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President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin being welcomed back at the Yangon International airport by officials. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady return from Japan

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw, the First Lady and party after attending the High Ranking Meeting of Universal Health Coverage Forum 2017 held in Tokyo, Japan on 14 December departed from Japan on 17 December by All Nippon Airways.

The President, the First Lady and party were seen off at the Narita Airport in Tokyo by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi, Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Thu Rain Thant Zin, Myanmar Military Attaché

Brig-Gen Saw Minn, officials and families of the Myanmar Embassy and Myanmar Military Attaché's Office.

The Myanmar delegation led by the President and the First Lady returned to Yangon yesterday evening. They were

welcomed by Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Minn Thein, officials of the Japanese Embassy in Myanmar and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Yangon International Airport.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Field survey for Maungdaw restoration

PAWKI Taung Village, Mingyi Village, Myawaddy Village and Thit Tone Nar Kwasone Village in Rakhine State all held an event to promote restoration of their villages.

Attending the Pawki Taung Village first were Dr. Ket Aung, Chief Minister of Kachin State, U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State, ministers of respective states and donors.

Attending the event at Mingyi village were Dr. Myint Naing, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region who greeted the villagers warmly. The new village will be established close to the Kamaung Seik-Taungpyo road and will contain 45 houses.

Attending the event at Myawaddy Village were Dr. Lin Htut, Chief Minister of Shan State and Dr. Aung Moe Nyo, Chief Minister of Magway Region. The villagers performed traditional songs for the officials and were given cash certificates.

The village will include housing for Mro, Khami, Dainet and Chin ethnic people.

Lastly, U Zaw Myint Maung, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region and U Salai Lian Luai, Chief Minister of Chin State, attended the events at Thit Tone Nar Kwasone Village. The village will contain houses for Mro ethnic people.—Zay Yar, Myint Maung ■



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker attends Pre Christmas Celebration

A Pre-Christmas Celebration and dinner was organized by the Nay Pyi Taw Christian Council yesterday evening in Pyinmana Township. The event was attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khine Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi.

Other attendants of the ceremony were reverends of Nay Pyi Taw's christian sects, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Ti Kun Myat and wife, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Thar Aung and wife, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura

U Aung Ko and other invited guests.

Sayar Thein Htun Linn began the evening prayers and Reverend Dr. Tin Maung Aye delivered the opening speech for Christmas celebrations. Afterwards, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko delivered a speech.

This was then followed by various attendants giving speeches on the Nativity.

Afterwards, Sayar Hat pi Than Lwin from the Anglican Church read verses from the Bible about the Nativity.

—Myanmar News Agency ■



Attendees to the Pre-Christmas Celebration pose for documentary photo. **PHOTO: MNA**

100 Myanmar books comes out in early 2018



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint (Centre) holds talks with the laterati at the meeting on 17 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE first sequence of a compilation of novels of the 100 Myanmar books comes out in early 2018, according to a meeting held in Yangon yesterday morning.

It was the fifth meeting in connection with the publication of the 100 Myanmar books in which literati formulated the 100 Myanmar books program and Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint facilitated the work of compiling fine literature

of both artistic and knowledge fields for the first sequence. The format, theme font, size and lists of books for the series had already been approved at the meetings participated by the Information Ministry, the relevant action committees and the literati. Sequences of poem compilation will follow the compilations of novels as the 100 Myanmar books will appear in two sequences per year.

The meeting at Printing

and Publishing Department also discussed republishing of the volumes of Myanmar encyclopedia.

In his response to the progress of work presented by PPE officials and literati, the Union minister looked into the sector-wise requirements for the soonest publication of error-free revised volumes involving the up-to-date facts especially on the regions and states.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

Special Representative visits Myanmar to strengthen its cooperation with UN

SPECIAL Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict Ms. Pramila Patten visited Myanmar from 14-12-2017 to 17-12-2017.

During her visit to Nay Pyi Taw on 14-12-2017 and 15-12-2017, she paid a courtesy call on the State Counsellor and met with the Union Minister for Home Affairs, the Union Minister for Union Government Office, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Inspector-General of Myanmar Armed Forces, the President of Women's Affairs Federation, separately.

In Yangon on 16-12-2017, she met with the Chairman and members of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, and U Tun Myat, former UN Assistant Secretary-General and member of the Advisory Board of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State. She also met with the UN Country Team, members of the

Diplomatic Corps and representatives of the International Non-governmental Organizations, separately.

During her meetings with the State Counsellor and the Union Ministers, they discussed wide range of matters inter alias providing technical assistance on promotion and protection of women's rights, providing psychological support to affected people in conflict, providing capacity training on protection of women.

The Special Representative stated that she visited Myanmar not for conducting investigations into the alleged acts of sexual violence in conflict but for finding ways and means to provide technical assistance and capacity building training and to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and Myanmar in these areas.

The Special Representative left Yangon by air in the morning of 17 December 2017.—MOFA ■

China donates USD 0.5m for peace process

THE People's Republic of China donated USD 500,000 to National Reconciliation and Peace Center yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.

