State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with UNDP Country Director in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets Prof. Ayal Kimhi, Professor of Agricultural Economics in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives UNDP Country Director, Israeli Agricultural Economics Professor

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received United Nations Development Programme Country Director Mr. Peter Batchelor at 10 a.m yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the discussion, they exchanged views on promoting cooperation between Myanmar and UNDP in various areas such as rule of law, human resource development, environmental governance and humanitarian assistance.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, also received an Israeli delegation led by Prof. Ayal Kimhi, Professor of Agricultural Economics, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, at 11 a.m yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the discussion, they exchanged views on cooperation in the agriculture sector including the development of the socio-economic lives of the people working in that sector.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Rakhine garment factory will create thousands of jobs

A garment factory which will create thousands of job opportunities for locals will be established in Rakhine State, according to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

The news came in remarks made by the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye at a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Mr Hong Liang in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Asked how China could help the economy of Rakhine State, the Union minister revealed that a garment factory would be built in Rakhine. No further details could be learnt. The Union minister also thanked China for its stance on the Rakhine issue.

The ambassador then pledged to contribute cash assistance to the National Disasters Fund of Myanmar and to cooperate with the Myanmar government for peace and socio-economic development in northern Myanmar. He also reiterated the agreement between the two countries to establish a joint economic zone in northern Myanmar, pledging that the economic zone would be helpful for peace in northern Myanmar.—GNLM ■

Vice President at ground breaking for housing project for government employees in Mandalay

Work on construction of housing for governmental employees was launched in Mandalay yesterday, with Vice President U Myint Swe in attendance.

At the ceremony to launch the project held in Patheingyi Township, U Myint Swe drove a ceremonial stake then sprinkled scented water on it to mark the launching.

The housing project comprises 32 five-storey buildings with apartments and will be established on more than 33 acres of land.

The ceremony was also attended by Union ministers U Kyaw Win, U Win Khaing, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin and guests.

Following the ceremony, Vice President U Myint Swe proceeded to the Yeywa Hydropower Project, where Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing presented a report on plans for another hydropower project on the Dokthawady River, progress of the implementation of Yeywa Hydropower Project and maintenance work on the embankment of the project.

At the meeting, U Myint Swe called for taking preventive measures against disasters and raising awareness of disasters. — Myanmar News Agency ■

VP U Myint Swe at the the groundbreaking ceremony for a housing project for governmental employees in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MNA**

Weather forecast for today

MONSOON is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal, said the Meteorology and Hydrology Department yesterday.

The weather bureau forecasts that rain or thundershowers is expected over Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay Regions and Magway Region,and Shan (North & East)States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Southern Shan, Chin and Kayah States and widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States and with isolated heavy falls in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions today, with 100 percent degree of certainly.—GNLM ■