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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 130, 4th Waxing of Tawthalin 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Friday, 25 August 2017

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the State Counsellor

Statement by the Office of the State Counsellor
on the Final Report of the Advisory
Commission on Rakhine State
24 August 2017

1. The Office of the State Counsellor expresses its sincere appreciation to Dr. Kofi Annan and the members of the Advisory Commission for their continued efforts to find constructive ways forward for Rakhine State.

2. As the Commission recognizes, the situation in Rakhine State is deeply complex and there are no quick fix solutions. The challenges have only been compounded by chronic underdevelopment – Rakhine is one of Myanmar's poorest states. Sadly, we have also seen a resurgence of violence in recent weeks and there have been very troubling signs of external interference aimed at aggravating an already difficult situation.

3. In this context, recommendations for meaningful and long-term solutions are very welcome. We will give the report our full consideration with a view to carrying out the recommendations to the fullest extent, and within the shortest timeframe possible, in line with the situation on the ground. We hope to set out a full roadmap for implementation in the coming weeks.

4. As an immediate step, a new Ministerial-led committee responsible for the implementation of the Commission's recommendations will be established. This will comprise representatives from across government and will be responsible for overseeing delivery and reporting regularly on its progress.

5. The new Committee will be assisted by an Advisory Board on Rakhine. The Board will include regional and international experts, as well as Myanmar nationals. It will provide an external perspective and advice to support the Committee in its work.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepts the final report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State handed over by Mr Kofi Annan, the chair of the commission. **PHOTO: MNA**

Kofi Annan urges economic, social reform in Rakhine

MYANMAR should act urgently and with sustained action on a number of fronts to prevent violence, maintain peace, foster reconciliation and offer a sense of hope to the Muslim community in Rakhine, according to recom-

mendations by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine led by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan yesterday.

The final report of the Advisory Commission released yesterday puts forward recommen-

dations to surmount the political, socio-economic and humanitarian challenges that currently face Rakhine State.

"Unless concerted action led by the government and aided by all sectors of the government and

society is taken soon, we risk the return of another cycle of violence and radicalisation, which will further deepen the chronic poverty that afflicts Rakhine State", said Annan at a news conference yesterday.

The commission also called on the government to ensure freedom of movement for all people irrespective of religion, ethnicity, or citizenship status, and to that end reiterated

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Rakhine State security discussed at Pyithu Hluttaw

Kyaw Thu Htet, Hmwe Kyu Zin
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

The safety and security of Rakhine State was discussed at yesterday's meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

Hluttaw representatives discussed at length the motion submitted by Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung constituency, Rakhine State, that urged the Union Government to promptly implement regional security and administration plans because Muslim extremists committing crimes in Maungtaung, Buthidaung and Yathedaung townships were greatly harming national security, rule of law, area consolidation and people's lives and property, it was learnt.

"Due to extremists' propaganda, threats and atrocious killings local ethnic people were forced to be displaced and made village administrators too frightened to perform their administrative duties. This led to destruction to rule of law. Losing sovereignty and power is not only the affair of northern Rakhine, but also the affair of the State, the whole populace and the Union. So, extremist-related terrorist activities, monetary and weapons aid should be sought for legal

actions under the existing laws. Simultaneously, it must be found out who supported aid to these terrorist organisations by linking with international organisations, and it must be made known to the world", said U Sit Naing of Minpyar constituency, Rakhine State.

Major Aung Kyaw Hnin, Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative said: "Bengalis started to have come to Rakhine after they were brought to work as coolies in farming since 1874 under the colonial rule. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing himself publicized to the world that there were no Rohingya race in Myanmar. Nowadays, Bengalis' terrorist attacks are gradually starting to harm not only Rakhine State but also sovereignty of the State, before we recognised it.

In dealing with the affairs of Rakhine State, security matters should be prioritised for protecting the national sovereignty and depredation towards local Rakhine nationals from terrorists' danger, instead of feeling fear of international pressure.

