extremist terrorists.

These days, repatriation of some extremists by the Bangladesh government, surprise attacks on some villagers, arrests of those involved with terrorists, seizures of weapons and hide-outs of terrorists and on-the-ground-interview with those in question provide solid evidence regarding the true causes of the affairs in Northern Rakhine State.

As the Myanmar saying goes—"You cannot cover a dead elephant with a goat skin". Truth can be seen vividly now. It Whatever it is, the truth will come out one day and virtue will regain its rightful place. ■

Myanmar can flourish through agriculture

By Maung Lu Aye

AGRICULTURE is one of the best opportunities in Myanmar for investors looking to make an immediate impact. This presents opportunities for foreign financial firms to provide funding for agricultural land or to cultivate land themselves.

The land in Myanmar is very fertile, and Myanmar people have generations of experience in agricultural enterprises. If farmers have access to capital, better seeds, and better technology, the agricultural sector in Myanmar has the potential to see rapid growth.

Though natural resource extraction can be fiscally tempting, 70% of the population, some of Myanmar's poorest people, work in agriculture. Investment in this sector would build on the country's natural climatic advantages and enable it to return to its historic role as south-east Asia's rice bowl, a distinction it held in the late 1950s.

Foreign investors can either invest in international agricultural companies who are currently looking to expand in Myanmar, or start their own agricultural enterprise by leasing land and contracting farmers.

Good Agricultural Practices

Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in co-



A farmer works at a cabbage farm near Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

operation with the International Finance Corporation-IFC launched the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Protocol and Guidelines for 15 crops recently to support its economic growth.

The GAP system involves specific farming methods designed to ensure that food that reaches consumers is of a certified level of quality and safety.

There are competing definitions across different markets and international organisations, although there are also key sim-

ilarities across the main areas such as environmental sustainability and food safety.

Among the benefits of adopting the GAP system in developing countries is gaining access to new export markets, improving the use of natural resources and improving overall safety and quality standards, according to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization.

The launch of Myanmar's GAP Protocol and Guidelines aims to boost the profits of farm-

ers by educating cultivators on how to produce safe and quality products for the local and international market.

Seventy per cent of Myanmar's population struggle to improve productivity engaging in small-scale agriculture. They are unable to choose which crops to grow and rarely receive information or training.

The launch of the GAP Protocol and Guidelines, which comes in line with the 12 point economic policy launched in July

2016, would bring opportunities to farmers to produce high-quality products.

While practicing the GAP system, it will need to facilitate access to finance for entrepreneurs and farmers and to provide training in modern production techniques that meet export standards. Finally, investment is needed to build infrastructure: food safety inspection laboratories, cold storage facilities at airports and ports, and better transport networks. ■

Japanese encephalitis vaccination launched in Gantgaw District, Magway Region



Nurses giving vaccinations to children for Japanese encephalitis. PHOTO: KYAW THAN SWE

JAPANESE encephalitis vaccinations were injected to Children Under-15 by medical staff from Kyauk Htu Township General

Hospital in Gantgaw district in Magway Region yesterday morning. About 200 school students received the vaccination

successfully. Students from other villages in the district will also be vaccinated on 23 November.—Kyaw Than Swe ■

Senior General receives EU Ambassador

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing received the EU Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar H.E. Mr. Kristian Schmidt at Bayint Naung guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Issues discussed during

the meeting included bilateral relations between the EU and Myanmar; Myanmar's ongoing transition to democracy, current local peace building process of Myanmar's Tatmadaw and current issues in Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Fixing artificial limbs for disabled persons in Taninthayi

WITH the supervision of International Red Cross Association, Myanmar Red Cross Association's Prosthetic Fixing Department from Hpa-An attached the artificial limbs to the disabled persons at the temporary office of Myanmar Red Cross Association in Taninthayi Township yesterday morning. At the ceremony, field officer from Prosthetic Rehabilitation Department, Daw Ei Thuzar Cho and neurologist Daw

Kaw Kay and her party made medical checkup and fix 16 prosthetic without any charge.

Hluttaw representative of No.2 Taninthayi Region U Ye Myint Swe, Township police force Police Captain Saw Maung, township departmental officials, Township Red Cross supervisory committee chairman U Zaw Zaw Aung and other officials also included in the volunteering.—Nann Thayi-Htein Win (IPRD) ■

DICA branch office to be opened in Hakha, Chin State

A Directorate of Investment & Company Administration (DICA) branch office will be opened in the town of Hakha, Chin State on 20 November, said U Aung Naing Oo, the Director-General of Directorate of Investment & Company Administration (DICA).

“After we have opened the DICA branch office in Chin State, all the regions and states in Myanmar have had DICA branch offices. Last month, we have already appointed the staff and

started running the branch offices. We will hold our opening ceremony on 20 November. The entrepreneurs who made investments in Chin State should attend the opening ceremony,” said U Aung Naing Oo.

Moreover, DICA is planning to hold a workshop concerning potential business opportunities in Chin State and the new Myanmar Investment Law, which was enacted on 17 and 18 November.

According to the new Myan-

mar Investment Law, the investment commissions of states and regions have been formed with seven members each, including the respective chief ministers. states and regions government committees are given authority to allow local and foreign investments after thorough scrutiny. Also, DICA branch offices have been granted authority to give permission to local and foreign investments which do not exceed Ks6 billion and US\$5 million.

“The entrepreneurs do not need to apply an investment proposal in the head office. They can only apply at the DICA branch office. It can save the time and labour. Opening the branch office at the State and Region can make more investment in Myanmar,” said U Thant Sin Lwin, the Deputy Director-General of DICA. DICA will grant investments mainly in the following sectors: agriculture; livestock and adequate product production; export

promotion; import substitution industrialisation; electricity; transportation; education; health; low-cost housing and the industrial zones, said U Aung Naing Oo. Myanmar intends to attract \$6 billion in foreign direct investment in the fiscal year of 2017-2018. Currently, Myanmar has already received over \$4.5 billion of the FDI target as of November. So the FDI could even exceed the target in this fiscal year, said U Aung Naing Oo.—May Thet Hnin ■

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Entrepreneurs contribute to UEHRD in Rakhine State

FROM PAGE-1

U Kyaw Aye Thein, minister for finance, revenue, planning and commerce for Rakhine State said, "Today, we have received contributions from entrepreneurs, Ks620 million and US\$2,500. Donation money received today will be spent for nationals' villages as a priority for UEHRD. For the remaining Bengali people, it will be carried out after they have been resettled with the arrangement of the government. I am very pleased for our people to have contributed such amounts of money. Rakhine State Government is always inviting donors and entrepreneurs who will come to invest in Rakhine State. We will support and help their needs."

U Kyauk Taung, chairman of Nay La Thitsar Company said, "I take the responsibility of rebuilding destroyed infrastructure in northern Rakhine State, Maungdaw region. Today's ceremony was held by the Rakhine State Government for entrepreneurs in Rakhine State to take an active part in the UEHRD in northern Rakhine and to donate monetary aid. I myself attended the ceremony as the vice-chairman of MKSH (Myanmar Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone Holding Public Company). My company, Nay La Thitsar, donated



U Kyaw Aye Thein, minister for finance, revenue, planning and commerce for Rakhine State.

ed Ks10 million with Ks21 million donated by MKSH. The amount will be just normal for support of Rakhine State. In fact, the State must spend as many billions for the whole project. We joined the project as a grain of sand and a piece of brick in building the nation together with the Union Government. Maungdaw is a region which is greatly in need of infrastructures. Transportation and living standard conditions are very poor in this area. People from remote areas are very poor, especially villages where the Mro, Thet, Daingnet, Khami and others are living. Only if we collectively contribute can their living standards be upgraded. We assume that it is incumbent upon us to do so, that is 50 mil-



U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State speaks at the interview. **PHOTO: KAN TUN**

lion of the whole populace. Our contribution is not for our sake. We deeply urge our citizens to join in the project enthusiastically."

U Nyi Nyi, executive director of Aye Nyein Construction Company said, "I am a Rakhine national. As a Rakhine national living in Rakhine State, we assume that we are responsible to take part, donating money. My company donated Ks10 million."

