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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. III, No. 354, 9th Waxing of Tagu 1378 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Wednesday, 5 April 2017

‘We can cover news freely’

THE NEWS and Periodicals Enterprise led 18 journalists from the BBC, VOA, EPA, TV Asahi Nippon TV, Fuji TV, Central News Bureau, Frontier Myanmar, Irrawaddy, Myawady, MRTV, MITV, Myanmar News Agency, Myanmar Alin and Ky-aemon for a media visit to Sit-tway, Buthidaung, Maungtaw and Yathedaung in Rakhine State from 28 March to 1 April.

They were interviewed on their views and comments about the visit.

U Ye Naing, General Manager, News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information

I led the media visit with 18 foreign and local media representatives from 28 March to 1 April. Although the media visit was planned for the areas where news is emerging, arrangements were made during the visit to expand the area in order to obtain additional news.

The visiting foreign and local media were able to observe freely the actual situation on the ground after the attack of 9 October 2016 as well as report about the latest situation on restoring law and order in the region. Instead of a one-sided report from a single media source, multiple media sources will report about the situation in Maungtaw area after this visit. The true situation will be known both locally as well as internationally.

U Sithu Aung Myint, Chief Editor, Central News Bureau

Before this visit, some of the journalists discussed with Ministry of Information on where and where they want to visit and how to collect news. The visit was



Journalists talk to local residents during their trip to a village in Maungtaw Township in northern Rakhine State. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

arranged according to this discussion and we were not shown around only to pre-selected places. Due to time constraints, some places were not visited while arrangements were made to visit new places we added on. We were able to cover news freely.

During our first visit, we saw burnt places that were deserted. We saw only a few people going about even in Maungtaw. Businesses were stopped. This time around, we saw quite a num-

ber of people who had returned to their villages. There are still some remaining to return but it is not as much as we thought. During our first visit we ask the Rakhine State Chief Minister and respective government (officials) whether people can return to their burnt down places. In this visit, we saw a number of people returning to their villages, rebuilding their home and properly resettling on lands that were cleared and leveled by a bulldozer. This

is a good sign. We are allowed to collect news freely. We also met with top officials and learnt about the situation on ground. State Counsellor Office and the Union Government decided to follow through on Kofi Annan's suggestion to reduce conflict through developing Rakhine State.

However, this process is facing difficulties in issuing NVC (National Verification Card). Due to administrative and security reason, only people with

proper identifications are given travel permits, allowed to conduct trade with Bangladesh and do shipping business by the government. Muslims in the region are reluctant to get this card and is not applying for it. But without this card, they could not do anything. Without resolving this issue the work of regional development tasks for the Rakhine State and reducing conflict would be difficult.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets ambassadors

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received Mr. Jaroslav Doleček, Ambassador of the Czech Republic, and Mr. Scot Marciel, Ambassador of the United States, separately at the building of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and the Czech Republic Ambassador discussed matters relating to bilateral friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

At the meeting with the US Ambassador, the two sides discussed matters concerning the Myanmar's democratization process, and further strengthening the friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and the United States.

Also present at the meetings were Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with Mr. Jaroslav Doleček, Ambassador of the Czech Republic. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Vietnamese ambassador

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, received Mrs. Luan Thuy Duong, the ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, at Bayitnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they discussed several issues including international relations,

exchange of military trainees, friendly sports events, the future works of Mytel GSM Network, which was selected as the fourth operator of Myanmar, exchange of technology in the agricultural sector and promoting friendship and cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries.—*Myanmar News Agency*

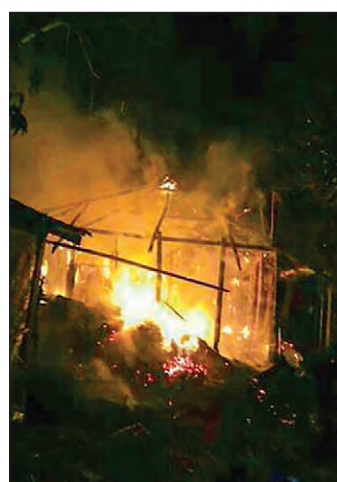


Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Mrs. Luan Thuy Duong, the ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

House destroyed by fire in Phawteechaung Village, Maungtaw

A house in Phawteechaung village in Maungtaw Township in Rakhine State was destroyed by fire yesterday morning due to carelessness, authorities said.

The accidental fire was caused by a candle which spread fire quickly through the house, which had bamboo matting on the walls and which was roofed with thatch. The fire at the house owned by Zarhait started at 3:10am. The house owner was placed on file as a careless fire user at the Kyaingchaung Police Station.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Anti-corruption commission sues police sub-inspector in Singaing

An anti-corruption commission has found that Police Sub-Inspector Soe Moe Aung of Singaing Police Station in Mandalay Region demanded Ks200,000 from a man who had purchased two oxen to use on his farm.

The farmer made a complaint to the anti-corruption commission to take action against the

police sub-inspector.

In response, the anti-corruption commission investigated the case and confirmed that Sub-Inspector Soe Moe Aung had illegally asked for a bribe from the aggrieved party, who drove the cattle to Kywe Na Phar village with the recommendation letter of the administrator of

Meethwebote village, after purchasing the two oxen from Zaw Gyi and Kyauk Tan village on 4 February.

The police sub-inspector was sued under section 56 of the anti-corruption law, 2013 at the Supreme Court in Mandalay Region on Tuesday, according to the anti-corruption commission.

Talk on business for peace held at UMFCFI

Ko Moe

Talk on business for peace was held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on April 4.

At the talk held for peace which is urgently needed in the country, U Tin Oo, patron of the National League for Democracy addressed, "People in the country need to be well endowed with education and intelligence. Moreover, we want to have deteriorating health sector resettled in the country. Another one we want to rebuild decreasing economy. We really want to gain genuine peace that is actually needed for the whole populace. In bringing about peace, entrepreneurs and business-persons play an important role, filling the blank in the peace process. The whole nation aspires to the nation-

wide peace as promptly as possible. Now that the whole economic world is joining the process, it will be effective more than ever."

As regards foreign countries, there are only one or two armed groups in bringing about peace whereas in Myanmar there are a large number of armed groups to be negotiated with, according to Dr Tin Myo Win, chairman of Peace Commission.

He added, "Peace and economy are co-related with each other. In a country, economy plays an important role. With the developing economy of the country, the remaining problems will decrease to some extent."

With a view to supporting peace process underway in the country, UMFCFI signed an agreement UNGC (United Nations Global Compact) in the

ceremony upgrading the participation of economic enterprises for the peace process, it has been learnt.

Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet said that signing of entrepreneurs can help the peace process, bringing about peace in working environment and protection of natural environment from destruction.

Dr Aung Tun Thet added, "As regards the peace process, the incumbent are meeting with success in some sectors with some weakness still in some places. Joining the peace process of the entrepreneurs is of great importance for the peace. We were greatly pleased to see them take part in it for the people to enjoy the fruits of the peace." According to Dr Aung Tun Thet, there are 300 entrepreneurs from Myanmar, who signed UNGC.

Three suspects arrested in Buthidaung Township

THREE men suspected of involvement in the murder of a village leader were arrested by security forces during an area clearance operation in Maungyeetaung village, Buthidaung Township on Monday.

The three men are believed to be involved in the murder of



The three suspects in Buthidaung Township. PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR OFFICE OF INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Zarmer Husein, a member of the village administrative committee in Maungyeetaung (1) ward, Buthidaung Township on 5 March.

A suspect identified as

Bawdia and two other men from Maungyeetaung Alae village were taken to Taung Bazaar police station. An investigation is ongoing.—*Myanmar News Agency*