Lt Colonel Zaw Tun Oo, Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative said: "Atrocious deeds of Bengali extremists must be severely arrested under the existing anti-terrorism law. If prompt responses are not made against



Lt. General Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Home Affairs. **PHOTO: MNA**

these violent attacks, it may harm national sovereignty and area consolidation in the long run. So it must be submitted to the Hluttaw as an important motion, urging the Union Government as needed. It is urgently needed to bring about peace and stability, rule of law, better security system for local nationals and strengthening administrative machinery which is now in existence in Rakhine State."

Also discussing the motion were Daw Wint Wah Tun of Shartaw constituency, U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Phapon constituency, U Ba Shein of Kyaukphyu constituency, U Naing Htoo Aung of Natogyi constituency, U Lwin Ko Latt of Thanlyin constituency, U Yi Mon (a) Maung Tin Thit of



Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung constituency, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pubba Thiri constituency, Colonel Tun Myat Shwe, Tamadaw Hluttaw representative, Daw Pyone Kathy Naing of Kalaw constituency and U Thaung Aye of Pyawbwe constituency.

Lt. General Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Home Affairs, said action is already being taken. "The Union Government and the Rakhine State Cabinet are performing the tasks of dealing with conflicts happening between the local populace and Bengali people, as well as bringing about security, peace and stability of Rakhine State, rule of law and regional development in the State, by forming committees on Rakhine State. And Union Ministers and responsible officials of Rakhine State Cabinet frequent-

ly visit Maungtaung, Buthidaung and Yathedaung townships to manage the tasks of regional security and development. For Islamists from the neighbouring country not to enter illegally the country into Buthidaung, Maungtaung and Yathedaung townships abutting Bangladesh situated in northern Rakhine State, the No. 1 border guard security control team consisting of the Myanmar Police Force, National Registration and Citizenship Department and Customs Department were deployed", Lt. General Kyaw Swe said.

"Although the tasks of security and development are being carried out, extremist terrorists took the opportunity over the State Government's actions taken against their attacks in accord with the existing rules and laws in Maungtaung District. Therefore these violent attacks will be severely eradicated according to the law. Security is to be increased to protect innocent people from the danger of those terrorists and those who abetted those terrorists will also be arrested in accord with the law. And the motion should be put on record by the Hluttaw," said Lt. General Kyaw Swe. The Hluttaw decided to put the motion on record. ■



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets Viet Nam Communist Party General Secretary in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Viet Nam Communist Party General Secretary

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong yesterday afternoon at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting addressed Myanmar-Viet Nam cooperation,

including between the two nations' parliaments. Present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw Permanent Committees, chairman, secretary and members of the Myanmar-Viet Nam parliamentary friendship group and other officials. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Home Affairs official briefs Amyotha Hluttaw on land claims and surveying efforts

Thura Zaw, Mi Mi Phyo (MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Major General Aung Soe announced to the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday that lands confiscated by various government agencies cannot be returned until each case is subjected to scrutiny by a review committee.

The deputy minister said

training courses are being prepared for those review committees, which are organised by officials at the townships, states and regions and Union level.

Major-General Aung Soe also said that the Sagaing Region government allocated in FY2016-2017 Ks100 million budget to survey 266 land plots in Monywa Township, Sagaing Region.

In the Sagaing Region government's FY2017-2018 budget it allocated Ks239 million for Monywa, Ks16 million for Ayar-taw Township, Ks5.1 million for Budalin Township and Ks12 million for Chaung-U Township.

Major-General Aung Soe said the region government FY2018-2019 budget allocated Ks55 million to survey 152 land plots in Tamu Township. ■

Viet Nam Communist Party's General Secretary Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

Upon the invitation of President U Htin Kyaw, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International

Airport on a chartered plane yesterday for an official visit.

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong and his delegation

were welcomed at the airport by Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Commerce U Kyaw Win and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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Ferries mooring on the Chindwin River in Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: WIN OO (ZAYAR TIME)**

All Chindwin River ferries to resume service

Water transport along the Chindwin River in Sagaing Region will resume today after suspending operations for nine days due to flooding. "Water vessels, includ-

ing cargo vessels and passenger vessels, will resume service going from Hkamti, Homalin and Nant Taw townships in the upper part of the Chindwin River to

Monywa starting from 24 August. Upstream transportation from Monywa to other upper regions will resume 25 August," said an official from Monywa town pri-

vate vessels plying committee. Approximately 544 cargo vessels and 124 high-speed passenger vessels regularly ply the Chindwin River. — Win Oo (ZayarTime)

Suspected terrorist trainees arrested in Yathedaung

One man was killed and dozens arrested on Wednesday after suspected terrorists were confronted by authorities.