Chief Minister and Dr Aung Tun Thet, Chief Coordinator of UEHRD, made opening speeches. Then, U Aung Kyaw Zan, minister for electricity, industry and communication, clarified the tasks being performed for the development of Maungdaw region.—Tin Htun (IPRD) ■

Chinese FM to attend ASEM FM meeting, visit Bangladesh and Myanmar

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi will lead a delegation to the 13th foreign ministers' meeting of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar's capital, from November 20 to 21.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang made the announcement at a daily press briefing here on Thursday.

Wang will attend the meeting at the invitation of Myanmar's State Counsellor and Foreign Minister Aung San Suu Kyi, said Geng, adding that Wang will discuss the international and regional situation, connectivity cooperation in Asia and Europe and China's

stance on hotspot issues.

Wang will have bilateral meetings with some heads of delegation to promote a new-type of Asia-Europe partnership and address challenges together, the spokesperson said.

Prior to the meeting, Wang will visit Bangladesh and Myanmar from Nov. 18 to 19, Geng said.

During his stay there, he will hold talks with his counterparts and meet leaders, Geng said.

The Asia-Europe Meeting was created in 1996 as a forum for dialogue and cooperation between Europe and Asia.—china.org ■



International students arrive at Mingalar Thiri Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw on 16 November to attend 8th Model ASEM 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

Students arrive in Nay Pyi Taw to attend 8th Model ASEM 2017

ONE hundred and sixty students to attend 8th Model Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), in conjunction with the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM13) arrived at Mingalar Thiri Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The meetings will take place at Myanmar International Convention Center-2 (MICC-2), Nay Pyi Taw on 17 to 20 November.

The students from the nations of Asia-Europe member countries were welcomed by officials from the department of extramural and lifetime education and department of handicrafts promotion and cooperation, Ministry of Education.

Moreover, the students

were also welcomed with the Myanmar traditional entertainments including Koe Myay Shwe Ayeyar traditional elephant dance, other music and dances by middle school students of No (3) Basic Education Middle School as well as Basic Education High School (branch) and Kume Basic Education High School.

Total 160 members including students from 51 countries such as Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and etc. from Europe and China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Austria from Asia-Pacific region and ASEAN member countries and 55 students from states and regions of Myanmar will attend to the 8th Model Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).—Myanmar News Agency ■

Climbing on pagodas in Bagan should be banned

TOURISTS climbing on ancient pagodas in Bagan should be prevented as it is not appropriate and can cause dangers, said U Aung Aung Kyaw Director of Archaeology and National Museum Department (Bagan Region).

"Climbing on the top parts of the pagodas is very dangerous. Five pagodas on which climbing was allowed are now not allowed as earthquake conservation works were carried out. We saw climbing on the pagodas and said not to climb, but no one paid at-

tention. As they can't be sued, all should cooperate in conservation", he added.

Conservation works are being carried out, but there is not enough staff at the Archaeology and Tourism Department, so local residents and other organisations are needed to cooperate. Notices for the tourists in Bagan were posted not only in public places but also at the hotels and guest houses.

"As regard to tourism, we don't want to ban the climbing of

pagodas. But, climbing the pagodas is dangerous and it can damage the archaeological features. Therefore, we provided locations for sightseeing" said U Than Win from the JICA tourism project.

Currently, buildings to view Bagan were constructed at Ko Maunk Kan, Su Nar Mani and Nyaung Latphet Kan. The sunset can also be viewed at Nan Myint Tower, Lokha Nandar Pagoda bank and Bu Pagoda port.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay sub-printing house) ■

Weather Report

Depression persists in Bay of Bengal

ACCORDING to the observations at (18:30)hrs M.S.T yesterday, the depression over West central Bay and adjoining Northwest Bay of Bengal, off North Andhra Pradesh Coast (India).

It is centered at about (80)miles East -Northeast of Visakhapatnam and (83) miles South-Southwest of Gopalpur (India). Weather is cloudy over the North Bay and Central Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.—GNLM ■