Speaking at the ceremony at the center, Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy of Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China said, "China supports Myanmar's peace process and will provide up to USD 3 million for it. The country will donate USD 1 million next year. Although the amount is not large, the donation

reflects China's goodwill towards Myanmar as the two are friendly countries. China will provide more assistance for Myanmar."

Mr. Sun presented the cash donation to Vice-Chair of the Center and Chair of the Peace Commission Dr Tin Myo Win who in return handed over the certificate of honour. Dr Tin Myo Win said, "Peace is what the entire Myanmar wants. We are trying our best to end the problem that started in 1948. The President, the State Counsellor and the

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services pointed out peace as the core part of the country. China's assignment of a friend of Myanmar as the special envoy is an encouraging sign for the peace process. China's donation for peace is a symbol of friendship. The Government, the Parliament, the Tatmadaw and all the ethnic groups want peace. Myanmar hopes more peace aid from China. Also present were Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, Director-General U Zaw Htay



Mr. Sun presents the cash donation to Vice-Chair of the Center and Chair of the Peace Commission Dr Tin Myo Win. **PHOTO: MNA**

and officials and officials of Asian Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Strength of the nation lies within

By Zeya/Myint Maung
Photo: Nay Win Tun

The GNLM presents the interviews with the chief ministers of regions and states who are delivering humanitarian aids and conducting rehabilitation programs in Maungtau region, Rakhine State.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Zaw Myint Maung

The State Counsellor summoned the chief ministers and gave instructions to partake in humanitarian aid and rehabilitation programs for ethnic peoples in Rakhine State. So we raised funds for the programs. Mandalay Region will build 60 homes complete with a school, a clinic and water and electricity supply systems. We got nearly one billion kyats as donations. This housing project will cost K 700 million. We are using internal strength in the ethnic rehabilitation programs. We come here and make every arrangement in person and look into the requirements with our own eyes. We want to show that the strength of the nation lies within. That is the essence. Rehabilitation is a continuous task. Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing

We could collect a donation of K 350 million from townships and companies. We will build 45 homes at Mingyiwa village. We have already transferred the projected expenditure to the bank.



U Zaw Myint Maung.



Dr Myint Naing.



Dr Aung Moe Nyo



Dr Khet Aung.



Salai Lian Luai.



Dr Lin Htut.



U Nyi Pu.

The remaining balance will be used in other necessary areas. As we are indivisible we will give necessary assistance for our ethnics.

Magway Region Chief Minister Dr Aung Moe Nyo

Twenty-five townships, particularly the companies in Magway Region donated nearly K 60 million for the people of Rakhine State. When added with funds al-

lotted by the region government, the total amount reached K 190 million. We are going to build a two-storey school. Here transport is very poor. We will help to the most possible in the future also. Kachin State Chief Minister Dr Khet Aung

People in Kachin with the Union spirit and humanitarian spirit made donations to their best of the ability for their kith

and kin in Rakhin State. We have the initial plan to build 20, homes. We received over K 280 million from companies and the public. We will continue to render assistance under the program of Kachin State and with public participation.

Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai

Chin State will provide assistance for the education sec-

tor. Under our plan we will build schools. It is my first visit to Rakhine State which in my view is more beautiful than Chin State in some places, especially the sea beaches.

Shan State Chief Minister Dr Lin Htut

With full Union spirit, I come here as the representative of Shan State. I hope that our help will create job opportunities and ensures social improvement of the people of Rakhine State, and it is our goal. We will build homes with the funds provided by the regional people, businesses and government.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu

I am thankful to see chief ministers visiting our land to help us. Their assistance is much beneficial for the local ethnic peoples as it will develop the social standard in the long run. Their visit and help also serves as the morale booster for the local ethnics. ■

Doctors provide free treatment in Rakhine State

A team comprising 12 dental and oral surgeons provided free medical treatment in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State yesterday morning.

The team formed with members and officials of the Ministry of Health and Sports, Rakhine State Health Department, Myanmar Dental and Oral Medical Council after teaching proper tooth-brushing at Kaingyi village distributed toothbrushes and packages of toothpaste free of charge. They also provided free health care services for dental and oral patients at the village which has nearly 50 households.

"Precaution is better than cure. The root cause of the vari-

ous types of dental and oral disorders is the unsystematic tooth brushing. Some even never brush their teeth and totally lack health knowledge. Everybody needs the habit of brushing the teeth daily," explained Secretary Dr Myo Thant of the Council. The team also treated oral and dental patients at Marrawady basic education middle school.

At the clinic of No 2 border guard force at 4th mile, the team gave health awareness talks and provided toothbrushes and toothpastes free of charge to about 70 families. On 16 December, it carried out knowledge dissemination and medical treatments at Dapyuchaung village in Buth-



Volunteering Doctors greeting children in Rakhine State. PHOTO: NAY WIN TUN

etaung Township.

In addition to dental and oral services, the team also treated to children with cleft

palate. The doctors performed surgical operation on ten cleft palate patients. The cause of the disease is the strong medi-

cines a pregnant mother takes during the first three months of her pregnancy and malnutrition. —Myint Maung/Zeya ■