Acting on a tip-off that men who had completed terrorist trainings and those organising new recruits had entered the village of Ahtet Nanyar in Yathedaung, Rakhine State, a combined force consisting of Myanmar Police, Border Control officers and personnel from

the Immigration and Manpower Department, accompanied by Tatmadaw troops, arrived at the village early yesterday morning and encountered 200 people with sticks, knives and spears who initially hindered the combined force. A man identified as Kar-mar Lusaung was killed in the encounter. He was said to be an assistant of the ARSA terrorist group leader Koranban Nalie. He was in-charge of recruiting and

training terrorists, officials said. At the time of his death, he was holding a sword in his hand, officials said. After further investigation, 27 suspects were arrested under suspicion of organising for a terrorist attack, and they were learnt to have been under detailed investigation, it was learnt.

Authorities of the combined force summoned the village administrator, telling them to investigate the suspected terrorists

without harming them.

It was when a crowd of people suspected to be terrorists tried to hinder the combined team that the man assumed to be the leader was shot dead, it was learnt. Similarly, security forces are investigating 22 suspects at the Pyin Phyu Police Station, arresting for possible involvement in the killing of acting village administrator of Zula in Maungtaw Township. —MNA ■

Four injured in head-on collision on Yangon-Nyaungdon highway

Four people in two vehicles were injured in a head-on collision along the Yangon-Nyaungdon highway near Tha Htay Gone Village, Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region yesterday at 4:55 am.

A blue colour light truck driven by Zin Ko Ko, heading to Nyaungdon from Yangon allegedly cross the center median and crashed into a white Hi-Jet vehicle heading to Yangon from

Blue light truck headon collided with Hi-jet vehicle along the Yangon-Nyaungdon highway in Nyaungdon. **PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD**

Nyaungdon. Ko Ye Kyaw, who was in the blue truck, was critically injured, while Saw Pyae Maung, Ko Hein and Saw Htet Linn Aung, who were in the Hi-Jet, sustained minor injuries.

All the injured people were

taken to Farmer Hospital, Nyaungdon Township. Ko Ye Kyaw was later transferred to Yangon General Hospital.

Police said they suspect Zin Ko Ko was at fault. —Township IPRD ■

Authorities seize truck with illegal timber in Yinmapin Township

A 12-wheel tractor-trailer carrying illegal padauk wood was seized on 22 August in Yinmabin Township, Sagaing Region. Inspectors discovered the parked white truck loaded with about three tons of wood between Phoe Win Taung Village and Yaza Kyaw Village, Yinmabin Township. The owners of the truck were not present when it was seized. The Yinmabin Township's forestry department seized the wood and law enforcement officials are seeking the vehicle's owner. —Tun Ko Ko (Yin Mar Pin) ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talk with Advisory Commission on Rakhine State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. Photo: MNA

State Counsellor receives Rakhine Advisory Commission

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Mr. Kofi Annan, Chairman of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State and members of the Commission at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw at 11:00 hrs on 24 August 2017.

During the meeting, Mr. Kofi Annan officially presented the Final Report of the Rakhine Advisory Commission to the State Counsellor and briefed the findings and recommendations of the Commission.

The State Counsellor expressed her

appreciation to Mr. Kofi Annan and members of the Advisory Commission for their efforts and discussed the recommendations of the Commission.

Also present at the meeting were U Kyaw Thint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor; U Thaung Tun, National Security Advisor; U Min Thu, Deputy Minister for the President's Office; U Khin Maung Tin, Deputy Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor and officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Statement by the Office of the State Counsellor on the Final Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State

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6. Details of both bodies are currently being finalised and will be released shortly.

7. This government is serious in its efforts to find a way forward for Rakhine. We have made rule of law and development in Rakhine State a priority since taking office.

8. While there is much still to do, progress has been made and a number of recommendations made in the Commission's August interim report have already been implemented.

(a) Healthcare access has been improved through new mobile clinics. We have upgraded schools and vocational and technical training programmes have begun.

