



Vice President U Henry Van Thio is seen off by diplomats, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

VP to attend Water& Disaster UN Session

Vice President U Henry Van Thio left for New York yesterday evening to attend the 3rd UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters to be held in New York.

The Vice President was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, officials

from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Mr. John R. Groch Deputy Chief of Mission of US Embassy in Myanmar and officials.

The Vice President was accompanied by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and officials. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Two more suspects arrested in connection with October Rakhine State attack

Myanmar security forces arrested two additional suspects on Sunday in connection with an alleged armed attack in Ngakhura village, Maungtau Township, Rakhine State in October.

While on patrol in U Shae Kyae village in Maungtau Township on security forces arrested Marmauk Yawshee, 42 and Aryoke, 33 on suspicion of participating in an armed

attack of Rakhine State in October.

The suspects were detained in Ngakhura police station for further investigation. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Mr. Liam Laurence Smyth

Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Tha Aung received Mr. Liam Laurence Smyth, the Clerk of Legislation at the House of Commons of United Kingdom at the Amyotha Hluttaw Hall (J) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed experience of the two parliaments. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Tha Aung meets with Mr. Liam Laurence Smyth. **PHOTO: MNA**

UN delegation returns to Yangon from Hpa-an

Ms. Yanghee Lee, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar returned to Yangon by air from Hpa-an yesterday. While the

UN delegation was in Hpa-an, they met with Kayin State Government and officials of State departments at the Pado David Taw guest room on 16 July.

The delegation also met with national and local civil society organizations at Thiri Hpa-an Hotel in Hpa-an. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD) ■

18 Community Centres in the pipeline for States and Regions

Ministry of Information is planning to establish Community Centres with a children library, training hall, multi-purpose hall, meeting hall, gymnasiums and a youth centre at 18 locations in states and regions.

At the meeting held yesterday afternoon at a meeting hall of Printing and Publishing Department in Theinbyu Street, Yangon, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and officials from Yangon Region, district and township level officials of Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD), Ministry of Information and Hluttaw representatives discussed the joint implementation works for the plan for establishing community centres.

In his speech at the meeting, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint said successive governments had setup IPRD offices under various names and the term "Public Relations" had been in use and offices were setup in towns and regions to carry out public relations. However,

depending upon the nature of the government, there were differences in work conducted. In a democracy government, there is a need to inform the public and to listen to the voice of the public, he added.

Similarly, adjustment must be made to be in accord with the requirement of the changing time, changing system, situation, equipment and materials.

In the transition period to democracy, conduct on political matters will change towards a system inclusive of majority participation and decision. A country's executive and legislative mechanism will be practiced with a system that involves the pluralism

As such, people's participation need to increase in the political process. The more the people participate, the more democratic system takes shape. Community Centre can be said to be a ward and village centered place where people can gather there, said the Union Minister.

"This is a place where people

will discuss about their ward and village. It is the place that will increase and support the public participation in the political process and that is why this meeting with the people's representatives is being held," said the Union Minister.

The voices coming out of Community Centres need to be the voices and opinions of the people. The voices and opinion of the grass root level peoples need to reach the top in a democracy era, he added.

The Centre will be formed to support all – the children, youth, people of the community, elders and middle-aged.

The plan now is to setup as Community Centres that have IPRD library and office in coordination with other organisations. Together with Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, existing one (IPRD library and office) in Natmauk, Myaungmya, Insein and Pyinmana will be renovated into Community Centre while libraries will be transformed into Community Library. The effect



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses at the coordination meeting on establishing community centres. **PHOTO: MNA**

of combining Community Centre and Community Library is for ward and village development. While working for youth development, discussion on ward and village matter is also being targeted.

Community Centres are not modernization and upgrading of IPRD libraries and offices but a place that supports the building of a democracy. If the place is used for ward, village and youth development rather than as a

display area, Community Centre will help and support the community as well while Myanmar society also becomes a society that supports the building of a democracy said the Union Minister. Afterward, Yangon Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, IPRD Director General U Maung Pe and Hluttaw representatives discussed and suggested on setting up Community Centre.

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Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Mr. Michael Oomen, Policy and Legal Advisor of IMF in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thura U Shwe Mann receives IMF's Policy and Legal Advisor

Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw received Mr. Michael Oomen, Policy and Legal Advisor of International Monetary

Fund (IMF) and his delegation at the Hluttaw Building Hall (I-1) in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

In the meeting, the two men exchanged views on matters relating to tax law.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Three new laws passed

The President has signed the following bills into law. The full-text of the laws in Burmese will be covered soon in the state-run dailies.