(b) Hundreds of new jobs and opportunities have been created for local people through public-private partnerships and we are also assessing the viability of a new Special Economic Zone that would bring new jobs and businesses to the region.

(c) In terms of new infrastructure, electrification has been expanded and new roads and bridges built, including a new highway connecting remote areas previously only accessible by boat.

(d) We are working to promote religious harmony and communal relations by engaging interfaith groups. We plan to introduce a new curriculum in schools with a focus on moral, civic and peace education.

(e) We have developed a strategy and timeline to move forward the National Verification Process, as well as a strategy to close IDP camps in Rakhine State. Three IDP camps have been closed, and new houses are being built near the IDP camps.

(f) In cooperation with the EU and UN bodies, we are providing training and capacity building for police and security forces in the areas of human rights, child protection and gender-based violence.

9. As we seek a path forward for all the people of Rakhine, we must accept that there are difficulties that cannot be resolved overnight. We are working to change mind-sets and to build trust between all communities so that tolerance, respect, and eventually peace, may take hold. Now more than ever, it is important to focus on resolving, and not inflaming the issues in Rakhine.

Kofi Annan urges economic, social reform in Rakhine

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its earlier call for a mapping exercise to identify all existing restrictions on freedom of movement.

The report also provides recommendations on border security and bilateral cooperation with Bangladesh, including the pressing challenges of drug trafficking.

"Responsibility for the implementation of our recommendations now lies with Myanmar's leaders, institutions and people: the Union and Rakhine State governments; the national and state parliaments; religious and community leaders; and above all, the people of Rakhine," said Annan at the press conference.

He also urged the international community to continue to play a strong, generous and impartial role in support of the national efforts needed to help Rakhine move forward.

The final report also recommended that complaints regarding the verification process be addressed swiftly by a government authority independent of the institutions responsible for the process.

"Although the Muslim community has legitimate concerns about the verification process, I would urge them to work with the government to address those concerns," the commission said yesterday.

The Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, formed last year by State Counsellor

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, said the response to the situation in Rakhine should combine "political, developmental, security and human rights approaches that address the root causes of violence and reduce inter-communal tensions", according to the commission's report released yesterday.

The final report also stated that both Rakhines and Muslims face movement restrictions, although Muslims - and in particular IDPs - are particularly affected.

Annan has visited Myanmar three times since his appointment, including two trips to Rakhine State. Yesterday, he presented his findings to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and took part in a news conference later in the day.

In his remarks at yesterday's press conference, Annan admitted that some of the commission's recommendations would be deemed controversial.

"We are well aware that our recommendations on citizenship and freedom of movement touch on profound concerns of the Rakhine population. Nevertheless, the commission has chosen to squarely face these sensitive issues because we believe that if they are left to fester, the future of Rakhine State — and Myanmar as a whole — will be irretrievably jeopardised", Annan said at yesterday's news conference.

"This is a crucial step for Rakhines and Muslims alike. Only in this way can



Mr. Kofi Annan, the chair of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH

they break out of the hostility that leads to the violence and despair that has blighted their lives for so long."

Myanmar should respond to the problems in Rakhine State in a "calibrated" way without excessive force, the commission said in their report, adding that radicalisation was a danger if problems were not addressed.

The commission made a host of other recommendations, ranging from a faster, more transparent citizenship verification process, to lifting restrictions on movement and equal access to healthcare for all residents.

Militants attacked three border guard outposts on 9 October in northern Rakhine, resulting in the deaths of nine policemen and sparking months of security clearance

operations by military troops and a surge of tens of thousands of Muslims fleeing across the border to Bangladesh.

The treatment of approximately 1.1 million members of Rakhine State's Muslim community elicited allegations of human rights abuses from the international community.

Annan's commission - appointed to come up with long-term solutions for the violence-riven, ethnically and religiously divided Rakhine state - said perpetrators of rights abuses should be held accountable.

But in order to bring about stability to the troubled area, brute force is not the answer, the commission said.

"While Myanmar has every right to defend its own territory, a highly militarised response is unlikely to bring peace to the area," the nine-member commission said in its final report.

Instead, a nuanced, comprehensive response was urgently needed to "ensure that violence does not escalate and inter-communal tensions are kept under control", it said.

The commission warned that if human rights were not respected and "the population remain politically and economically marginalised, northern Rakhine State may provide fertile ground for radicalisation, as local communities may become increasingly vulnerable to recruitment by extremists".—GNLM and Reuters ■

Positive discrimination urgently needed for building up a peaceful nation

By Khin Maung Oo

The moment we hear the commonly used word, “Discrimination” we feel displeased with it because it means the practice of treating somebody or a particular group in society less fairly than others. Especially, we get involved with age, racial, sex, educational and social discrimination in some way or the other. We accept it as a loathsome deed but it is necessary for all of us not to practise it ourselves. The poor, the uneducated, the unemployed naturally tend to feel inferiority complex about their present status among their different circles, if ever. What is worse if they are despised or unfairly treated or

suppressed, disappointments, hatred and unnecessary responses always emerge. As a consequence, crimes and offences are more and more increasing in our society.

We were born to our parents without any rights to choose into which family we will enter, as were our parents to which families. So, our rights may vary at the time of birth. Though we were born poor or in miserable conditions, it was our duty to improve ourselves. Yet, there are many people in our country who find it difficult to give their children even a primary education. Not every child born to such a difficult family is doomed to failure in his life. Undeniably, however, they

lack even a fundamental right to enter class-rooms like other school-age children. Nowadays, we are still seeing children wandering about the town for their daily earnings. As a matter of fact, we all are responsible to help them improve their lives, as much as we can, assuming that the betterment of our society can bring about peace and stability in our world.

Being well convinced of the importance of the role of these children—labor forces, the incumbent government is planning to give vocational training to children in suburban areas. The State Counsellor herself repeatedly said that the country needs vocational training schools likewise academic learning

centers and institutes, in such a time when we are building up our nation into a developed one. Had such programs been implemented nationwide with a great momentum, the country would surely develop in the near future as hoped. Without the program, who will uplift the lives of these children? Though not having an access to academic learning, they will become an important labor force for the country by using their labor and skills that would otherwise be all too easily dissipated. Paving a way for such children to be able to enjoy happiness like their peers learning in class-rooms is really a positive discrimination towards youths who lost their hopes and futures. ■

Indochinese tiger: A sub species that need more research for successful conservation

Saikat Kumar Basu
Lethbridge AB Canada

It is quite interesting to mention that Myanmar, the gateway to SE Asia also is a biogeographic realm that represents a merger or overlap of the Indian and Chinese biogeographical realms. Being the meeting point of two major and highly biodiverse biogeographic realms, Myanmar also represents another highly biodiverse region of SE Asia.

The region further expand beyond the boundaries of Myanmar and Thailand vast tropical and sub-tropical forests of SE Asia of the Indo-Chinese region constituting three modern day nations of Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos. Three important predatory species extending from SW China across Myanmar and Thailand into Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos include the Clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*; IUCN status-Vulnerable), Indochinese leopard (*Panthera pardus delacouri*; IUCN status-Near Threatened) and the Indochinese tiger (*Panthera tigris corbetti*; IUCN status-Endangered).

All the species are threatened with anthropogenic pressures resulting in illegal encroachments that have destroyed and fragmented their wild habitats and made them extremely vulnerable to poachers and indigenous hunters. Rapid deforestation in these areas are wiping out the majestic predatory species and the worse impacted is the Indochinese tiger.

The sub species is unofficially extinct in the wild throughout its former range with the exception of Myanmar

and Thailand; the last two major habitats for the sub species.

The Indian tiger or the Bengal tiger or the Royal Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*, IUCN status-Endangered) is distributed across specific habitats of the Indian subcontinent across India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

The eastern most limits of the Bengal tiger is restricted to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in the north east India and the Chittagong hill tracts of Bangladesh that is biogeographically contiguous to NE India as well as to eastern and SE Myanmar. The interesting point to note is the fact that it is in these regions the habitats of the two majestic sub species of tigers-Bengal tiger and the Indochinese tigers of Myanmar tend to overlap.

The region being not surveyed exclusively with modern gadgets and highly trained ground force for decades and problems of extremely difficult terrain, dense forests and dangers of ambush from various insurgents groups active in the region make this biogeographically interesting as well as biodiverse region is actually data deficient. As a consequence it is quite difficult to suggest where the habitats of the Bengal tigers end and where that of the Indochinese tigers start; or if there are overlapping regions where natural hybridization between the two sub-species have occurred in the past or is still happening now.

On a second note, a recent alarming report featuring the death of an endangered tigress in the Nagaland

state in India adjoining Myanmar border has been extremely sad and morbid.

The incident clearly highlights the sorry state of wildlife conservation and conservation awareness in India. However, what has been important to note that this is the first time a tigress or for that matter a tiger species was reported and poached in Nagaland adjoining Myanmar.

There has been no report of existence of tiger in this state even from the British colonial period. The Indian government suggested that possibly the tiger migrated from the adjoining state of Assam that has substantial tiger population (Bengal tiger).

However, what everyone has been missing that this could be an Indochinese tigress that may have moved across Myanmar into the Nagaland state of India. It is extremely sad if a rare species like Indochinese tiger (?) has been poached by the villagers in Nagaland. There needs to be collaboration and joint management of forests around the highly biodiverse Indo-Myanmar border region. Unless stringent measures are adopted nationwide more such sad incidents like the recent one in Nagaland are expected.

It is important to make through investigation and surveys to get a clear scientific idea about this along the Indo-Myanmar and the Myanmar-Bangladesh border regions. If the two sub-species are genetically distinctly identified in these regions and natural hybrids are also detected; the idea of overlapping ranges of

these two majestic sub species could be easily identified. It could be quite possible that once the Indochinese tigers were quite common in the NE India but with time has shifted and got restricted more towards the Myanmar side.

Since India has made some remarkable success with respect to conservation of the Bengal tiger population; it may not be a bad idea to rear and captive breed Indochinese tigers and later release them in suitable forest habitats in NE states sharing border with Myanmar. These could help in enriching the gene pool as well as increase the numbers of the sub populations of Indochinese tigers as these sub species has not been doing as good as their Bengal tiger cousins. Hence any attempts of multiplication in the wild will be greatly appreciated.

Furthermore, it will help in bringing back and introducing another sub-species within Indian boundaries and enrich the biodiversity if the nation.

Both India and Myanmar need to come forward and jointly initiate a captive breeding program for the highly endangered Indochinese tiger in the NE Indian states bordering Myanmar and in eastern Myanmar. The Indochinese sub species has such a close range distribution adjoining India yet very few in the entire subcontinent know about them.

In the geological past, the sub species must have roamed throughout the virgin forests along the Indo-Myanmar border and will be great to return this majestic species back to their wild habitat. ■

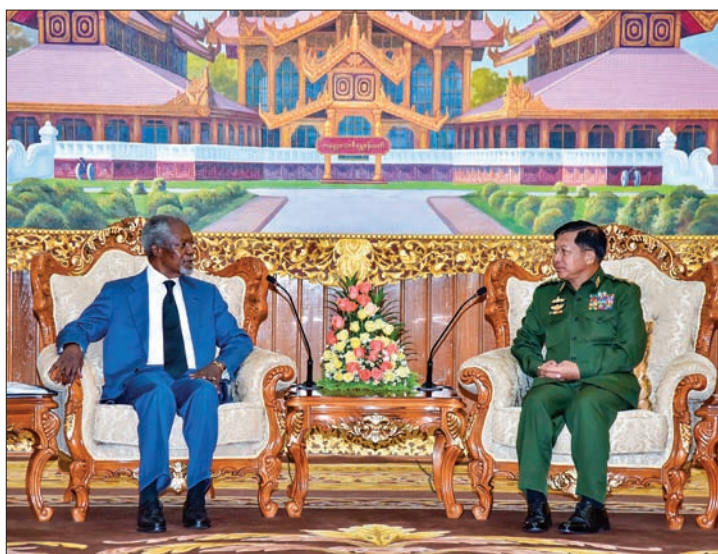
Senior General meets Mr. Kofi Annan

Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Mr. Kofi Annan, chairman of the The Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the Senior General remarked on how everyone is interested about the situation in Rakhine and how Myanmar culture places emphasis on written records and advised the delegation to carefully scrutinise their report.

Mr. Kofi Annan said the commission's report recommends socio-economic development in Rakhine, attracting more investment and providing basic necessities. An important factor, the report said, is providing national identification documents and registration. Annan also said there should be more dialogue between villages and communities to reduce tension and promote reconciliation. The report also advises cooperation with Bangladesh for better border security and fighting drug trafficking.

In response to Mr. Annan's recommendations, the Senior General said National Verification Cards (NVCs) are required according to the 1982 Citizenship Law as proof of



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Chairman of the Investigation Commission on Rakhine Mr. Kofi Annan. **PHOTO: MNA**

identity. Being verified also allows access to basic education and healthcare. He said there are still cases of murder and disappearances among local residents in Rakhine, so the situation needs to be contained before it becomes worse, the senior general said. There has also been news of armed groups arriving near the border areas, and area clearance operations on May Yu Mountain are still not complete, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said.

The Senior General said both domestic and foreign journalists and reporters are allowed entry into Rakhine

State, but they need to report the true facts. He said the Tatmadaw provides assistance in humanitarian programmes, but he said there needs to be a careful review of how aid is able to reach the training camps of violent attackers.

Schools have been opened in Buthidaung and Maungdaw, but some religious leaders prevent people from attending the schools for various reasons, the senior general said. There are also Bengali students from Buthidaung and Maungdaw currently attending the University in Sittway, he said. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office Notification No. 1/2017

1379 ME, 3rd Waxing of Tawthalin
24 August 2017

Notification regarding Open Myanmar Initiative's missing law

1. Open Myanmar Initiative (OMI) printed and published an article entitled "missing law" regarding a bill amending Constitutional Tribunal Law for the third time in its Hluttaw Affairs Research Paper No. 3 of July 2017. On 3 August 2017, it invited members of the news media to introduce and explain about the research paper and this was broadcast in MNTV and published in The Speaker journal as well as being posted on the OMI Facebook page.
2. The bill only had one amendment saying "party organizational works related to election" in Section 11 of Constitutional Tribunal Law to be replaced by "organizational works related to election" to which the President had commented that the word "party" should not be omitted. (In view of the comment of the President, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw decided that it was a draft bill that does not need to be enacted into a law.)
3. However, without knowing accurately about the work process on the bill, the act of OMI described in section 1 is an act of contempt towards the legislative functions being performed by the respective hluttaws as well as misleading the people and creating misunderstanding regarding the hluttaws.
4. Therefore, OMI is hereby informed to hold a press conference to retract its incorrect announcement on the draft bill, and also state that it would send a letter of apology to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office within 7 days failing which legal action would be taken in accordance with the law.

By order,

Kyaw Soe
Director General
(Unofficial Translation)

PRC Donates H1N1 vaccines, medical equipment to Myanmar

A ceremony for donating H1N1 vaccines and related medical equipment to Myanmar from the People's Republic of China was held at the Yangon International Airport's Special Guest Lounge yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, the document allowing the handover of H1N1 vaccines and equipment — disease protection suits, ventilators and breathing machines worth of US\$ 3.7 million — was signed by the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar and the permanent secretary of the



Airport staff unloading H1N1 vaccines donated by PRC from a cargo plane at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ministry of Health and Sports. Present at the ceremony were H.E. Mr Hong Liang, the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar; Mr Xia Guanxiang, the consul of commerce, responsible officials from the embassy of PRC in Myanmar; Professor Dr. Thet Khaing Win, the permanent sec-

retary of the Ministry of Health and Sports and responsible personnel. The H1N1 vaccines and related medical equipment donated by the People's Republic of China arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday by the chartered plane, it was learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■



A hog badger is undergoing veterinary treatment. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Endangered species seized in Mohnyin

A hog badger which is native to Central and Southeast Asia was seized by market security personnel at the Mohnyin Township municipal market in Kachin state on 23 August.

"The hog badger is an endangered species", said U

Maung Win, the administrator of the Indawgyi wildlife sanctuary. "It is now undergoing veterinary treatment in the forest."

The hog badger is omnivorous, active by day and not very wary of humans. —Mya Moe Hnyin ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). — Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office