- (1) Inland Water Transport Law (The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No.13, 2017)
- (2) Myanmar Territorial Water and Maritime Zone Law (The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 14, 2017)
- (3) Hand Dug Wells Law (The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 15, 2017)—Myanmar News Agency ■

Fertilizers and paddy grains granting event held in Maungtaw

A fertilizer and paddy grain distribution event was held in Maungtaw, Rakhine State by the Rakhine State Department of Agriculture at the township's Department of Agriculture situated at four mile ward, Maungtaw Township yesterday.

A total 1,699 baskets of paddy

grains were distributed, including 900 baskets provided by the Pyay's Mill Owner Association, 296 bags of urea and 100 bags of compound fertilizers.

Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut and officials distributed the paddy grains and fertilizer.—Myint Maung Soe/ Aung Kyaw Oo ■

18 Community Centres in the pipeline for States and Region

FROM PAGE-2

Countrywide, there are 434 IPRD offices and Community Centres are planned to be opened in Myitkyina, Loikaw, Hpa-an, Haka, Sagaing, Dawei, Pyay, Magway, Mawlamyine, Sittway, Mandalay, Meiktila, Taunggyi, Lashio, Patheingyi,

Thingangyun, Bahan and Hline townships and one was already opened in Myintkyina on 16 July.

Plans are also underway to open Community Centres in other appropriate places in Yangon Region it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

K 690 million in insurance disbursed to workers in June

FROM PAGE-1

Over 10,000 employment bonds contracted

Directorate of Labour managed to contract agreements of employments—13014 in total, 2888 males and 10126 females, under the form of agreement of employment. In dealing with labour disputes between employers and employees, township arbitration committees are taking responsibilities to solve them. In March, out of 88 cases, 18 were appealed, 15 transferred to Region or State Tribunal and 2 cases were withdrawn. For the remaining 53 cases for 576 beneficiaries were helped to get K 141.724553 million and US \$ 3670 as benefits, it was learnt.

Enjoying Benefits as described by Labour Law

Department of Workshop and Labour Law Investigation, helped workers to get wages for working on public holidays, to enjoy earned leave with pay to

get casual leave, medical leave and maternity leave with pay, amounting to K 110 million and US \$ 1716200 altogether, it was learnt.

Township Workshop and Labour Law Investigation Department managed to hold 288 events of educative talks on on-job safety, health and legal knowledge to employers and employees from 640 factories and mills.

Labour Affairs Relation Department's arbitration council solved 8 cases, helping 41 laborers get benefits— K 1.6702 million with 17 other cases solved, helping 17 workers to get K 14.369 million as benefits, it was learnt.

Disbursing social security benefits

According to social security board, laborers who regularly paid insurance premiums were disbursed out K 690 million and medical expenses K 110 million for 6622 workers.

In May, 2017 laborers entitled for insurance were given med-

ical treatments—7489 outdoor patients and 738 indoor patients in 3 labour hospitals. There were up to 60661 patients to 96 social security clinics and 50 departmental clinics. Doctors from labour hospitals made round checks for 3 times, giving treatments to 811 patients. Doctors from social security clinics made 124 times round checks, giving 2510 patients treatment, giving 5170 patients by mobile medical teams.

With a view to improving per capita income of workable laborer and national development, and for increasing job opportunities, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is making plans for sending official workers and finding jobs for them in the country. Simultaneously, the task was being performed online through the labor exchange management system, it has been learnt.

In June, the ministry and private agencies helped them to find jobs—over 16000 were employed, it was learnt. ■

Swelling rivers threaten people in low-lying areas

FROM PAGE-1

The water level of the Thanlwin River in Hpa-an and the Ngawun River at Thabaung are expected to reach its danger level today, said the weather bureau. The overflow water from the Thanlwin River inundated low-lying areas in Hpa-an yesterday.

Rain or thundershowers is expected over the whole country

these days as monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Likelihood of increase of rain in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and Rakhine State.

According to the observations yesterday, the low pressure area still persists over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and

adjoining West central Bay of Bengal and Odisha Coast (India).

It is forecast to further intensify into a depression during next (24) hrs.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (9 - 14) feet along Myanmar Coast.—GNLM ■



Low-lying areas in Hpa-an are inundated by overflow water from the Thanlwin River.

PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN